

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017 IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr D Tucker (Chairman)  
Cllr N Adams  
Cllr P Boulton  
Cllr D Butler  
Cllr F Cheadle  
Cllr J Malkin  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr K Ong  
Cllr R James (*arrived during meeting*)

**In attendance:** Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)  
4 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr F Cromey  
Cllr N Leeson  
Cllr J Nixon  
Cllr B Price  
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

**17/149 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A resident of Swynnerton raised concerns over the number and extent of potholes at the junction of Tittensor Road with the A51. They were advised to photograph them, indicating the depth, and forward the information to SCC Highways Pothole Hotline for attention.

Questions were raised over the adequacy of the provision of parking at Highfields Close, as several cars were being parked in Park View, leading to possible obstruction of emergency vehicles. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to SaRH to ask if new parking arrangements could be made, should they be required, for residents in Highfields Close.

**Action: Clerk**

A letter was handed to the Parish Council from a resident in Fairbanks Walk, requesting the installation of double yellow lines to help to address the problems of inappropriate parking in the area.

Concerns were raised over the speed of traffic through the village, particularly at the corner by the churches. The Parish Council will be installing a set of gates at the southern approach to Swynnerton shortly, and in the New Year will purchase flashing speed awareness signs for use throughout the Parish; as a short term measure Safer Staffordshire Roads would be asked to site the speed van at Swynnerton.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Butler reported that the defibrillator in the bus shelter outside the Fitzherbert Arms had been defaced with graffiti, which he had removed. A bus shelter at the end of Park Lane had also had graffiti applied, and Mr Challinor had been asked to remove this at an approximate cost of £45.

Pavements throughout the village were overgrown and as a result restricted in width. The Clerk would contact SCC Highways Team for assistance.

**Action: Clerk**

The success of the refurbished Fitzherbert Arms had contributed to the increase of parked vehicles in the centre of the village. Staff used the car park on the opposite side of the road. Cllr Mateu read out a letter documenting a number of near accidents in the centre of the village. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Fitzherbert Arms asking for help in addressing the problems.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Mateu raised an issue over a company failing to meet its obligations, and was advised to contact SBC Trading Standards.

**17/150 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

There were no reports, as Cllrs Pert and Price had sent their apologies. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

**17/151 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cromey, Leeson, Nixon, Price, and Pert.

**17/152 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.

**17/153 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 September 2017**

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 21 September 2017 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**17/154 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda**

The Clerk confirmed that the site meeting on Yarnfield Green had taken place and would be reported under item 157.iv.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

The situation regarding the former burial ground at Beech would be followed up immediately (17/139). Estimates were awaited for repairs to the base of the war memorial at Swynnerton (17/142.i) Footpath 44 was on the work schedule for SCC Footpaths (17/142.ii). A quote was awaited from Mr Wright for the repair to the fingerpost at Tittensor, opposite Beechcliffe Lane (17/142.ii). SBC Forum papers had been circulated, and Cllrs Price and James and the Clerk had attended. The Parish Council's response to the consultation on HS2 Phase 2a had been submitted. Information had been forwarded by the Chairman and Cllr Tucker on broadband provision to village halls and contact was awaited from The Phone Co-op. The Clerk would schedule the annual play area safety inspections for 2018 in good time to obtain a reasonable quote.

**Action: Clerk**  
**Action: Clerk**

The foliage had still not been trimmed back from streetlights in Yarnfield Lane (17/116).

**17/155 Financial matters**

**17/155.i October accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses*	784.23
John Green Landscapes	1,032.00
SBC Civic Amenity vehicle visits Apr/Sept	875.00
Royal British Legion, 3 wreaths	51.00
Playground Supplies Ltd, work at Ferndown (August)	504.00
Stone Town Council, room hire (17/140.ii refers)	46.35
EON, lamp standard, Swynnerton	79.93
Play Inspection Company, extra inspection at Ferndown	300.00
Grant Thornton, 2017 Annual Return	<u>240.00</u>
Total payments for October	£3,912.51

\*includes bulbs for autumn planting throughout the Parish

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

**17/155.ii Grant Thornton report on Annual Audit**

Grant Thornton had approved the annual accounts, without comment. Statutory notices had been displayed on all notice boards, and the website.

**17/156 Traffic issues in the Parish**

Cllr Mateu reported that six Speedwatch Volunteers operated fortnightly in Swynnerton, weather permitting. The problems with speeding vehicles continued. Cllr Mateu had circulated data obtained from Project Edward, illustrating the effectiveness of the Speedwatch project.

**17/157 Ward matters**

**17/157.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents**

The blocked grids, reported in the summer, had still not been cleared. The Clerk would issue a reminder to SCC Highways.

**Action: Clerk**  
**Action: Clerk**

There were two large potholes at the end of Chase Lane with the junction of the A34.

Councillors commented there were parking spaces for visitors at Park View that did not appear to be used, and parking bays at Highfield Close that could be enlarged to accommodate more cars off the road. Councillors would speak to local residents to ascertain their preferences, before consulting with SCC Highways and SaRH.

Councillors' attention was drawn to the bench in memory of Mrs Ruth Cheadle that had now been installed at the rear of the village hall.

**17/157.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

Councillors reported that SCC Highways appeared to have completed their work in Winghouse Lane without seeding some areas of the verge. After discussion it was agreed to fund the supply of grass seed for affected areas. *(The areas have since been seeded by SCC Highways.)*

Recent communications from SCC appeared to suggest that responsibility for footpaths would in future be passed to Parish Councils. Councillors agreed to discuss this again in Spring 2018.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Malkin reported a recent accident in Beechcliffe Lane, which is overgrown with grass in the centre, and where a car recently skidded and struck two pedestrians. The Clerk would report the state of the Lane, and the accident, to SCC Highways.

**Action: Clerk**

**17/157.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents**

Councillors had nothing further to report, other than the work being carried out at Ferndown Nature Reserve play area, where the Friends of Ferndown had arranged for one end of the zip wire to be re-installed by a local builder.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

**157.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents**

Cllrs James and Tucker, and Mrs Hughes ((Yarnfield Forum) had held a site visit to assess the recent work carried out to address the drainage problems on Yarnfield Green. The new drain ran from the pavement on the main road up the side of the hedge and had sliced through existing land drains, remnants of which could be seen. There were a lot of stones on the surface, and the far side had not been levelled or seeded. The drainage did not appear to be improved and it was hoped the work could be checked by a drainage engineer. Three trees had been cut down, two of which had been covered by TPOs, so should be replaced.

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

Cllr James reported that a meeting was being arranged with the contractors who had carried out the work, to sort out the problems that had arisen. Cllr James would advise Councillors of the date once the meeting was confirmed.

**Action: Cllr James**

John Green Landscapes had been asked to tidy the area around Cold Meece war memorial, ready for the Remembrance service; Mr Challinor would clean and re-coat the bench on the site.

**17/158 SBC Call for Sites and Supplementary Planning Documents Consultation**

As part of Phase 2 of the Local Plan, SBC were listing further development sites in the borough to form the 5 year land supply.

Reports had been circulated of a ‘garden city’ development on the MoD site at Cold Meece, designed to build on possible benefits that could accrue from the HS2 project and proposed railhead near Stone. Although 10,000 possible homes had been mooted, the outlines of a concept were available, but no details as yet.

**17/159 HS2, including report on action to date by SRCG**

Replies had been submitted to the consultation on HS2 Phase 2a, and a request made for the railhead to be moved to an alternative site (Option 9). SRCG had a further meeting scheduled with HS2 engineers, and were continuing to work on an alternative proposal for the railhead. HS2 would be asked to make permanent any road improvements to the junction of Yarnfield Lane with the A34.

**17/160 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress**

Draft 11 was ready to be circulated to Councillors and the NP Committee, once photographs of Swynnerton and Tittensor had been included. A draft copy would be sent to Alex Yendole, SBC, for advice on content and maps before the formal submission.

**17/161 Draft article for Church magazine**

It was understood that the next issue of the church magazine would appear in January; the Clerk would check and inform Councillors if that was not the case.

**17/162 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

The Clerk listed correspondence that had been received – SBC, Call for Sites consultations, New developments including the Brownfield Lane Register, Local Green Space designations, Draft Supplementary Planning Documents; SPCA AGM papers; Tittensor Village Hall, copy of annual accounts for year ending 30 June 2017; Glasdon, information on street furniture; EON, Annual Street Lighting Maintenance Reports

**17/163 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be held on Thursday 23 November October 2017 in Hanchurch Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.