

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

**Present:** Cllr R James (Chairman)  
Cllr P Boulton  
Cllr F Cheadle  
Cllr F Cromey  
Cllr N Leeson  
Cllr J Malkin  
Cllr K Ong  
Cllr Brian Price

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

**Apologies:** Cllr N Adams  
Cllr D Butler  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr D Tucker

**17/99 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A resident of Tittensor raised concerns over the continuing closure of Winghouse Lane and the resulting devastating effect on the post office and shop which now faced closure. Kier had not responded to emails and SCC Highways had not been helpful. Cllr Pert confirmed the lack of response from Kier to letters, texts and emails from SBC and SCC Councillors and the local MP. A 'Businesses open as usual' sign on the A34 was only visible to traffic approaching from the south; Cllr Pert was hoping to arrange for a second sign for traffic travelling from the north, and also for a white 'Post office' direction sign to be installed on the A34. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should write to Kier, deploring the present situation and urging the reopening of Winghouse Lane as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk**

**17/100 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Pert reported that the HS2 Bill had now been deposited in Parliament, which was disappointing as the railhead would seem to have been sited in the wrong place and would affect many local communities. It had been confirmed that Yarnfield Lane would remain open. Two public information meetings had been arranged by HS2 on 7 and 12 August at Yarnfield Park and The Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford. Information was available on line and at Stone and Eccleshall libraries. The consultation would end in September; SCC was preparing a response and contributions should be passed to Sarah Mallen.

The consultation on bus services was now open, and all were urged to contribute. Cllr Price would contact Cllr Pert over the loss of a service to Ferndown Drive South. Cllr Pert was willing to support local community transport schemes.

Cllr Pert had met Cllr Cromey and Yarnfield residents to look at the state of pavements in Yarnfield. He would report back to the next meeting on whether parts of the Disabled Disability Act were applicable. He had also attended a meeting in Trentham to address concerns over the enforcement of 30 mph limits.

Cllr Pert had attended a successful public meeting in Tittensor; SCC Highways would meet most of the concerns raised by residents. The reduction in size of the triangle of land outside the post office would depend on the location of services; it would not be possible to create parking bays at the bottom of Winghouse Lane due to the location of services. Double yellow lines had not been considered necessary for safety reasons; the cost would be £4,000, of which Cllr Pert was prepared to contribute £2,000 and wondered if SPC would consider funding the remaining £2,000. The work on the roads and pavements would start in August, during the school holidays; access to Winghouse Lane would be one-way with a diversion via Chase Lane for approximately two weeks.

Cllr Price had been kept busy by his responsibilities as Deputy Mayor. Cllr James reported that the Revision of Part 1, The Local Plan for Stafford, was now out for consultation. The Local Plan for Newcastle and Stoke on Trent had serious implications for Green Belt land.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

**17/101 Apologies**

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

**17102 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.

**17/103 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 June 2017**

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 22 June 2017 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Date ..... Cllr R James, Chairman .....

**17/104 Clerk’s Progress Report, items not on the agenda**

The Clerk had contacted SBC Finance and been referred to SBC Planning for further information on the Section 106 funding due from the completion of Phase 1 of the Yarnfield Park development, and would report back. **Action: Clerk**  
The Clerk would summarise the recent playground inspections and forward copies to Councillors (17/75).

A lengthy response had been received from The Trentham Estate, recognising the concerns raised by the Parish Council over traffic exiting the Estate.

Cllr James confirmed that no meeting had taken place with Yarnfield Forum representatives. After discussion it was agreed that a letter clarifying the Council’s policy on charity donations should be sent to the Forum,. Cllr James would provide a draft. **Action: Clerk, Cllr James**

The Clerk had contacted STWA and then St Modwens about the dangerous disused water tank off the A51, and the site had been secured (17/93.i).

Cllr Malkin had arranged a very successful public meeting at Tittensor to discuss highways issues (17/93.ii).

Photographs supplied by Cllr Boulton had been forwarded to SCC Footpaths to support the report already made regarding the overgrown state of Footpath 44 (17/93.ii).

A further article had been printed in Staffordshire Newsletter on the drainage of Yarnfield Green (17/93.iv).

Mr Pattison had carried out an additional cut on Yarnfield Green (17/93.iv).

An article had been submitted for the church magazine.

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

**17/105 Financial matters**

**17/89.i July accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk’s salary and expenses	708.76
John Green Landscapes	1,032.00
P Pattison, cutting Yarnfield Green	50.00
St Luke’s Church Hall, public meeting venue	18.75
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association	15.00
Playground Supplies Ltd	504.00
Total payments for July	£2,328.51

**RESOLVED** – That, with the exception of the payment of £504 to Playground Supplies (17/105.iii refers), the accounts for July be approved for payment.

**17105.ii Request for support for Yarnfield Fete**

As discussed earlier, a letter would be sent to Yarnfield Forum (17/104, para 4).

**17/105.iii Consideration of additional work to Ferndown Play Area**

The grass matting had been repaired at Ferndown Play Area, and the tension checked on the zip wire. Playground Supplies had reported that, when carrying out the work, they noticed one end of the zip wire was lifting; they surmised this was possibly due to recent dry spells, and had quoted £780 plus VAT to re-install the equipment with additional concrete.

Discussions with the Chairman of Friends of Ferndown had revealed that Playground Supplies were recalled shortly after the initial installation of the play area to re-install the other end of the zip wire which had lifted as it appeared that not enough concrete had been used in its installation. It seemed likely that the latest problem resulted from the same cause. Playground Supplies had sent a further email stating that the Parish Council did not have to carry out the suggested work.

After discussion Councillors agreed that the Clerk should confirm with Playground Supplies, in light of their recent email, whether or not the zip wire was safe to use, and also consult with The Play Inspection Company who had inspected the play area in May 2017 and made no comment on any concerns. If necessary a further inspection using the expertise of a surveyor should be arranged. **Action: Clerk**

**17/106 Vacancy for Yarnfield Ward Councillor**

Following the resignation of Mr Brian Eyre, SBC had supplied a notice of the Parish Council Vacancy for Yarnfield Ward which would be displayed until 16 August 2017.

**17/107 Onward devolution of local government responsibilities**

After discussion Councillors agreed to await further information from SCC, and to liaise with other Parish Councils.

**17/108 Proposal by central government to amalgamate governance of police, fire and rescue services**

Councillors considered this to be a logical proposal and trusted it would lead to maximising the efficiency of frontline services.

**17/109 Traffic issues in the Parish**

**17/109.i Application for a grant from Safer Roads Partnership**

Details had been circulated of funding available from the Safer Roads Partnership for grants of £100 to £5,000. After discussion Councillors agreed that two applications should be submitted, the first for a contribution of £5,000 towards the cost of portable flashing speed signs for the Parish, and the second for a contribution of £2,000 towards the installation of double yellow lines in the vicinity of the War Memorial, Tittensor (Cllr Pert had agreed to contribute an additional £2,000 to enable the completion of this project). **Action: Clerk**

#### **17/110 Ward matters**

##### **17/110.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents**

Cllr Cheadle reported there were a number of blocked grids in Swynnerton. The Clerk would contact SCC Highways and request the deployment of the gulley sucker. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Butler had reported the closure of Swynnerton's Thursday Club, who were proposing to purchase a bench for the use of residents. After discussion Councillors agreed in principle to add the bench to the Parish Council's Asset List.

##### **17/110.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

26 residents had attended the recent public meeting held at St Luke's Church Hall to discuss highway issues. Work would commence in August.

The overgrown state of Footpath 44 had been reported to SCC Highways and the Clerk would follow this up during the following week. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk would follow up the recent report to SBC Planning over difficulties caused by confusion caused over numbering and addresses for residents in Hammond Rise and Winghouse Lane. **Action: Clerk**

##### **17/110.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents**

No issues had been raised by residents since the last meeting.

##### **17/110.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents**

The footpath between Yarnfield Green and High Lows Lane had become extremely overgrown. **Action: Clerk**  
Work on Yarnfield Green was scheduled to begin in August.

#### **17111 Draft article for Church magazine**

The Clerk would circulate a draft article for the next issue of the Church magazine to Councillors, to include – implications of HS2, work on pavements in Tittensor and recent public meeting, work to address drainage problems on Yarnfield Green, installation of speed indicators throughout the Parish.

#### **17/112 HS2**

##### **17/112.i Stone Railhead Crisis Group, report on action to date**

SRCG had arranged a public meeting at 5 pm on Sunday 6 August 2017 to brief residents on the alternative proposals for the siting of a permanent railhead in Stone. Flyers were being printed to inform residents.

##### **17/112.ii Local committees/working parties as suggested by Bill Cash MP**

SRCG was a local organisation hoping to work positively with HS2, with the emphasis on addressing engineering issues. SPC and individuals can respond to the consultation, which closes in September.

##### **17/112.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.

#### **17113 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress**

Cllr Ong reported she was still awaiting photographs from Swynnerton and Tittensor, and information from the Chairman. After discussion Councillors agreed that the SBC Cllrs would obtain all necessary maps and forward them to Cllr Ong. Cllr James would forward technical information and percentages. **Action: Cllrs James, Price**

#### **17/114 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

The Clerk listed correspondence that had been received – SBC, invitation to attend the Battle of Britain Commemoration on Sunday 17 September 2017; SBC, launch of consultation on Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Local Plan Review; SBC, notice of Parish Council Vacancy; Police & Crime Commissioner for Stafford, information on Space programme; Clerks & Councils Direct Issue 112; SBC Members' Digest No 233; J Parker's Wholesale, bulb catalogue; The Clerk magazine, July 2017.

#### **17/115 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be held on Thursday 24 August 2017 in Yarnfield Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....