

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017 IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr R James (Chairman)  
Cllr N Adams  
Cllr D Butler  
Cllr F Cheadle  
Cllr F Cromey  
Cllr B Eyre  
Cllr N Leeson  
Cllr J Malkin  
Cllr K Ong  
Cllr D Tucker

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

**Apologies:** Cllr P Boulton  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr Brian Price

**17/67 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting,

**17/68 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Pert introduced himself as the new Staffordshire County Councillor serving the local community, and congratulated Cllrs James and Price on their election as Stafford Borough Councillors, and Cllr Price's election as Deputy Mayor. Cllr Pert had been appointed to the SCC Cabinet with responsibility for Community. His priorities include potholes, which can be reported directly to SCC and have an additional £3m available, and there is an additional £5m funding for SCC from the sale of assets. Cllr Pert had been active in supporting Tittensor Post Office, following the closure of Winghouse Lane, contacted the local MP, and been instrumental in achieving the relocation of signs to say that businesses are still open. There is concern that the Lane may be closed longer than planned.

He had addressed instances of fly tipping as reported in Stone and Eccleshall Gazette, and made representations on HS2, asking to view the Options Appraisal for the 8 sites for the railhead.

Cllr Pert's criteria for the Community Fund would be different to that of Cllr Chapman. He hoped that SCC Highways would be more proactive, and aimed to resolve long term issues. He would hold monthly meeting with SCC Highways, the next scheduled for 16 June 2016. Councillors raised issues over the top surface of Weavers Walk, and the pavements in Yarnfield which were due to be improved during the next 2.5 years. Residents had carried out a thorough survey which had been with SCC Highways for several months, and residents were still awaiting a response. A copy of the report would be forwarded to Cllr Pert. Cllr Pert undertook to discuss problems with SCC Highways and prioritise them.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Leeson reported concerns with SCC Highways; SPC was prepared to fund speed signs in the Parish but SCC Highways appeared unwilling to get involved. Cllr Pert reported SCC Highways required transformational work, and the SCC Chief Executive had agreed to spend a day in the area to view issues.

Cllr James reported that Section 106 monies for work on Yarnfield Green had been released, and he was waiting for dates for the work to start on Yarnfield Green to re-do the trench. He had arranged for the Chief Executive of SBC to visit the Parish after 15 June to show him the major problems in the area.

Cllr Leeson reported problems caused by a local resident who was dumping effluent in a ditch. Cllr James confirmed that the Environmental team were in contact with the Environment Agency. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

**17/69 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Adams, Boulton, Cheadle and Price

**17/70 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.

**17/71 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.

**17/72 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda**

The Clerk would report on the number of houses sold on Yarnfield Park and the likely due date for payment of Section 106 monies.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

Current and future letters sent from SPC to SCC Highways would be copied to all Councillors.  
The Clerk would chase up the sign for Whitmore Road indicating a blind entrance and requesting chevrons in both directions (17/  
A letter would be sent to Trentham Estates requesting a change of access to prevent traffic tailbacks.  
Letters for distribution to Tittensor residents would be delivered to Cllr Malkin.  
An estimate for remedial work at Ferndown play area would be requested.

### **17/73 Financial matters**

#### **17/73.i May accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses	581.16
John Green Landscapes	576.00
Mr D Wright, refurbishment of milestones (5)	495.00
Play Inspection Company, 3 play area inspections	234.00
Insurance cover (approx)	1,500.00
Total payments for May	£3,386.16

**RESOLVED** - That the accounts for May be approved for payment.

#### **17/73.ii Limited Assurance Review 2016/17, Section 1**

The auditor's report had been circulated to Councillors.

**RESOLVED** That Section 1 of the Limited Assurance Review 2016/17 be approved.

#### **17/73.iii Limited Assurance Review 2016/17, Section 2**

**RESOLVED** That Section 2 of the Limited Assurance Review 2016/17 be approved.

#### **17/73.iv Consideration of payment of Clerk in line with NALC revised payscales for 2017/2018**

**RESOLVED** That the Clerk's payment should be in line with NALCs revised payscale for 2017/2018 at Scale 22 and backdated to 1 April 2017.

#### **17/73.v Request for support for Yarnfield Village Fete**

A request had been made for the Parish Council to sponsor the printing of programmes for the Yarnfield Fete. After discussion it was agreed that the Yarnfield Ward Councillors would meet representatives of Yarnfield Forum to discuss the role of the Forum and obtain more details of the Fete finances. The matter would be discussed further at the next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council.

**Action: Cllrs James, Tucker, Eyre, Cromey**

#### **17/74, Renewal of insurance cover for Swynnerton Parish Council**

Came & Company had forwarded three quotations; AON had offered to beat any current insurance provider by 10%, and offered a further reduction of 5% if a contract was taken out for three years. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should investigate further and take out insurance cover with AON, if satisfactory, or with Inspire.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **17/75 Inspection reports on play areas in the Parish – Ferndown, Tittensor, Yarnfield**

Recent inspection reports on all three play areas had identified Low Risk issues. The Clerk would summarise the reports and circulate the findings to all Councillors.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **17/76 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**

Yarnfield Speedwatch Group reported a significant improvement in the reduction in the speed of vehicles following the installation of speed calming gates. Cllr Eyre reported on the impact of signs advising a police presence in Bedfordshire. Swynnerton Speedwatch Group reported up to 400 vehicles an hour passing through the village, some as fast as 50 mph, and they looked forward to the installation of traffic calming gates at the entrance to the village.

#### **17/77 Ward matters**

##### **17/60.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents**

The surfacing of Weavers Walk had been raised during the Annual Parish Meeting.

##### **17/77.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

Cllr Malkin agreed to distribute letters to residents in the vicinity of the War Memorial, requesting their co-operation in respecting the surrounding area of the Memorial.

The preferences of residents would be sought with regard to a pedestrian crossing over Winghouse Lane, and a public meeting would be arranged at the Village Hall to discuss the various options.

**Action: Cllr Malkin**

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

Problems had been experienced by residents of Winghouse Lane as some residents of Hammond Rise facing Winghouse Lane had the same road numbers. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact SBC Planning to alert them to the problem.

**Action: Clerk**

**17/77.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents**

No issues had been raised by residents.

**17/77.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents**

Cllr Eyre had been contacted by residents in Greenside concerned by the siting of wheelie bins inappropriately stored. Councillors agreed this was a matter for SaRH.

A resident of Cold Meece had raised a number of issues over grass verges in the area, and flowers for the tubs at the junction of Meece Road and the Eccleshall Road. Councillors agreed to consult with the resident over the provision of plants for planters, and supply gardening vouchers as appropriate.

**Action: Clerk**

**17/78 Draft article for Church magazine**

The Clerk would circulate a draft article for the next issue of the Church magazine to Councillors, to include – imminent issue of draft Neighbourhood Plan; Yarnfield Fete on 16 September; continuing need to take care of the War Memorial in Tittensor; community involvement in Swynnerton’s Best Kept Village entry; date for the diary – Hog Roast in Swynnerton in October.

**Action: Clerk**

**17/79 HS2**

**17/79.i 17/63.ii HS2, Stone railhead, report on action to date**

Cllr Tucker reported that Stone Rail Crisis Group (SRCG) had held a meeting with HS2 representatives to discuss an alternative site for the proposed railhead, and were hoping for a further meeting in a few weeks time. It was hoped that Sarah Mallen, SCC Liaison with HS2, would attend the next meeting to brief Councillors..

**17/80 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress**

Cllr James reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was very near to the draft stage, and a further meeting had been arranged for 15 June by when additional maps, photographs, and charts would have been added.

**17/81 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

The Clerk listed correspondence that had been received..

**17/82 Date of next meeting**

The next monthly meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be held on Thursday 22 June 2017. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.