

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF  
SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2018 IN YARNFIELD 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 (Taking minutes in the absence of the Clerk)  
Cllr D Tucker

**In attendance:** Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)  
Members of Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) and parishioners

**Apologies:** Cllr B Price  
Mrs L Harrington-Jones (Clerk)

**18/16 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A Swynnerton resident informed the meeting that he would be petitioning Parliament in his own right, seeking mitigation in the form of a roundabout in place of the T junction proposed by HS2 on the A51 near Swynnerton, and he asked Swynnerton Parish Council to support his petition. This was agreed.

A member of the public asked whether or not the Parish Council was supportive of the SRCG petition to the Select Committee. The Chairman stated this was the reason for calling an Extraordinary Meeting, and would be discussed after the public session and after a briefing by a representative of SRCG.

Another member of the public felt there had been a lack of support from SPC since the beginning of the protest movement. Cllr Leeson stated that SPC had given its support at the outset when SRCG was formed, but felt the organisation had been secretive of its plans, and this behaviour made it difficult for SPC to offer support on behalf of the whole Parish without full knowledge of their intentions. The Chairman closed the Public Question Time.

**18/17 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Price and Mrs Harrington-Jones (Clerk).

**18/18 Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)**

Following advice received from Staffordshire Parish Councils Association, Cllrs Cromey and Tucker declared an interest as members of SRCG and took no further part in the meeting.

**18/19 Briefing to Councillors by Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG)**

Mr John Fraser (SRCG) informed the Meeting that he and other Group members had visited Westminster for guidance with the petition, and then engaged the services of a barrister to represent the Group at the Petition hearing.

The areas of concern are principally highways issues, their impact on the wider community, and even Junction 15 of the M6 at Newcastle under Lyme. He had also inferred from SCC that the proposed Junction 14a of the M6 was not opposed by SCC Highways, but the proposed longer tunnel at Whitmore, if agreed, will make SRCG proposals redundant. SCC do not want to favour one community over another but are apparently petitioning for the longer, deeper tunnel at Whitmore. He added that Sarah Mallen from SCC had explained that parishes could petition in their own right.

SCC Highways are apparently in close talks with Highways England and HS2, and will also be petitioning on the issues of roads and traffic.

Cllr Pert informed the Council that Stafford Borough Council only has statutory authority over environmental issues so its remit is not comparable to that of SCC.

**18/20 To consider a working relationship with SRCG to petition the Select Committee of the House of Commons concerning the construction of the HJS2 railway and the proposed railhead at Stone**

It was agreed by Councillors for the purpose of defining its remit, that this agenda item be restricted to 'the proposed railhead at Stone' and not 'the construction of the HS2 railway'. The petitioning to the Select Committee by SRCG and on behalf of Chebsey Parish Council and Stone Town Council would be by SRCG and their barrister; Swynnerton Parish Council will petition in their own right on mitigation issues. All petitions must be submitted to the Select Committee by 26 February 2018.

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

Any request for funding from SPC would be a separate issue; SRCG had set up a crowd-funding website to provide the £15,000 which was needed initially to pay for the barrister and the petition.

The Chairman summarised the possible actions by the Parish Council as (a) to support SRCG; (b) to support Mr. Keith Ralls with his private petition; (c) to support SBC's petition on environmental issues; (d) to petition in their own right.

**RESOLVED** That Swynnerton Parish Council would work with and support Stone Railhead Crisis Group in the submission of a Petition to the Select Committee of the House of Commons; that Swynnerton Parish Council would work with and support Mr Keith Ralls in the submission of a Petition to the Select Committee of the House of Commons; that Swynnerton Parish Council would work with and support Stafford Borough Council in the submission of a Petition to the Select Committee of the House of Commons; that Swynnerton Parish Council would submit a Petition to the Select Committee of the House of Commons to ensure the mitigation of the effects of the HS2 project on the Parish.

**18/21 To formally record the list of items to be included in the petition to the Select Committee of the House of Commons being prepared by SCC**

The Chairman read out a prepared list of items. Councillors agreed that they considered all the following items to be essential requirements to mitigate the effects of the HS2 project on the Parish, and urged their inclusion in the Petition being prepared by Staffordshire County Council for submission to the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and their full implementation by HS2..

1. Junction of Tittensor Road Diversion and A51 Stone Road to be redesigned to incorporate a roundabout instead of the ;proposed T junction.
2. Junction of Yarnfield Lane and A34 The Fillybrooks to be redesigned with traffic lights, the closure of the central reservation giving access to Trent Road, and extended 'lead in' and 'lead out' along the A34 (West side) to allow adequate room for HGVs to accelerate/decelerate before entering/leaving Yarnfield Lane.
3. Installed traffic lights at the junction of Yarnfield Lane and A34 to be retained post construction, as a legacy to improve road safety at that junction.
4. Temporary widening/realignment of Yarnfield Lane near Golf Course to be redesignated from temporary to permanent.
5. All HGV traffic to be denied access to Yarnfield Lane during the periods 0800-0930 hrs and 1500-1630 hrs daily, to address safety concerns over rush hour/school traffic.
6. Mitigation to be implemented to minimise HGV construction traffic along the following routes, particularly during rush hour periods (0730-0930 hrs and 1700-1900 hrs) –
  - o Common Lane and A51 Stone Road
  - o Common Lane
  - o A519 Newcastle Road
  - o A519 Newcastle Road, A51 Stone Road, A51 Stone Road Diversion and Bottom Lane
  - o A51 Bury Bank and Stone Road, A51 Stone Road Diversion, Tittensor Road and Tittensor Road Diversion
  - o A51 Bury Bank and A34
  - o Yarnfield Lane
  - o Yarnfield Lane, A34, B5026 Eccleshall Road and Pirehill Lane
  - o A34 Stone Road
7. Motorway junctions (M6) to be constructed at the earliest opportunity to alleviate all HGV traffic within the Yarnfield/Stone area, and that these junctions be denied access to HGV construction traffic during the periods 0800-0930 hrs and 1500-1630 hrs daily (to address safety concerns over local rush hours).
8. The support of local accommodation facilities in preference to the proposed accommodation block on the construction site.
9. The support of local contractors when awarding contracts for landscaping, fencing, site amenities, civil engineering, lighting and security. This list is not exhaustive.
10. To ensure all noise and light mitigation is in place on the western side of the line prior to the commencement of operations in 2017.

**18/22 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council had been scheduled for Thursday 22 February 2018. This meeting was cancelled, as insufficient notice had been given for it to take place due to the illness of the Clerk. The next scheduled meeting for the Parish Council is Thursday 22 March 2018 at Hanchurch Village Hall.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Date .....

Clr R James, Chairman .....