

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 26 APRIL 2018 IN YARNFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr R James (Chairman)
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

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

Apologies: Cllr N Adams
Cllr B Price
Cllr D Tucker
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

18/39 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr John Fraser, Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG), reported on the Petition that had been presented to the Select Committee of the House of Commons the previous day by SRCG on behalf of Chebsey and Swynnerton Parish and Stone Town Councils. They had been allocated a full day to present their evidence supporting the re-location of the Stone railhead to Alderseys Rough and amendments to the HS2 project proposals.

Additional provisions to the HS2 Bill had been published in March by HS2 which would require a further response and rebuttal; the HS2 team had recently confirmed that their original estimates of vehicle numbers resulting from the project was too low, and that Yarnfield Lane would be used by HS2 traffic for a further 900m.

The closing date for submitting a second Petition to mitigate the effects of the additional provisions was the following day, and SRCG hoped that Swynnerton Parish Council would work with them, and with Chebsey Parish Council and Stone Town Council, as this would not affect SPCs own Petition. The effects and impact of HS2 are common to the three groups, the principal issues being the confirmed increase in traffic numbers, and the increased flood risk, with one issue of difference – the road closure of Bottom Lane, Swynnerton. Their interests coincide for the second Petition, which has been drafted, and the Select Committee encourages people and groups to work together.

As the SCC Petition does not include all the requirements of SPC their (SPCs) Petition will stand even if the SCC Petition fails. With SPC due to present their Petition on 16 May 2018, SRCG are looking to work together.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fraser for his briefing.

18/40 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr James reported that the new Mayor would be installed at the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony on 12 May 2018.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

18/41 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Adams, Leeson, Price, and Tucker.

18/42 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.

18/43 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 March 2018

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 22 March 2018 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/44 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that action points from the previous meeting were being progressed. Notices giving information on the visits by the Civic Amenity Vehicle to each Ward had been displayed on each notice board, in each village hall, and in each shop. Flyers were being distributed by a former local resident along Whitmore Road, notices displayed at Ferndown Drive South, and in Trentham Church.

The Play Inspection Company had provided a lower estimate than the RoSPA standard charge for inspections, and it was agreed the contract for inspections should remain with that company.

RESOLVED The Play Inspection Company should be instructed to carry out play area inspections in the Parish.

Cllr Ong reported that she had attended a meeting of the Stone Area Parish Liaison Group and found it very useful.

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

18/45 Financial matters

18/45.i April accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk’s salary and expenses (April)	1,137.44 (includes purchase of garden gift vouchers for BKV)
SPCA annual subscription	556.00
DM Payroll Services	81.00
Robert Lewis Signs (Swynnerton sign)	678.00
Yarnfield Village Hall (replacement cheque)(<u>500.00</u>
Total payments for April 2018-05-17	£2,952.44

RESOLVED – That the accounts for April 2018 should be approved for payment.

18/45.ii Garden gift vouchers

The Clerk confirmed that garden gift vouchers had been delivered to the villages entering the Best Kept Village competition, Tittensor and Swynnerton, and to the resident who maintains the traffic island at Cold Meece.

18/45.iii Request to co-fund the planting of trees at Yarnfield

The request had been received too late for discussion at the meeting, and would be included on the agenda for the next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council.

18/46 Traffic issues in the Parish

Swynnerton Speedwatch were looking for more volunteers.

The Clerk showed details of a cheaper and easier to install system of slashing speed signs, using existing posts. She had discussed it with the Chairman of Seighford Parish Council who were also considering the alternative system, and would confirm with SCC Highways that it would be acceptable to them,.

18/47 Ward matters

18/47.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

An additional bin would be requested to be installed by the former telephone exchange.

Action: Clerk

Despite several requests, the grids had still not been cleared. The new information sign had been installed. The road sweepers would be requested to tidy the area.

147/47.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Road sweepers had been out twice in the village, a working party had swept the A34 pavements, a display of wellie boots containing plants had been placed in the play area, and over 70 residents had worked to ensure the village was ready for the Best Kept Village competition.

18/47.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents

Cllr Adams had reported litter along Whitmore Road. The Clerk and other Councillors had checked, and it was believed recent strong winds could have moved it..

18/47.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents

The Chairman was asked by Councillors to pursue the lack of action by SBC over The Green for several months. The Clerk had contacted STWA and spoken to several representatives, but with no success to date.

18/48 HS2 Submission of Petitions, progress to date

Councillors were reminded of the need to consider the implications of the HS2 project throughout the Parish, and the need to be aware of the obligations to declare an interest as appropriate, and if necessary to apply in writing for a Dispensation from the Council (S33 of the Localism Act). The situation would be monitored regularly.

Councillors agreed to delegate Cllrs Ong and James to present the Petition to the HS2 Select Committee, and to apply for funding towards delegate expenses from SCC.

18/48.i Publication of additional provisions to HS2 and proposal to join with Chebsey Parish Council and Stone Town Council to present a joint second Petition against the additional provisions, working with SRCG

The additional provisions issued by HS2 had been circulated to Councillors. The Chairman drew Councillors’ attention to the final paragraph. After an animated discussion 4 Councillors voted in favour of joining with Stone TC and Chebsey PC and SRCG to present a second Petition to address the Additional Provisions, and 4 Councillors voted against; the Chairman used his casting vote to carry the vote against.

RESOLVED That Swynnerton Parish Council would not work with SRCG, Chebsey Parish Council, and Stone Town Council, to oppose the effects of the additional provisions to the HS2 Bill.

18/48.ii Consideration of request to make a financial contribution towards SRCG expenses

SPC had contributed to early secretarial expenses, the occasional hire of a hall, and the printing of flyers for SRCG. After discussion it was agreed by a majority to contribute £350 towards SRCG expenses.

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

RESOLVED That a contribution of £350 should be made towards SRCG expenses.

18/49 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Clerk reported that discussions were still on-going to determine the requirements for Parish Councils. As the date of 25 May was now a recommendation rather than mandatory, and the situation was so fluid, she recommended taking no action for the time being..

18/50 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan was being proof read, and the maps checked.

18/51 Draft article for Church magazine

The next issue would include an update on the progress of the entries to the Best Kept Village competition, the installation of the information board in Swynnerton, and information on the submission of the Parish Council's Petition to the Select Committee of the House of Commons.

18/52 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk listed correspondence that had been received – request from Zurich Municipal Insurance to tender for next year's insurance requirements, Wicksteed play equipment; SBC Members' Digest No 241; HMRC changes to claiming back VAT; HS2 notice of Additional Provisions/.

18/53 Date of next meeting

The next meetings of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held on Thursday 24 May 2018 in Swynnerton Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held at 7.15 pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council, at which the Chairman for the next 12 months would be elected, the regular monthly meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council, and the Planning Committee of Swynnerton Parish Council.

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

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman