

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 22 MARCH 2018 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
- In attendance:** Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)  
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)  
1 member of the public
- Apologies:** Cllr J Nixon  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr K Ong  
Cllr B Price  
Cllr D Tucker

**18/23 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A resident of Yarnfield raised a number of concerns.

- o The lack of progress in arranging an inspection of the drainage on Yarnfield Green
- o The willow trees behind the bus stop, which are believed to be protected by TPOs, are now overhanging the bus stop and need to be cut back
- o Vehicles attending work which is being carried out at the white cottage by Yarnfield Green are causing damage to a triangle of land which forms part of the Green
- o 3 chestnut trees on Yarnfield Green were damaged when work was carried out on a willow tree, and it was asked if they could be replaced.
- o Yarnfield Forum was keen to fund the planting of additional trees in the village on smaller green areas, e.g. Ashdale and Ford Drive, and asked if Swynnerton Parish Council would be willing to co-fund the project
- o Damage was caused to Yarnfield Green at the end of 2017 when vehicles drove over an area. It was asked if equipment could be used to roll the damaged area flat, now that the ground is not so hard
- o Although the Parish Council had supported the installation of a memorial planter on the Green rather than a memorial bench, it was pointed out that it was difficult to water containers on the Green

The resident thanked the Parish Council for planting three trees on Yarnfield Green, all of which were flourishing.

Cllr James would contact SBC with regard to the inspection of Yarnfield Green by a qualified drainage engineer, and report back to the next meeting. Information on inspections would be obtained from STWA. **Action: Cllr James**

The Clerk would contact the Arboricultural Officer at SBC regarding willow trees by the bus stop. **Action: Clerk.**

The Clerk would write to the residents at the cottage adjacent to the Green. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk would contact Streetscene regarding the replacements for the three chestnuts. **Action: Clerk**

**18/24 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Pert reminded the meeting that the libraries consultation was still taking place and urged Councillors to participate. Changes to bus routes would come into effect at the beginning of April. The on-going process of budget cuts was continuing. There was a general discussion on budget cuts, the need to prioritise expenditure, and the use of volunteers to meet shortfalls.

Cllr Cheadle raised the issue of blocked grids in the centre of Swynnerton which had been reported in the summer of 2017, and had resulted in two recent accidents with vehicles skidding on frozen floodwater. Cllr Pert would be provided with details of outstanding highways matters. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr James reminded the meeting that Council Tax would increase in April. The refuse collection service was now provided by Veolia, and details of collections would be provided in the summer after changes had been made to the collection cycles. Freedom & Leisure were now managing all leisure services in the Borough.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

**18/25 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Nixon, Mateu, Ong, Price, and Tucker.

**18/26 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.

**18/27 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 January 2018 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 February 2018**

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 22 January 2018 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 February 2018 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**18/28 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda**

Seddons had responded to the last request to weed the flowerbed on the A34 adjacent to the Hammond Rise development by stating that this was now the responsibility of the residents.

The Clerk summarised the proposed changes to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and the advice from SPCA and SLCC to do nothing as yet.

Due to the Clerk's recent illness it had not been possible to obtain quotations for maintenance work in the Parish, and it was agreed that John Green, the current contractor, should be asked to continue the service for this year.

**RESOLVED** That the current contractor should be asked to continue grass cutting in the Parish.

**18/29 Financial matters**

**18/29.i February and March accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses (February, March)	1,039.73
PAYE/NI (to end March 2018)	355.20
Civic Amenity Vehicle visits	625.00
Contribution to Village Halls	2,000.00
Total payments for February/March 2018	£4,019.93

**RESOLVED** – That the accounts for February and March be approved for payment.

Annual audits in future will be carried out by Mazars.

**RESOLVED** That Mrs Christine Heelis should be asked to act as Internal Auditor for Swynnerton Parish Council.

**18/29.ii Grants to village halls**

Councillors agreed to continue the annual payment of a grant of £500 to each village hall in the Parish. The payment to Tittensor Village Hall included £200 to cover the rental for land housing the play area.

**RESOLVED** That a payment of £500 should be made to each village hall in the Parish.

**18/30 Traffic issues in the Parish**

Concerns had been raised by a resident over speeding traffic through Cold Meece

The Clerk would contact Amey for a quotation to move flashing speed signs from one site to another, and contact Great Bridgeford Parish Council for details of their installation. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk would remind SCC Highways about the request for chevrons on Whitmore Road, and send details of highway concerns to Cllr Pert. **Action: Clerk**

A Trentham resident had raised concerns over the turning off the A519 to the Holiday Inn. She had also contacted SCC Highways, and been advised that this stretch of road was in the Borough of Newcastle Under Lyme.

**18/31 Ward matters**

**18/31.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents, including mobile signal**

A resident had asked if the church could be encouraged to take part in a government scheme to lease church spires to commercial companies to improve the mobile signs, and would be advised to contact the church. **Action: Clerk**

**18/31.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

The Clerk confirmed that no contribution had been made towards flower planting in the village last year.

Cllr Boulton asked if work had been scheduled to carry out improvements to the pavement between the Bassetts site and the village boundary, and was advised it was unlikely due to budget restrictions.

Problems caused by dog fouling were discussed. Cllr Boulton has additional posters for display, and the Clerk will request additional bags for the Post Office. The Clerk had contacted Keep Britain Tidy and found that their charges for posters and other publicity material had increased significantly.

**18/31.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents**

No further issues were raised.

**18/31.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents**

A resident had asked if a letter could be written to the developers of Yarnfield Park to ask them to provide litter bins to address the problems of dog fouling in the area, and this was agreed by Councillors. **Action: Clerk**

**18/32 Best Kept Village entries**

After discussion it was agreed that contributions of gardening vouchers would be made to the two villages entering the Best Kept Village competition of £300 to Tittensor BKV Committee, and £200 to Swynnerton BKV Committee. A

Date .....

Cllr R James, Chairman .....

contribution of £100 gardening vouchers would be made to the resident who maintains the traffic island at Cold Meece.

Swynnerton BKV Committee have requested help with purchasing an information sign, for which they have raised some funding and applied for grant funding. Councillors agreed to make up any shortfall.

**18/33 Programme of visits by Civic Amenity Vehicle**

The programme of visits by the Civic Amenity Vehicle should be issued at the end of the week. Copies would be circulated to Councillors and placed on all notice boards and available information points. SBC would be asked if they held information on usage of the vehicles.

**18/34 HS2 Submission of petitions, progress to date**

The petition prepared by Swynnerton Parish Council had been submitted by the Chairman to the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the fee of £20 paid. A petition had also been submitted by Stone Railhead Crisis Group, on behalf of neighbouring villages.

**18/35 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress**

The additional maps would be added, together with measurements in hectares. Newcastle would be publishing a Neighbourhood Plan shortly. The National Planning Framework was being revised.

**18/36 Draft article for Church magazine**

The next issue would include an update on entries to the BKV competition, and an update on the HS2 project.

**18/37 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

The Clerk listed correspondence that had been received –

**SBC**, Members' Digest issued 2 March 2018, No 240; SBC, copy of Corporate Business Plan for the next three years; Clerks & Councils Direct, March 2018, Issue No 106; Stone Town Council, Invitation to Civic Dinner in the Stonehouse Hotel, on Saturday 21 April 2018, tickets £35 (apply by 11 April 2018)

**Stone Town Council**, Invitation to Charity Pig Race at Stone Tennis Club, Newcastle Road, Stone, on Friday 4 May 2018 at 7 pm, tickets £7 including entry and hog roast (apply by 25 April 2018); Community Council of Staffordshire, notification of proposal to merge Community Council of Staffordshire and Support Staffordshire, anticipated to be completed this year - SPC's membership of the Community Council of Staffordshire has been extended until the merger takes place; Glasdon, details of street furniture; ElanCity, information on solar powered speed awareness signs; HAGS, playground equipment; Broxap, details of street furniture

**18/38 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held on Thursday 26 April 2018 in Yarnfield Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

**SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL DISPLAYS THE MOST RECENTLY RATIFIED VERSION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS**