

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2017 IN HANCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr R James (Chairman)  
Cllr N Adams  
Cllr P Boulton  
Cllr D Butler  
Cllr F Cheadle  
Cllr F Cromey  
Cllr N Leeson  
Cllr J Malkin  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr J Nixon  
Cllr K Ong  
Cllr B Price  
Cllr D Tucker

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

**Apologies:** None

**17/164 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was one member of the public in attendance.

**17/165 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Pert, SCC, was delighted that a group of Tittensor residents had decided to enter next year's Best Kept Village Competition and would do all he could to support them. He would be meeting representatives of HS2 the following week as they had held several meetings with SRCG to discuss an alternative site for the proposed railhead. The second reading of the HS2 Bill would take place during December or January; there was a small window when petitioning could take place, and a briefing meeting by SRCG would be held at Yarnfield Park during the following week. SBC had approved £65,000 towards a fighting fund and the petitioning process.

Cllr Pert was arranging a meeting with SCC Highways before the end of December to discuss flashing VAS signs,. Councillors confirmed that SPC had committed to proceed with a programme of installing flashing VAS signs whatever the outcome of their recent funding application.

Cllr Pert had attended a site meeting in Yarnfield the previous day to discuss traffic and highways issues, and would meet residents' representatives again before Christmas and would raise their concerns with SCC. The Chairman thanked him for his report and help and co-operation.

Cllr James confirmed that SBC had committed £65,00 to a fighting fund to enable a petition to the HS2 Bill. New fees and charges had been approved for facilities in the Borough. Part 2 of the Local Plan was out for consultation, with a call for possible sites to maintain the land supply. He stated there was no need for SPC to submit sites. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

**17/166 Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**17/167 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.

**17/168 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 October 2017**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Tucker, Vice Chairman, for chairing the meeting on 26 October 2017, and asked him to sign the minutes as a true record.

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 26 October 2017 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**17/169 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda**

The Clerk reported that she had obtained the contact details of the SaRH Neighbourhood officer looking after Highfields Close, and would discuss the parking problems with her (17/149).

Mr Challinor had confirmed he was storing a gate as part of the proposed traffic calming measures for Swynnerton. Swynnerton Councillors agreed to hold a site visit with Mr Challinor to confirm the size of additional gate required and its position (17/149).

**Action: Cllrs Butler, Cheadle, Mateu**

The Clerk had attended the SBC Community Awards Presentation Evening with Mr Rhead, the Parish Council's nominee. Unfortunately Swynnerton had not won its category.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

Staffordshire Safer Roads had been asked to site the speed van at Swynnerton (17/149), and the overgrown pavements in the village had been reported to SCC Highways (17/149).  
 A letter had been sent to the Fitzherbert Arms asking for help in addressing parking problems in the centre of the village (17/149), and a reminder sent to SCC Highways as the grids were still blocked (17/157.i).  
 SCC Highways had been contacted about the state of Beechcliffe Lane and recent accident (17/157.ii).  
 The Parochial Church Council had reported complications with their application to close the former burial ground at Beech, and would notify SPC on any progress (17/139).  
 Two further quotes were being sought for repairs to Swynnerton War Memorial; the cost was likely to be around £1,000 (17/142.i).  
 Mr Wright had been contacted about the repair to the fingerpost at Tittensor (17/142.ii).  
 Further information about the supply of broadband to the village halls was awaited from The Phone Co-op (17/147).

**17/170 Financial matters**

**17/170.i November accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses	537.58
John Green Landscapes	624.00
E Challinor, repairs to bench & bus shelter	.133.00
Ico, Data Protection Registration	35.00
Avdec, website services	<u>72.00</u>
Total payments for November	£1,401.58

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

**17/170.ii Precept requirements for 2018/2019**

Papers received from SBC giving their recommendation for the next financial year, and illustrating the effect of a 5% increase on the precept were passed to Councillors. The Clerk would circulate an analysis of the income for 2016/2017 before the next meeting, for reference.

**Action: Clerk**

**17/171 Traffic issues in the Parish**

It was agreed that an expression of interest should be registered to a suggestion from the Police and Crime Commissioner that encouraged Parish Councils to work together to purchase interactive speed signs.

**Action: Clerk**

**17/172 Ward matters**

**17/172.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents**

These had been covered earlier in the meeting (17/169). The Clerk would circulate estimates for re-pointing the War Memorial when they had been received.

**Action: Clerk**

**17/172.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

Cllr Boulton reported that Footpath 44 had been strimmed, and agreement reached with neighbours about cutting the hedge.

A committee had been formed in Tittensor to organise next year's Best Kept Village entry. It was agreed that Cllr Boulton would represent SPC. The Clerk would check on the distribution of gardening vouchers during the year.

Complaints had been received about the state of the pavements along the A34. Cllr Malkin asked if HGVs could be prohibited from using Winghouse Lane, where there was a weight restriction on the bridge by Pool House. The Clerk would contact Cllr Pert formally on both matters.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr Malkin reported that the numbering problem on Winghouse Lane had been resolved by SBC, with the new properties being re-numbered or named.

**17172.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents**

Cllr Leeson reported that the Lady Katherine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity had donated £500 to a student who would be teaching in Sierra Leone.

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

A number of Councillors had attended the Remembrance service held at Cold Meece War Memorial. A letter of thanks had been sent to Major Salisbury, and another to Mr Green for the work he had done beforehand.

There had been a recent incident at Cold Meece when a large vehicle had been parked overnight by the War Memorial. A letter would be sent to Major Salisbury requesting his help in preventing a recurrence.

**Action: Clerk**

Residents had raised concerns about the security of the VOSA site. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the security firm asking for details and requesting more frequent visits.

**Action: Clerk**

Cllr James confirmed that the contractor who carried out the recent work on Yarnfield Green had been asked to return and clear the rubbish, level the ground, and weed and re-seed as appropriate. After discussion, Councillors agreed that Cllr James would obtain the details of an acceptable drainage expert from SBC and that SPC would pay for an independent report on the drainage of the Green.

**Action: Cllr James, Clerk**

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

**RESOLVED** That the Clerk was authorised to commission an independent report on the drainage of Yarnfield Green to a maximum of £500.

**17/173 SBC, Local Plan Review - Parish Council Survey - Assessment of Services and Facilities**

SBC had requested the completion of a questionnaire for each village. Councillors would complete the questionnaires for Swynnerton, Tittensor, Trentham, Hanchurch, Newcastle, and Yarnfield. The Clerk would complete surveys for Beech, and Cold Meece.

**17/174 HS2, including report on action to date by SRCG**

Swynnerton Parish Council had been asked to arrange a meeting for HS2 to brief Chebsey, Swynnerton and Stone Rural Parish Councils, and Stone Town Council, during the week beginning 11 December 2017.

Cllr Tucker reported that HS2 had not accepted the case for re-siting the railhead at Alderseys Rough. SRCG were updating their presentation, and had met the action group at Woore; representatives and Councillors had attended a meeting organised by SCC on the petitioning process. SRCG were raising money to oppose the siting of the railhead at Stone, and had arranged a meeting the following week to brief all interested Councillors before their meeting with a team from HS2.

Cllr Pert reminded the meeting that SBC had allocated a fund for petitioning which covered the relocation of the railhead, and could combine with interested parties. SBC were using the same agent as SCC, who had been very successful in achieving changes to the proposals on an earlier phase of the HS2 project. Cllr Pert asked SPC to share information with him so that they could work together.

**17/175 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress**

A copy of Draft 11 had been sent to Alex Yendole, SBC, for advice on content and maps before the formal submission.

Councillors discussed the recent reports of a proposal by SBC to site a 'garden village' at Cold Meece, and agreed to maintain a watching brief. Cllr Nixon had circulated a briefing document based on the available information.

**17/176 Draft article for Church magazine**

Items for the January issue of the church magazine would be discussed at the December meeting.

**17/177 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

The Clerk listed correspondence that had been received – invitation to Stone Town Council Carol Service on 10 December; Natwest, changes to Terms; SBC Members' Digest No 237; The Clerk magazine; Clerks & Councils Direct.

**17/178 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be held on Thursday 14 December 2017\* in Yarnfield Village Hall, Cllr Leeson gave his apologies. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

*\*The meeting scheduled for 14 December 2017 was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be held on Thursday 18 January 2018 in Tittensor Village Hall.*