

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2017 IN YARNFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr R James (Chairman)
Cllr N Adams
Cllr P Boulton
Cllr D Butler
Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr K Ong
Cllr Brian Price
Cllr D Tucker

In attendance: Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
5 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr F Cromey

Cllr B Eyre
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

17/50 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting, and invited questions from the public. The owner of the post office at Tittensor reported on the significant loss of trade experienced since the closure of the end of Winghouse Lane, resulting in a 40% drop in sales. He had contacted SCC and his local MP, and since received a letter from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. The letter stated the reasons for closure, and confirmed they were compliant with the requirements of SCC Highways who had suggested the closure. The resident had requested a copy of the DoT Design Standard and a copy of Kier's Risk Assessment for the work, but had not been provided with either. There is no liability on the authority for the loss of business as they are operating correctly. The resident confirmed a local farmer was prepared to rent land for the storage of equipment and vehicles which would obviate the need to close the Lane. Cllr Cheadle had written to SCC Highways suggesting that a one way system would be feasible, but had not received a response to date.

Cllr Chapman had clearly not been aware that the closure of Winghouse Lane was on the recommendation of SCC Highways when he had contacted them, and had also offered to take up the matter with Bill Cash MP. Councillors were concerned at the disconnection between SCC officers and SCC Councillors, and agreed that a letter should be sent to SCC Highways pointing out they bear some responsibility for the loss in trade and inconvenience to residents, and asking them to reconsider the situation.

Action: Clerk

A further letter would be sent pointing out the report on the pavements in Yarnfield, prepared by residents, had been with SCC Highways for a considerable time (17/35, response expected 'in the next few weeks'); the lack of co-operation regarding a portable flashing speed sign;

A Yarnfield resident asked about the progress of Swynnerton's Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman reported that all households had been contacted by post, several meetings had been held with residents, a committee had been formed to progress the Plan, Version 7 was now in draft, there would be at least one more meeting to finalise the draft, of which the resident would be advised, and the final version would then go to SBC. Once approved, the Plan would go out for consultation to the Parish, and would be available on the website.

Another Yarnfield resident asked if progress had been made to improve the turning from Yarnfield Lane into High Lows Lane. It was hoped to arrange a meeting between SCC Highways, the new SCC Councillor, and residents. SCC Councillors individual community budgets had been reduced from £10,000 to £7,500 for the Ward.

17/51 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Chapman had sent his apologies.

Cllr James had little to report as this was a quiet period due to impending elections. The Mayor Making Ceremony would be held on the following Saturday. The new Mayor is Cllr Aidan Godfrey, the Deputy is Cllr Brian Price.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

17/52 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cromey, Eyre, and Mateu.

17/53 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.

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

17/54 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 April 2017

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 27 April 2017 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

17/55 Clerk’s Progress Report, items not on the agenda

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

Cllr Chapman had contacted SCC Highways and Bill Cash MP regarding the effects of the closure of Winghouse Lane and costs of signage (17/34).

The Clerk had contacted MoD to update their circulation list (17/39).

Sarah Mallen, SCC Liaison Officer with HS2, will attend the meeting on 22 June to brief Councillors on her role.

Notices of forthcoming election polls had been received for display on notice boards

17/56 Financial matters

17/56.i April accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk’s salary and expenses	506.48
Diane Malley, payroll services	81.00
SPCA, subscription	556.00
Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI, BKV entry (Minute 17/60)	200.00
Total payments for April	£1,343.48

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

17/56.ii Limited Assurance Review 2016/17, Sections 1 and 2

The financial accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 were still with the auditor, and Councillors agreed to consider the Limited Assurance Review, Sections 1 and 2, at the meeting on 25 May 2017.

17/57, Traffic issues in the Parish

Councillors agreed that a sign was needed on Whitmore Road to indicate the bend and blind entrances on the approach to the A34. There were chevrons on the road, but only covering one direction. **Action: Clerk**

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to Trentham Estates, asking them to improve the access to the site to reduce the volume of traffic queuing up to get in and backing up on the A34. **Action: Clerk**

17/58 Ward matters

17/58.i Swynnerton, request to refurbish fingerposts and bus shelter

Lord Stafford’s Estate had confirmed that the bus shelter would be painted, and the surrounds tidied.. ‘No parking’ signs would be put up by the Estate in strategic positions in the village to discourage people from parking inappropriately. Councillors did not consider that the fingerposts required attention.

17/58.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

After discussion Councillors agreed that 10 vinyl 5 mph signs should be purchased for issue to residents in Monument Lane, at an approximate cost of £25. **Action: Clerk**

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to residents in Monument Lane and Winghouse Lane, in the vicinity of the War Memorial, requesting co-operation in showing respect to a sacred monument, and asking them to refrain from parking in close proximity. Tittensor Ward Councillors would deliver the letters. **Action: Tittensor Ward Cllrs, Clerk**
SaRH had confirmed that it was not possible to increase the parking area near the garages in Monument Lane, as the garages were in use.

Councillors agreed with SCC Highways that the best solution to signpost the Village Hall would be a sign on the gable end of the building.

Councillors agreed with proposals by SCC Highways to tarmac specified badly damaged verges on Winghouse Lane, and retain those grassed verges that were in good condition, as per the map supplied by SCC Highways. The preferred site for a pedestrian crossing was to utilise the dropped kerb near the black and white fingerpost opposite the village hall and school entrances.

17/58.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents

The Friends of Ferndown had carried out regular checks on the play area and made minor repairs or adjustments as necessary. They had raised concerns over the zip wire as the play inspection report had recommended bi-annual checks on the tension. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact the installers for advice and assistance on this, and on the grass matting which had worked out of position under the zip wire. **Action: Clerk**

17/58.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents

Cllr James confirmed that the drainage of the Green was scheduled for discussion by SBC Cabinet on 2 May. The Clerk would check when the Section 106 monies would become available from Yarnfield Park. **Action: Clerk**

Date Cllr R James, Chairman

17/59 Draft article for Church magazine

The Clerk would circulate a draft article for the next issue of the Church magazine to Councillors, to include – Yarnfield Fete on 16 September; SCC delegating more and more work to Parish Councils which, if no funding is allocated, may lead to an increase in the precept; despite repeated requests, still need to ask for co-operation in respecting War Memorials; good luck to Swynnerton with their entry to BKV, and request to help the village to look its best.

Trentham Local News – chevrons have been requested for Whitmore Road. Councillors are endeavouring to address the problems posed by the speed and volume of traffic in the Ward, and are pursuing solutions, including the installation of warning devices.

Action: Clerk

17/60 Support for Swynnerton's entry to Best Kept Village (BKV) competition

Councillors agreed to contribute £200 towards Swynnerton's entry to the BKV, made up of £50 to cover expenses incurred by Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI who are leading the entry, and £150 in gardening vouchers (17/56.i).

17/61 Protocol for marking the death of the Sovereign or other members of the Royal Family

Councillors discussed the options proposed by SBC in the event of the death of the Sovereign, and agreed there should be pages for residents to sign at the four village halls. SPC would arrange collection and delivery to SBC, and liaise with local churches.

17/62 SCC Community Paths Initiative

Councillors discussed the condition of a small stretch of Footpath 44, and agreed local landowners have a duty to keep footpaths clear and not obstructed by hedges. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact SCC Footpaths, inform them the footpath is not passable, and check on powers and insurance cover if equipment is obtained and operated by volunteers. They agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

17/63 HS2

17/63.i HS2, Possible community benefits for the Parish from the project

There was confusion over the stance of SBC and SCC towards the HS2 project. It had been reported that a promise had been given by HS2 that Yarnfield Lane would be kept open.

Councillors considered a number of likely benefits to be gained from HS2 community funding, including new pavements in Yarnfield; footpath/cycle path from Yarnfield to the A34; change to infrastructure at junction of Yarnfield Lane and A34; resurfacing of Moss Lane, Yarnfield; controlled road crossing to Springfields School, Yarnfield; bond for future income; leisure facility for Tittensor village. The Chairman asked Councillors to forward further suggestions to the Clerk.

Action: All Councillors

Sarah Mallen, SCC Liaison with HS2, had confirmed she would attend the Parish Council meeting on 22 June 2017 to brief Councillors on her role.

SPC would arrange public meetings in Swynnerton and Yarnfield for residents as soon as more definite information becomes available.

17/63.ii HS2, Stone railhead, report on action to date

Cllr Tucker reported that Stone Rail Crisis Group (SRCG) had arranged a meeting with HS2 representatives to discuss an alternative site for the proposed railhead. The Group's website (www.stonerailhead.org) was regularly updated.

17/64 Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress

This item had been covered during the public question time (17/50).

17/65 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

A list of correspondence had been circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Leeson reported that he had attended a meeting of the Stone Area Parish Liaison Group. Savings being made by SCC had been discussed, and SAPLG would look at the feasibility of sharing contractors.

17/66 Date of next meeting

The next monthly meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council was scheduled for Thursday 25 May 2017, following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.15pm in Swynnerton Village Hall, and the Annual Meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council. Cllrs Adams and Cheadle gave their apologies as they would be unable to attend. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.