

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2017 IN TITTENSOR VILLAGE HALL**

- Present:** Cllr D Tucker (Chairman)  
Cllr N Adams  
Cllr P Boulton  
Cllr D Butler  
Cllr F Cheadle  
Cllr N Leeson  
Cllr J Malkin  
Cllr J Nixon  
Cllr B Price  
Cllr R James (*arrived during meeting*)
- In attendance:** Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)  
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)  
3 members of the public
- Apologies:** Cllr F Cromey  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr K Ong

**17/134 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Cllr James Nixon as a Ward Councillor representing Yarnfield. A resident of Yarnfield raised concerns over the drainage of Yarnfield Green. There was no surface water on the Green other than in muddy dips in the ground, but no evidence any water was draining into the recently dug ditch, other than rain water. During the recent work broken clay pipes had been exposed, suggesting that earlier field drains were no longer functioning. The area had been left in a poor condition, with no grass remaining and bare earth and large stones exposed. Trees had been removed, which should be replaced. Two vehicles had been stuck in the waterlogged ground at the recent village fete. The resident asked that a professional assessment was carried out by a drainage engineer and a proper drainage system installed, stones removed, and the area seeded with grass or wild flowers. The resident handed a letter detailing the issues to the Clerk. For 8 out of the last 10 years one third of the Green had been under water. Further, it had been noted that extensive work was being carried out on pavements in Tittensor, although the pavements in Yarnfield were in a worse state.

After discussion Councillors agreed that Cllrs James and Tucker should attend a site meeting with residents,

**Action: Cllrs James, Tucker**

**17/135 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Pert reported that, following meetings with Kier and Highways England, the completion date for work on the A51 and the reopening of Winghouse Lane had been brought forward to 9 October, although STWA were scheduled to carry out some works there, and he was following up some concerns raised by Cllr Price. Parking at the post office had been improved, and two signs to the post office had been installed on the A34. The double yellow lines at the bottom of Winghouse Lane were outstanding.

The missing Speedwatch sign had been installed at Yarnfield. He had met with Safer Communities, who had agreed that a variety of signs could be used, SCC Highways were checking the location of the signs SPC wanted to install. The result of the funding application would be known in December, SPC will proceed whether or not their application is successful. Cllr Leeson thanked SCC Cllr Pert for his support

Cllr Adams, reported the hidden entrance to Park Drive, Trentham, where three accidents had occurred and a speed warning sign, 'Concealed entrance/accident spot' was needed.

Cllr Pert had a meeting scheduled with SCC Highways to discuss Yarnfield pavements. The developer would be installing tactile pavements where appropriate, but there was a need in other parts of the village.

Cllr James and Cllr Pert met HS2 on the previous day, and made 12 recommendations to feed into the consultation. In Yarnfield the enabling works for the train line are significant because of the difference in heights, and a motorway connection will still be required even if there is no railhead at Stone, although this would be temporary in that event. Accommodation on the site should not be a requirement. There would be a separate consultation on Crewe, and a potential local amenity if trains went via Stone station every two or three hours.

Councillors raised concerns over the obscured street lights between the Labour in Vain and between Northwood Lane and Fieldway.

Cllr Pert agreed to request larger signs at the entrance to Yarnfield in the hope of preventing large vehicles travelling through the village.

*(7.50 pm, two members of the public left the meeting)*

Cllr Price had attended a number of functions as Deputy Mayor. He reported that the control of the Sports and Leisure Department was changing to a trust fund; the waste collection could also change to a trust fund, but there would be no change to the specification for services.

He had received concerns about the safety of schoolchildren catching school buses on the A34, and this had been referred to the bus company who were addressing the situation.

He had arranged for the sign at the bottom of Chase Lane which was obstructing visibility to be moved.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Pert and Price for their contributions, and closed the public session of the meeting.

#### **17/136 Apologies**

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

#### **17137 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.

#### **17/138 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24 August 2017**

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 24 August 2017 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **17/139 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda**

Cllr Pert has arranged for an additional Speedwatch sign to be installed on Yarnfield Lane (17/116).

Wreaths have been ordered for Remembrance services, and the order confirmed (17/166).

SCC Highways contacted regarding obscured street lights on Yarnfield Lane and Whitmore Road, and overgrown pavements (17/116, 17/125.iii).

Requirements for autumn bulb planting are being confirmed (17/125.v).

Draft responses to the HS2 Phase 2a consultation will be circulated (17/116).

The PCSO had asked if additional parking could be provided at Tittensor village hall while work on the pavements in Tittensor was continuing, and he would attend the Village Hall Committee Meeting the following week.

An email had been sent to James du Pavey Estate Agents, asking them to remove four of the five signs at the end of The Chestnuts, Yarnfield.

Councillors asked the Clerk to follow up progress on the closure of the old burial ground at Beech.

**Action: Clerk**

#### **17/140 Financial matters**

##### **17/140.i September accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses	591.99
HMRC, PAYE and NI	401.91
John Green Landscapes	528.00
Solopress (SRCG flyers)	29.00
Mr P Pattison, 3 cuts to Yarnfield Green	150.00
Total payments for September	£1,671.90

*A payment of £504 due to Playground Supplies was outstanding for repairs to grass matting and the adjustment of the zip wire at Ferndown Nature Reserve play area. The zip wire seat will be restored and a further inspection carried out within the next two weeks.*

**RESOLVED** – That the accounts for September be approved for payment.

##### **17/140.ii Payment of flyers, non payment of banner, for Stone Railhead Crisis Group**

Funding for the cost of a banner approved at the August meeting (17/130.ii) had been provided by another source. Councillors agreed to fund the provision of a stall at Yarnfield Fete and payment for room hire at Stone Railway Station.

**RESOLVED** That payment of £10 should be made to cover provision of a stall at Yarnfield Fete to publicise SRCG's proposal for an alternative site for the railhead and encourage completion of responses to HS2 Phase 2a consultation.

**RESOLVED** That payment of £45.50 should be made for hire of a meeting room at Stone Station for SRCG meeting.

##### **17/140.iii Report from Grant Thornton on Annual Audit**

Unfortunately the report from Grant Thornton had not yet been received.

#### **17/141 Traffic issues in the Parish**

The issues had been covered earlier in the meeting. It had been reported that the speed camera van would be deployed more frequently.

#### **17/142 Ward matters**

##### **17/142.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents**

The War Memorial had been inspected by Councillors and the base required pointing.

**Action: Clerk**

The Thursday Club had purchased and installed a memorial bench at the rear of the village hall. After discussion Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would add the bench to the Parish Council's Asset Register and undertake any future maintenance.

**RESOLVED** That Swynnerton Parish Council would add the bench at the rear of Swynnerton Village Hall to the Asset List and undertake any future maintenance.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

Following the receipt of the judges' report from the Best Kept Village (BKV) competition, Councillors would inspect the reported graffiti on the defibrillator in the bus shelter.

#### **17/142.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

Councillors reported very positive feedback from residents on the recent work to pavements in the village, and as a result there was enthusiasm to enter next year's BKV competition.

*(8.15 pm, Cllr James joined the meeting.)*

The Clerk reported that an instruction had been issued by SCC Footpaths to carry out work on Footpath 44. Cllr Boulton would be notified when it was known that the work would be carried out. **Action: Clerk**

The finger post opposite Beechcliffe Lane was missing a finger and needed repair. **Action: Clerk**

#### **17/142.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents**

Cllr Leeson reported on a recent meeting of the Lady Katherine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity. £300 had been donated to a local Girl Guide, and £200 towards books for a local 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours student, now doing his Masters degree, who was hoping to become a barrister. Letters had been sent to several local schools, advising them that funds were available to help needy students with school uniform costs but only one school had replied to date. Further letters would be sent out to ensure all local schools were fully informed of the grants available.

#### **142.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents**

Items concerning Yarnfield had been discussed earlier in the meeting..

#### **17/143 SBC Forum meeting on 28 September 2017**

The Clerk would forward the agenda and any accompanying papers as soon as they were received. **Action: Clerk**

Cllrs Leeson and Boulton confirmed that teams were entering the Mayor's Charity Quiz Night.

#### **17/144 HS2**

##### **17/144.i Parish Council response to HS2 Phase 2a consultation**

Two meetings of the subcommittee had prepared draft responses to the consultation which would be sent out to Councillors very shortly for approval, and the final version submitted by 30 September 2017. **Action: Clerk**

##### **17/144.ii Report on action to date by SRCG**

Councillors congratulated SRCG on the excellent reports in the local press. There had been a, well attended meeting the previous week in the Christchurch Centre. Further meetings had been held with HS2 engineers, and discussions continuing on the possibility of siting the railhead at Alderseys Rough. HS2 had not yet provided costs for siting the railhead at Alderseys Rough.

#### **17/145 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress**

Cllrs James, Ong and Price were working on final maps to show potential development areas. Cllr Boulton would re-send the history, and would supply photographs, of Tittensor.

#### **17/146 Draft article for Church magazine**

The Clerk would prepare a draft article for the November issue of the Church magazine, to include – ordering of wreaths, maintenance of war memorials, memorial bench to Mrs Ruth Cheadle behind Swynnerton village hall, ordering of autumn bulbs..

*(8.45 pm, Cllr Pert left the meeting.)*

#### **17/147 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

The Clerk listed correspondence that had been received – SBC, Membe5s' Digest No 235; SBC invitation to Parish Forum; SBC invitation to attend Remembrance Day Service and Parade on 12 November; SBC invitation to join The Two Minutes Silence Campaign on 11 November; SLCC Magazine; Clerks' and Councils Direct; BHIB Insurance Brokers confirming assumption of renewal of Local Insurance Policy from AON; NALC letter supporting BHIB as preferred insurance supplier; Community Council of Staffordshire, invitation to AGM; Stone Town Council, invitation to Mayor's Trafalgar Dinner.

Cllr James would forward details of broadband provision to enable the Clerk to obtain quotes. Broadband provision for village halls would be added to the agenda for the October meeting. **Action: Cllr James, Clerk**

#### **17/148 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be held on Thursday 26 October 2017 in Swynnerton Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....