

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 24 AUGUST 2017 IN YARNFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr R James (Chairman)
Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr F Cromey
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr K Ong
Cllr B Price
Cllr D Tucker

In attendance: Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
Ms Sarah Mallen, SCC HS2 Liaison Officer
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
Mr C Hammond, Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG)
Mr T Parkin, SRCG
6 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr N Adams
Cllr P Boulton
Cllr D Butler

17/116 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A resident of Yarnfield asked if a reminder could be sent to SCC Highways regarding three obscured street lights in Yarnfield Lane and this was agreed. The resident also reported the overgrown state of Footpath 34, which would be reported by the Clerk. **Action: Clerk**

Members of Yarnfield Speedwatch team asked for an additional sign to be installed at the west end of the village, similar to that at the east, and the Clerk would forward the request. They had recorded 29 speeding vehicles during their last session. **Action: Clerk**

A resident asked when the Neighbourhood Plan would be available for viewing, and was assured by the Chairman it would be ready within a few weeks.

A Tittensor resident reported that he had been visited by representatives from Kier and Highways England. It was hoped that the shop/post office would still be in business by November when Winghouse Lane was scheduled to reopen, but it was uncertain as a considerable amount of trade had been lost during the past months.

The Safer Roads Partnership had been asked about progress on addressing issues at the junction of Yarnfield Lane and High Lows Lane.

Mr Trevor Parkin, SRCG, gave a presentation on the Group's proposals for an alternative site to that planned by HS2 at Stone. Concern was expressed about the amount of traffic to and from the site during construction. The Group were engaging positively with HS2, and had a further meeting scheduled with HS2 engineers. There were two options to achieve the switch to the alternative site – 'Additional Provisioning' or a Petition to the Select Committee. The Chairman thanked SRCG for their presentation.

Sarah Mallen, SCC, confirmed that Yarnfield Lane would not be closed during construction, and stressed the HS2 project was 'proposed routes', which allowed changes to be made. The Highways Authority had influence with regard to traffic routes.

A Swynnerton resident and member of SRCG reported that the proposed plans were for Swynnerton to lose one northbound route to the A51; a new shorter route would join the A51 at a 'T' junction. It was essential that this should be a roundabout, to allow traffic to integrate with a fast busy road and to reduce tailbacks through Swynnerton village and beyond.

Sarah Mallen summarised her role with SCC as liaison with the HS2 project. She hoped to help with all issues regarding HS2, and would lead on the corporate response to Phase 2a which closes on 30 September 2017. The SCC website has several pages devoted to HS2. She summarised the history of the project to date and the programme and process that would be followed. She would be able to help with obtaining costs from HS2, and urged SRCG and Councillors to keep a log of all correspondence with HS2. Councillors agreed to send Sarah a copy of their response to the HS2 Phase 2a consultation as soon as it was completed, and a summary of key concerns around the proposed construction routes in the Parish. The Chairman thanked Sarah for attending the meeting, and for her offers of help.

17/117 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Pert reported that he had attended a site meeting at the end of Winghouse Lane, after reports that the work would be extended to the end of November. Efforts were being made to speed the work up to achieve completion at the end of October, and to use traffic lights to allow traffic to move through Winghouse Lane. A second 'Businesses open as usual' sign had been installed on the A34, and it was hoped to install a permanent direction sign to the post office.

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

Work on the pavements was underway in Tittensor; it was hoped to reduce the planned four week one way diversion route to three weeks duration. Additional funding had been obtained to enable the extension of the improvements to Beechdale Road. The issue of double yellow lines at the A34 end of Winghouse Lane was being handled separately. Cllr Pert had met with SCC Highways to discuss the state of pavements in Yarnfield, and safety issues, and was meeting again in two weeks' time in the hope of bringing works forward. Negotiations were on-going with the owner of the hedge opposite High Lows Lane; Barratts had agreed to install tactile paving as appropriate.

SCC Highways were working up a policy for mobile speed awareness signs, and looking for areas to trial installations. Councillors were dismayed that the policy was only just being prepared. This will lead to further delays to the Parish Council's programme for installing mobile speed awareness signs in all Wards; discussions have been on-going with Highways for four years.

A Carers' Cafe was being launched in Eccleshall on 28 September 2017, to which all were invited.

Cllr James reported that the initial work had been completed on Yarnfield Green, and the result of installing a ditch would be monitored to assess any improvements to the drainage of the Green. The ditch was beginning to fill with water. The area would be planted with grass seed, and temporary notices put up to keep it clear until the grass could grow.

The Local Plan for Stafford Borough was available on the SBC website

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

17/118 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Adams, Boulton and Butler.

17119 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.

17/120 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 July 2017

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

17/121 Financial matters

17/121.i August accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered -

Solopress (SRCG flyers)	43.00
Clerk's salary and expenses	562.03
John Green Landscapes	528.00
Total payments for August	£1,33.03

A payment of £504 due to Playground Supplies was outstanding for repairs to grass matting and the zip wire at Ferndown Nature Reserve play area. This work was still under discussion.

RESOLVED – That, with the exception of the payment of £504 to Playground Supplies the accounts for August be approved for payment.

17/121.ii Wreaths for Remembrance Day services

RESOLVED That three wreaths should be ordered for Remembrance Day services at an approximate cost of £51.

17/122 Co-option for vacancy for Yarnfield Ward Councillor

The Chairman introduced Mr James Nixon, who had applied to fill the vacancy for a Yarnfield Ward Councillor.

RESOLVED That Mr James Nixon be appointed Ward Councillor for Yarnfield Ward, Swynnerton Parish Council.

17/123 Election of Vice Chairman for Planning Committee

RESOLVED That, subject to his agreement, Cllr David Butler be elected Vice Chairman of Swynnerton Parish Council's Planning Committee.

17/124 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that Cllr Pert had attended a site meeting to try and bring forward the completion of the work on Winghouse Lane (17/99).

SBC Planning. was keeping the Parish Council up to date on progress of sales of houses on Yarnfield Park (17/104).

A letter had been sent to Yarnfield Forum clarifying SPCs policy on funding for charities (17/104).

The application for funding to Safer Roads Partnership was in preparation (17/109.i).

Other matters arising from previous meetings would be discussed as agenda items later in the evening.

17/125 Traffic issues in the Parish

The blocked grids in Swynnerton had been raised with SCC Highways again. Councillors confirmed that the installation of portable flashing speed signs would go ahead, whether or not contributions towards funding from other sources were received.

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

17/125 Ward matters

17/125i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

There were no further issues raised by residents.

17/125.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

There had been positive feedback from residents about the work on the pavements. It had not been possible to access the Parish Council's notice board for several weeks.

Cllr Malkin had met representatives from SBC Planning, who acknowledged the error leading to the current confusion, and were now consulting with SBC Legal to achieve a solution.

17/125.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents

New shops had opened at Trentham Shopping Village. Street lights on Whitmore Road between Northwood Lane and Fairway were obscured by overhanging trees. **Action: Clerk**

17/125.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents

The effectiveness of the new ditch on the Green would be monitored over the next few months.

17/125.v Bulbs for autumn planting

Swynnerton requested tulips for autumn planting; Tittensor requested daffodils for autumn planting. Friends of Ferndown, Cold Meece residents, and Yarnfield Forum would be asked for their preferences. **Action: Clerk**

17/126 SBC Community Awards

After discussion Councillors agreed that Gary Rhead (Cold Meece), Trevor Underhill (Tittensor), and Roy Clarke (Trentham) should be nominated for awards.

17/127 SBC Forum meeting on 28 September 2017

Councillors noted the date of the Forum meeting. No details were as yet available.

17/128 SPCA, nominations for SPCA Executive and motions for debate at AGM in December

Councillors agreed that Cllr Mateu should be nominated for the SPCA Executive.

17/129 Draft article for Church magazine

The Clerk would circulate a draft article for the next issue of the Church magazine to Councillors, to include – co-option of Cllr James Nixon, reminder about the Hog Roast in Swynnerton in October, submission of response to HS2 Phase 2a consultation, ordering of wreaths, ordering of autumn bulbs..

17/130 HS2

17/130.i Stone Railhead Crisis Group, report on action to date

A briefing meeting had been arranged in Stone, and flyers distributed at the Farmers' Market. Liaison meetings were being arranged with Whitmore and Madeley. Yarnfield Forum had arranged a public meeting with HS2 representatives. SPC and individuals can respond to the consultation, which closes in September.

17/130.ii Publication of Phase 2a and consultation

Cllr Tucker and Mr Eyre would staff a table at Yarnfield Fete to provide information, distribute flyers, and encourage responses to the Phase 2a consultation. Councillors agreed to fund a banner that had been ordered **RESOLVED** That payment should be made for a banner for SRCG at an approximate cost of £33.

17/130.iii Parish Council response to proposals, funding opportunities

Funding for local communities would be available from HS2 when the project begins. SCC would be co-ordinating this locally through Sarah Mallen. Cllrs Ong, Cheadle, Malkin, James and Tucker would meet to prepare SPCs response to the consultation.

17/131 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress

Cllr Ong reported she was still awaiting photographs from Swynnerton and Tittensor, and information from the Chairman. Reminders would be re-issued. **Action: Clerk**

17/132 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk listed correspondence that had been received – SBC Members' Digest No 234, confirmation from AON they were withdrawing from cover for Local Councils but current policy would not be affected; invitation from Stone Town Council to a conducted tour of Lymestone Brewery; Euroshel, information on bus shelters; email from War Memorials Trust, reporting concerns over perceived open joints and damage to the base of Swynnerton War Memorial.

17/133 Date of next meeting

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be held on Thursday 21 September 2017 in Tittensor Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Date

Clr R James, Chairman