

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2018 IN TITTENSOR VILLAGE HALL**

- Present:** Cllr K Ong (Chairman)
Cllr N Adams
Cllr P Boulton
Cllr D Butler
Cllr F Cromey
Cllr R James
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr B Price
- In attendance:** Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
2 members of the public
Representative of Staffordshire Newsletter
- Apologies:** Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr J Nixon
Cllr D Tucker

18/68 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A resident of Yarnfield reported that bus travellers to Stone benefited from a bus shelter and seat, whereas passengers in the opposite direction had no facilities. Councillors discussed the siting of a seat adjacent to the electricity sub station and a planter in the lay-by opposite 'The Labour in Vain'; the Clerk would liaise with Stafford and Rural Homes (SaRH) to ascertain the ownership of the land, and provide likely costs. The suggestion of placing a memorial planter on the Green had not progressed due to difficulties over watering.

A resident of Clayton Village in Trentham reported on the situation regarding a bus service for Clayton Village. Residents had been successful in retaining a limited bus service (5 buses a day) but this was now threatened. The route had lost its subsidy, was not making a profit, and the service would end on 25 July. Over 100 people attended a public meeting to support the bus service to an area that had a significant number of elderly residents who would effectively be cut off from facilities if there was no public transport. £8,000 had been quoted for a pelican crossing to enable access to alternative bus routes, and the Dial-a-Ride scheme was expensive and not a practical alternative. Responsibility for the area is split with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council which makes it more difficult to agree a feasible solution. £4,400 is required to sustain the existing bus service; £2,200 has been promised from Newcastle-under-Lyme Community Service System, leaving a shortfall of £2,200. Councillors agreed to discuss the matter at their next meeting to ascertain if they could arrange an acceptable joint solution, which would be assessed after 12 months. A meeting had been provisionally scheduled for 25 July 2016 between SCC, SPC and representatives from Clayton Village, and details would be forwarded to the Clerk to share with Councillors.

A resident of Swynnerton, who had submitted an individual Petition to the Parliamentary Select Committee, had reported that the Select Committee had ruled in favour of a roundabout at the junction of the A51 and the road into Swynnerton. This had not been part of the agreement made between SCC and HS2, and no written confirmation had yet been received. Cllr James had written to SCC Highways asking them to confirm the proposed diversion to Tittensor Road. Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) would meet SCC Cllrs Atkins and Winnington on the Friday following the meeting.

The double yellow lines planned for Tittensor would shortly be going out to public consultation. Councillors discussed the two proposals put forward, and voted unanimously in favour of Option B.

Cllr Butler reported that Swynnerton residents were impressed with the roadworks that had been carried out recently around the village.

18/69 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Pert confirmed that the alternative supplier submitted by the Clerk was acceptable to SCC Highways, but it would not be acceptable to utilise any suitable existing posts in an effort to reduce street furniture.

Cllr James had nothing to report.

Cllr Price had been approached by a Yarnfield Ward Councillor to advise on putting in place a Governance Review, with the object of achieving a separate Parish Council for Yarnfield. A petition from Yarnfield Ward containing the required number of signatures had been received and validated, and would be discussed by SBC on 24 July. There are at present 4,165 electors in the Parish of Swynnerton, with 1,574 in Yarnfield Ward. There was a very tight timescale to complete the process, which normally takes 12 months. A similar application had been unsuccessful eight years ago.

It was confirmed that the Section 106 monies arising from the Yarnfield Park development must be spent in Yarnfield. Concerns were expressed over the changes to waste collections which would come into effect the following week.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

18/70 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cheadle, Nixon, and Tucker.

18/71 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.

18/72 Notice of resignation of Vice Chairman/Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman read out an emailed letter of resignation from the position of Vice Chairman, received from Cllr Norman Leeson. It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Leeson, and unanimously agreed that Cllr Butler should be elected Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations; Cllr Butler confirmed he was happy to serve as Vice Chairman.

18/73 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 24 May 2018, and to agree the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council, also held on 24 May 2018, are a true record

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 24 May 2018 should be approved and signed by the Chairman. The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council were accepted as a true record, after an amendment was made to the Annual Parish Meeting as follows: Page 2, Section 7, Paragraph 4 'Cllr James refuted many of the comments that had been made, but was standing down as Chairman with great reluctance as his wife was undergoing treatment for cancer.'

18/74 Financial matters

18/74.i June accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses	555.95
John Green Landscapes, grass cutting	792.00
SPCA training course	20.00
C Heelis, internal audit	50.00
HMRC PAYE/NI	355.00
SRCG, contribution towards expenses (b/f)	350.00
Total payments for June 2018	£2,122.95

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

18/74.ii To consider the governance statements on Annual Return for financial year 2017/2018

RESOLVED That the governance statements on Annual Return for financial year 2017/2018 were approved.

18/74.iii To consider the accounting statements on Annual Return for financial year 2017/2018

RESOLVED That the accounting statements on Annual Return for financial year 2017/2018 were approved.

18/74.iv Request to co-fund the planting of trees at Yarnfield

The Parish Council was awaiting information from Yarnfield Forum on the cost of the project, which would be included on the agenda for the meeting in July..

18/75 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that action points from the previous meeting were being progressed.

A request for warning signs for the blind bend on Whitmore Road had been submitted, and would be followed up with SCC Highways. **Action: Clerk**

Correspondence had been received from SBC following a change in the agreed Protocol following the death of the Sovereign or another member of the Royal Family. SBC would provide Books of Condolence in St Mary's Church Stafford, and St Michaels Church, Stone, but would not as previously proposed be able to provide individual sheets of condolence to be available in each Parish. SBC would meet the following week and would discuss the matter again. Councillors agreed to await the result of that meeting.

18/76 Traffic issues in the Parish

The Clerk would remind SCC Highways about the need for signage to indicate the blind bend on Whitmore Road. Councillors reported a traffic incident at Trentham Village recently which resulted in parking problems in the area when there had been difficulties accessing the car park at the Village. After discussion Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to St Modwen, highlighting the problems, and proposing the use of a gate on the A34 for use as an emergency access. **Action: Clerk**

18/77 Ward matters

18/77.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

Date

Cllr R James, Chairman

The drains which had been reported last year had still not been cleared, and the main road through the village now has huge potholes. The re-surfacing work carried out recently in and around the village had been excellent. Traffic problems were anticipated for the following weekend, as two fetes had been arranged for the same time.

18/77.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Concerns had been expressed over the height of the grass on the central reservation of the A34 which made turning out of the village hazardous.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Boulton reported that she had nominated Mr Underhill for an award from the SCC Community Awards scheme. After discussion Councillors agreed that SPC should also put Mr Underhill's name forward for an award for his work with Tittensor's BKV Committee.

Action: Clerk

18/77.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents

A resident of Beech had raised concerns over litter and road safety, and these would be pursued by Cllr Price.

Action: Cllr Price

18/77.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents

Cllr Tucker had reported that the grass on the Green had been cut recently, and the Green was looking very good. Efforts were continuing to acquire estimates for a full and comprehensive report on the drainage problems on the Green. Cllr James had contacted the Environment Agency and STWA for assistance, but had no response. The Clerk had contacted STWA who had confirmed they were unable to assist, and had obtained an estimate from one company for £1,500 to give advice. Cllr Leeson provided details of a likely contact, as had Cllr Tucker, and the Clerk would pursue these.

Action: Clerk

18/78 HS2 Submission of Petitions, progress to date

Stone Railhead Crisis Group would be submitting their second Petition to the Parliamentary Select Committee on 16 July 2018.

Councillors agreed that Cllr James would continue to represent the interests of SPC with HS2. Cllr James confirmed he was happy to continue in this role, and read out a letter he had sent to the Select Committee, thanking them for hearing the Parish Council's Petition. He would continue to press SCC for a footpath or pavement on the proposed Tittensor diversion route, and a footpath to link Yarnfield to the A34, and other traffic mitigation..

18/79 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan

The Plan has been proof-read, and further maps are awaited. The completed Plan will be sent out in draft form to Councillors and the Neighbourhood Plan Committee before being submitted to SBC and then going for public consultation.

18/80 Draft article for Church magazine

The next issue would include an update on the progress of the entries to the Best Kept Village competition; a report on the success of the presentation of Swynnerton Parish Council's Petition to the Select Committee at Westminster resulting in HS2's agreement to install a roundabout on the A51 and traffic lights on the junction of Yarnfield Lane with the A34; the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

18/81 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

Cllr Leeson reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of the Lady Katharine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity, which covered the Ancient Parish of Swynnerton. Recent publicity had highlighted a school in Stoke that fell within the charity's catchment area and was proposing to purchase a washing machine. The charity would assist the school, and Cllr Leeson urged Councillors to encourage local schools to apply for grants, and to contact Cllr Leeson with details of candidates that could be assisted.

Councillors agreed to move the start time for future meetings in Tittensor Village Hall to 7.30 pm to avoid clashing with Guide and Brownie meetings.

18/82 Date of next meeting

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