

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017 AT 7.15 PM**

Present: Councillor R A James, Chairman of Swynnerton Parish Council (SPC)
Swynnerton Parish Council, 8 representatives
Swynnerton & Yarnfield Women's Institute, 1 representative
Tittensor Village Hall, Chairman
Staffordshire County Council (SCC), Cllr Jeremy Pert
Chebsey Parish Council, Chairman
Stone Rural Parish Council, Clerk

In attendance: Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones, Swynnerton Parish Clerk (Minutes)

Apologies: Councillor (Mrs) N Adams, SPC
Councillor (Mrs) P Boulton, SPC
Councillor F Cheadle, SPC
Councillor Brian Price, SBC

1. Welcome

The Chairman of Swynnerton Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting observed one minute silence

2. Minutes of the Swynnerton Annual Parish Meeting 2016

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26 May 2016 had been circulated and agreed, and were **NOTED**.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented his Annual Report to the meeting (copy attached, Appendix 1).

4. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee

Cllr Cromey reported that the Planning Committee had considered carefully the planning applications during the year, and made appropriate comments. 46 planning applications had been considered in total (3 fewer than the previous year). Of the planning decisions received from Stafford Borough Council, 61 applications were permitted, and 9 refused (decisions include planning applications relating to TPOs).

5. Financial Report of the Parish Council

Mrs Harrington-Jones, Parish Clerk, presented a report on the financial position of Swynnerton Parish Council (copy attached, Appendix 2). It had been a quiet year, in that there had been only one item of major expenditure, the traffic calming gates at the entrance to Yarnfield village.

The unaudited financial position of the Parish Council as at 31 March 2017, showed a total income of £23,601 against expenditure of £28,558, resulting in a final balance being carried forward of £6,853.

6. Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

Details of members' attendance at Parish Council and Planning Committee meetings over the last 12 months were circulated, with the Chairman being recorded as top of the league table (copy attached, Appendix 3)..

7. Any local issues to be raised

Cllr James invited local representatives to address the meeting.

The Chairman of Tittensor Village Hall Management Committee presented a report on the Hall (copy attached, Appendix 4).

The President of Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI gave a report on Swynnerton's entry to the Best Kept Village Competition (copy attached, Appendix 5). Councillors congratulated Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI on the enthusiastic community support and involvement they had achieved.

A resident of Swynnerton raised concerns over parking problems in the village, and after discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to The Fitzherbert Arms reminding them that the original planning application allowed for a staff car park to be provided behind the garage and asking them to ensure that this car park was fully used. **Action: Clerk**

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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Cllr R JAMES, Chairman, Swynnerton Parish Council

Swynnerton Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Swynnerton Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17

Appendix 1

I would like to welcome you all to this, the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting of Swynnerton Parish. Last year saw the start of our second Parish Speedwatch team operating in Yarnfield. This, coupled with the newly installed traffic calming gates erected east of the village, has had a marked effect in slowing traffic entering the village. Our team in Swynnerton has also achieved good results – but there is still work to do. Your Parish Council will soon be installing and operating electronic speed signs which it is hoped will further reduce the problems of speeding within the Parish.

Your Council gave its support to Swynnerton for their entry into the Best Kept Village Competition after a break of several years – we wish them every success. We have also agreed to adopt the disused (and disconnected) BT Telephone Kiosk outside the Fitzherbert Arms as a community asset – its use to be determined by the residents. In other areas for example, kiosks are used for book clubs, notice boards and as a focal point for gatherings. In Tittensor, we contributed to the removal of a tree within the grounds of St Mary's Church which was deemed to be in a dangerous condition. We refurbished the bus shelter, and were asked by the Church of England to support the closure of the disused burial ground at Beech. Financial help was given to the Friends of Ferndown to improve the footpath near the orchard in Ferndown Nature Reserve – and if you have not visited the Nature Reserve, I would urge you to do so.

I am pleased to announce that at long last the Section 106 monies from the Walnut Tree Farm development have now been released, and work on addressing the drainage on the green in Yarnfield will commence within the next few weeks/months. Equally, monies from the Winghouse Project in Tittensor will soon cross the table – Ward Members from Tittensor will be consulted before a Public Meeting is arranged for the residents to discuss the funding of suitable projects.

Your Parish Council continues to maintain and improve the condition of its assets – bus shelters, bench seating and its Notice Boards. – and has supported planting schemes throughout the Parish in the form of funding the purchase of bulbs, plants and containers. The display of tulips in Swynnerton this year was a picture to behold.

The Neighbourhood Plan, which we had hoped would have been finalised by now, is in its final draft stage and will be available for comment by the residents of the Parish within the next few weeks – I would urge and encourage all residents to take an active part in studying the draft and forwarding comments to our Clerk before the start of the Summer Holidays. Please watch the Parish Notice Boards and our website for more details.

In the coming months and years, HS2 will dominate our workload. Although it may not be possible to stop Phase 2(A), your Parish Council will do all in its power to mitigate the effects of this major infrastructure project and will endeavour to extract the maximum possible from it to ensure long term benefit for the Parish.

Sadly, this year saw the passing of Councillor Stan Highfield – a stalwart of this Parish and Borough – he will be sorely missed.

Finally, I would like to put on record my thanks to the Parish – both as individuals and organisations - for their input and suggestions: and to my fellow Councillors – County, Borough and Parish – for all their hard work and support over the last twelve months. I would like to especially thank County Councillor Frank Chapman for all the help he has given this Parish and wish him well in his retirement; and to welcome Councillor Jeremy Pert who is stepping into Frank's shoes. We look forward to working with him to resolve some of the issues that continue to plague this Parish. I would also like to welcome Jo Malkin and Brian Price who joined your Council this year and wish them well in their endeavours in representing their Ward. And by no means least, my thanks too, to our Clerk, Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones for all her hard work and support to this Parish Council – without which we would not function as well as we do.

That, ladies and gentlemen, concludes my Annual Report to the Parish for 2017.

Cllr Roy James, Chairman, Swynnerton Parish Council

Appendix 2

Swynnerton Parish Council, Annual Financial Report as at 31 March 2017

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Balance Brought Forward | 11,809 |
| Receipts | 23,601.24 |
| BALANCE | 35,410.24 |
| Less Expenditure | 28,557.73 |
| BALANCE | 6,852.51 |
| BALANCE (Rounded) | 6,853 |
| Current Account | 4,529.67 |
| Reserve Account | 1,564.17 |
| NSI Account | 4,569.91 |
| BALANCE | 10,663.75 |
| Less Unpresented Cheques | 3,810.88 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| BALANCE | 6,852.87 |
| BALANCE (Rounded) | 6,853 |

Appendix 3

Councillors' attendance at meetings, April 2016 – March 2017

| | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March | |
|-------------------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| Adams | X | √ | X | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | X | X | X | 7/12 |
| Boulton | X | √ | √ | X | √ | X | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 9/12 |
| Butler | √ | √ | X | √ | √ | √ | X | X | √ | √ | √ | X | 8/12 |
| Cheadle | √ | X | X | x | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | X | √ | 8/12 |
| Cromey | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | X | X | X | √ | √ | √ | 8/12 |
| Eyre | √ | X | √ | X | X | √ | √ | √ | X | X | X | √ | 5/12 |
| Fieldhouse | √ | √ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2/2 |
| James | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 12/12 |
| Leeson | √ | X | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | 11/12 |
| Malkin | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | X | | X | | | | 5/6 |
| Mateu | X | √ | √ | √ | √ | X | √ | X | X | X | √ | X | 6/12 |
| Ong | X | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | X | √ | √ | √ | √ | X | 9/12 |
| Price | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | X | √ | X | √ | 2/4 |
| Riddle | X | √ | x | √ | √ | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3/5 |
| Tucker | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | X | √ | 11/12 |

Appendix 4

Swynnerton Annual Parish Meeting, Report by Chairman of Tittensor Village Hall

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have no need to inform this Council that we now operate in an age of austerity, financial cuts and competition for those limited funds that may be available.

At the end of March 2016, for example, The Staffordshire County Council Capital Grants Scheme, an invaluable source of income to Village Halls closed after 22 years in existence.

The landscape of the voluntary sector is changing and Charitable Trusts like ourselves – or to use the current jargon - “The Third Sector” are being asked to operate in an ever more professional way - as a business - which to my mind to contrary to the spirit in which they were originally established.

I would wish your Council to know that Tittensor Village Halls response is to place an even greater emphasis on good management of our own revenue income and capital funds.

I am more than ever grateful that in general terms the fabric of our building and the state of the internal decoration fixtures and fittings is in very good shape right now thanks to decisions taken by my committee over the past few years.

This year, our rolling programme of maintenance and repair continued. Projects of a major nature saw a new ceramic tiled floor to the Gentleman’s toilet, additional CCTV coverage, a new door and frame to the outside toilet, new carpeting to the stage and a new handrail to the ramp at the front entrance to the hall.

The Village Hall Management Committee continues to greatly value our relationship with the Parish Council and are very grateful for the funds that you have been able once again to donate to us this year.

Our Hall continues to be very well patronised.

Thank you

Paul Richardson, Chairman, Tittensor Village Hall Management Committee

Appendix 5

Swynnerton & Yarnfield Women’s Institute, Best Kept Village Project

Report for Swynnerton Parish Council by Linda Mottram, President

Firstly I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support over the last 12 months, particularly for their assistance with the Best Kept Village entry. The WI felt it should take the lead in this as a community project for the village of Swynnerton (we initially thought that Yarnfield would be put forward by the Yarnfield Forum).

This year we planted bulbs supplied by the Parish Council and the council approved refurbishing and purchasing of seats in the village. As we started the move for BKV many people in the community became involved and we had support from the Swynnerton Estate, the churches, the Fitzherbert Arms, the Post Office, the Village Hall Committee and the Swynnerton Gardens Resident’s Association. Streetscene (from Stafford Borough Council) were also very supportive in supplying equipment, removing rubbish and identifying who was responsible for grass cutting. Individual residents painted the bus

shelters, cleared debris from paths, provided planters and plants and enhanced our environment. We have also made special efforts with the viewpoint, the fishing pool, the phone box and requested that the play equipment be painted.

Despite having no school one of our team managed to organise a children's poster competition (exhibited this evening) for which we had 11 entries. Prizes are being awarded to all participants by Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI on May 20th with tea and cakes provided in the village hall.

We are hoping to get through to the finals of BKV and will inform the Parish Council in due course. We are also looking forward to continuing this project for next year, when we hope to develop a series of storyboards based on the local history of ROF Swynnerton and the accommodation halls located in Swynnerton & Yarnfield. We already have the historical information and know there are photos in the Staffordshire Archives, so the next step is to cost the project and then to fund raise for the boards. Our next fundraiser is set for August 12th in Swynnerton Village Hall when some of the funds will be put to this project.