

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2017 IN HANCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr R James (Chairman)
Cllr (Mrs) P Boulton
Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr F Cromey
Cllr B Eyre
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr Brian Price
Cllr D Tucker

In attendance: Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
Cllr F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
3 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr (Mrs) N Adams
Cllr D Butler
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr (Mrs) K Ong

17/34 Public Question Time

A member of the public described the difficulties for residents, drivers, and businesses, as a result of the closure of part of Winghouse Lane by KIER, working for Highways England, to facilitate their work on the motorway bridge on the A51. Although signs stated 'Businesses open as usual', access was difficult. He had been informed by SCC Highways that an assessment for a sign directing customers to the post office would cost £100, with additional costs for a sign(s) and maintenance.

Cllr Chapman reported that the matter had been taken up by Bill Cash MP and would be pursued to ministerial level; in the past this had helped to reduce work time spent on roadworks and the period of closure. The resident was asked to contact Cllr Chapman again during the first week in April for a report on progress. Other sites were available for KIER to store equipment; the former route of Winghouse Lane could be utilised; and a 3-way traffic light system allow traffic to flow through.

Cllr Chapman had raised the issue of lack of consultation on road closures in a full SCC meeting; only two weeks notice had been received of this particular closure. Cllr Chapman and the Chairman would pursue the matter further with Bill Cash MP.

**Action: Cllr Chapman, Chairman
Action: Cllr Chapman**

Cllr Chapman would further raise with SCC Highways the cost of signs.

Cllr Leeson reported on the lack of co-operation received from SCC. Cllr Chapman reminded Councillors that the Community Speedwatch in Northwood Lane and speed limits in a number of parishes had been financed by SCC.

17/35 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Chapman confirmed that the report on pavements in Yarnfield by local residents had been passed to SCC Highways and a response was expected in the next few weeks.

Dropped kerbs had been installed promptly on new pavements in Yarnfield after a report had been received from a resident and the Clerk had contacted SCC Highways. The poor state of kerbs and pavements in Winghouse Lane, Tittensor, which are scheduled for work at some time in the future, was discussed.

Cllr Leeson reported a 'City of Stoke on Trent' sign had been erected recently on the A34 central reservation. It was confirmed that this only applied to one side of the road (the left hand side when travelling north).

Cllr Chapman had attended his last full SCC meeting earlier in the day, and this would be his last attendance at a Swynnerton Parish Council meeting. He had enjoyed the company, and would continue to address issues until his retirement, and wished the Parish Council well for the future.

Cllr James reported that the Kingsmead car park in Stafford (formerly allocated to Morrisons) should be available for use within the next 6 months

Cllr Price reported that a resident of The Woodlands, Cold Meece, had complained about noise from a recent scrambling event. Monitoring equipment would be installed on the site by SBC Environmental over the Easter weekend. The situation had been made worse as a result of a number of trees having been cut down, enabling sound to carry further.

Cllr James reported that the Section 106 monies from the Walnut Tree Farm development had been agreed and should be discussed at the Cabinet meeting in May; drainage work could commence as early as the end of May. Funding was also available for adult exercise equipment and goalposts, but would not be committed until the full cost of draining the Green was known as drainage of the Green would take priority. £4,500 was available for Phase 1. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

17/36 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Adams, Butler, Ong, and Mateu.

Date Cllr R James, Chairman

17/37 Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors.

17/38 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23 February 2017

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 23 February 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

17/39 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

A list of action points arising from the last meeting was circulated to Councillors, most to be discussed later in the meeting.

A resident of Cold Meece had complained that the entrance to the MoD was not clearly marked and appeared to be a temporary arrangement.

Cllr Tucker reported that the circulation list currently used by MoD was very out of date and asked the Clerk to liaise with MoD for it to be updated.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk reported that she had identified all the milestones in the Parish; four required work, and it was agreed that Mr David Wright of The Milestone Society should be asked to arrange for this work to be carried out, in addition to the refurbishment of the milestone on Whitmore Road already scheduled for the summer. The additional work would be charged at the rate of £90 per milestone.

RESOLVED That The Milestone Society (Mr David Wright) should be asked to refurbish three milestones on the A51 and one on the A519 at a cost of £90 each.

17/40 Financial matters

17/40.i March accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses	871.41
HMRC, PAYE/NI	357.71
Glasdon, provision of gate for Yarnfield	664.47
Eddy's Bdg Services, refurbishment of bench, gate (Y'fld)	265.00
SPCA, training course	20.00
Staffs Community Council, subscription	25.00
Benefice Parish Magazine, half page for 12 months	250.00
Grants to village halls in Parish	2,000.00
Total payments for March	£4,453.59

RESOLVED - That the accounts for March be approved for payment.

17/40.ii Grants to village halls

Councillors agreed to continue the annual payment of a grant of £500 to each village hall in the Parish. The payment to Tittensor Village Hall included £200 to cover the rental for land housing the play area.

17/41, Traffic issues in the Parish

17/41.i Speedwatch training in March 2017

Cllr Eyre reported that two more volunteers had been recruited; there were now three teams, each with three members, operating in Yarnfield. A check had been carried out on 20 March 2017, when 263 vehicles had been recorded, five travelling over 30 mph, none over 40 mph. The new gates were working, as drivers were slowing down when approaching them. Cllr Mateu reported that the Speedwatch team was operating in Swynnerton.

17/41.ii 5mph speed signs

Cllr Boulton raised the problem of traffic driving too fast in Monument Lane. Cllr Cheadle reported the same problem in Early Lane, Swynnerton. The Clerk would investigate the cost of '5 mph' signs with the Safer Roads Partnership.

Action: Clerk

17/42 Ward matters

17/42.i Swynnerton, request to refurbish fingerposts and bus shelter

Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI, who are leading the BKV entry, have asked if the fingerposts and bus shelter could be smartened up. The Clerk would check on the situation regarding the bus stop, as planning permission had been granted for it to be demolished and replaced, and would check the maintenance requirements for the fingerposts with the supplier.

Action: Clerk

17/42.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Cllr Boulton reported that she had been advised by SCC Footpaths to request a CPI form and apply for a petrol driven strimmer for volunteers to use to tidy Footpath 44. Councillors were concerned over the insurance implications, and the difficulty in obtaining landowners' permission, and agreed that Rangers should carry out any work.

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

Approximately half an acre of land could be available for parking in Monument Lane, Tittensor, if the existing garages were to be demolished or re-allocated for storage only. The Clerk would discuss the matter with SaRH.

Action: Clerk

17/42.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents

Cllr Price had received reports that the last leg of the No 72 bus service to Ferndown Drive was scheduled to close in early April 2017. Cllr Chapman reported that the service was commercially run, although the three services operating on Sundays were subsidised by SCC. Councillors agreed to monitor the situation.

17/42.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents

Councillors reported the regular issues of concerns over the proposed installation by HS2 of a railhead at Stone; the regular flooding of Yarnfield Green; potholes in roads, and the poor state of pavements in the village. There had been an incident the previous week when cattle encroached on the Green and this was noted.

17/42 Draft article for Church magazine

The Clerk would circulate a draft article for the Church magazine, to include - Swynnerton's entry for the Best Kept Village competition; a request for help in maintaining the surrounds of village War Memorials; dates when the Civic Amenity vehicles would be in attendance; Speedwatch teams in Swynnerton and Yarnfield; successful installation of gates in Yarnfield;

Action: Clerk

17/43 Best Kept Village (BKV) competition entries

Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI were leading Swynnerton's entry for the BKV, which would be the sole entry from the Parish.

17/44 Maintenance arrangements for 2017/2018

After discussion Councillors agreed that John Green Landscapes should be asked to provide grass cutting and maintenance services to the Parish for 2017/2018.

17/45 Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy 2016-2020 (Staffordshire Police)

After discussion Councillors agreed that no response from the Parish Council should be made to the documents received. Cllr Eyre would continue to distribute information received from Staffordshire Police.

17/46 HS2

17/46.i HS2, Possible community benefits for the Parish from the project

Councillors emphasised that all residents in the Parish would be affected by the project. Rumours had circulated of a new motorway junction (14a) as part of the proposals. SCC and SBC were concerned any installations should be sited in the right place to benefit the area and local communities. Cllr Pert stressed that plans were still under negotiation and flexible; it was widely accepted that Yarnfield Lane cannot be closed; the project is hugely over budget.

Councillors agreed that Sarah Mallen, SCC HS2 Project Manager, should be invited to a future meeting to explain her role and update the Parish Council on progress to date.

Action: Clerk

Councillors considered inviting Terry Stafford, Manager, Stakeholder Engagement Team, High Speed 2, Phase 2a, to a future meeting and after discussion agreed this should be to a separate public meeting, not a Parish Council meeting, in view of the considerable local interest that would be generated.

(9.10, SCC Cllrs Chapman and Pert left the meeting.)

17/47 Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress

Cllr James would forward additional information to Cllr Ong. A Neighbourhood Plan Committee Meeting would be arranged before the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: Clerk

17/48 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

A list of correspondence had been circulated. Information had been received by email from JACS on traffic calming gates and street signs.

Cllr Leeson reported that he and Cllrs Adams and Ong had attended a Quiz Night organised by the Mayor's Charity and had come joint first for the second year running. For the second year in succession an inappropriate tie-breaker question had been posed. Swynnerton Parish Council was unlikely to partake in such events in future.

17/49 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council was scheduled for Thursday 27 April 2017 at 7.15pm in Yarnfield Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman