

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 2018 IN YARNFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

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

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

**Apologies:** Cllr F Cheadle  
Cllr N Leeson  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr J Nixon

**18/99 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A resident of Swynnerton raised concerns of people in Swynnerton over parking in the middle of the village near the Fitzherbert Arms and the triangle by the War Memorial, and the speed of traffic through the village. He had contacted SCC Police, SBC and SCC but to no avail. Swynnerton Parish Council had been in contact with SCC Highways and they would agree to the installation of double yellow lines in the village; installation would be more economic if it could be arranged in conjunction with proposals from other areas in the Parish.

A resident of Yarnfield questioned why the planned roll-out of the flashing speed sign installations would not begin in Yarnfield, read out the results of recent Speedwatch monitoring, and asked about evidence of traffic monitoring in other parts of the Parish. The Chairman confirmed that the programme would begin in the north of the Parish (Trentham Ward) where there had been pressure for a number of years for measures to reduce the speed of traffic on Whitmore Road and Northwood Lane. Cllr Pert, SCC, confirmed that he had contributed £1,000 towards the cost of the installation in Trentham because of the concerns over speeding traffic in that area. Cllr Pert offered to arrange for the speed check van to be sited in Yarnfield, and this was gratefully accepted.

SRCG would be holding a meeting at Yarnfield Park on Sunday 2 September 2018, to which all were invited. SRCG had met Cllr James and they hoped to work together in the future.

Yarnfield residents were seeking to establish a separate Parish Council for their village; questionnaires had been sent out to all residents in the Parish, and the consultation would close on 10 September 2018..

**18/100 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Pert confirmed that the installation of double yellow lines in three areas in the Parish was being considered, and would be discussed later in the meeting (Minute 18/105 refers).

He had held meetings with SCC to discuss the removal of the First Bus service to Ferndown Drive and Clayton village. A pamphlet would be sent to all residents with his newsletter to encourage residents to use the bus service, and to encourage bus pass holders to pay for their journeys.

There had been two road accidents in Beech in the last month and he would be meeting SCC Highways to discuss issues that had arisen.

The M6 motorway was scheduled to close overnight on 22 September 2018 whilst a bridge was removed.

Cllr Pert reported that SCC was continuing to manage its finances despite continuing reductions in central government funding.

He confirmed that work to improve the pavements in Yarnfield was included on SCC Highways schedule; he stressed the importance of reporting potholes, especially in rural areas. Councillors reminded him that work had still not been carried out on the overhanging trees and bushes by the bus shelter and light in Yarnfield and the 30 mph sign by Dominoes Football; warning signs for the concealed entrance on Whitmore Road, Trentham, and requested chevrons for the approach to Park Drive, Trentham. The Chairman thanked Cllr Pert for his report.

Cllrs James and Price reported the concerns of Stone residents over the sale of part of a play area in Tilling Drive. Residents were being consulted about Westbridge Park. Marks & Spencers had now opened in Stone; the former Co-op was to be replaced by a branch of B & M; a Post Office would be opening shortly.

SBCs Parish Forum would be held on 27 September 2018.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

**18/101 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cheadle, Leeson, Mathieu and Nixon.

Date .....

Cllr K Ong, Chairman .....

**18/102 Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)**

No Declarations of Interest had been received.

**18/103 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2018**

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 26 July 2018 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**18/104 Clerk’s Report, Items not on the agenda**

The Clerk circulated maps that had been received from the Environment Agency confirming that areas of Yarnfield Green are part of a flood plain.

There is a legal problem regarding the Licence to enable flowerbeds to be created at the entrance to The Woodlands, Cold Meece, which is being addressed by SCC Highways. The hanging baskets on the bus shelter were damaged and the timetable removed. A replacement timetable has been requested.

The flashing speed sign unit has been ordered.

**18/105 Financial matters**

**18/105.i August accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk’s salary and expenses	496.56
JPCS, installation of 4 groundscrews, post and fixings	3,000.00
Total payments for August 2018	£3,496.56

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

**18/106 Traffic issues in the Parish – proposals for double yellow lines to be installed at Swynnerton, Tittensor, and Yarnfield**

After discussion Councillors agreed sites in Tittensor; in Yarnfield sites were agreed on both sides of the road from Springfield Cottage to Ash House. Councillors would meet with residents for a site visit to agree the location of double yellow lines in Swynnerton. Cllr Pert would take the findings to SCC Highways and bring draft proposals to a future meeting. It was hoped that the work could be carried out in the three villages at the same time.

**18/107 Ward matters**

**18/107.i Swynnerton**

Councillors congratulated Swynnerton on achieving Highly Commended in the Best Kept Village (BKV) competition for the second year running – a super achievement especially during a long, hot summer. Cllr Butler had judged the celebratory Pudding Afternoon.

The drains were still blocked in the middle of the village; the Hanchurch roundabout had flooded recently due to a blocked drain.

**18/107.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

Councillors congratulated Tittensor on winning the BKV competition outright, at their first attempt – a fantastic achievement! Tittensor have been recognised as the Best in the County, which creates a great deal of pressure for next year’s entry! Councillors discussed the erection of a permanent sign to commemorate the success.

Cllr Boulton could obtain native trees from the Forest of Mercia, and proposed planting them on the central reservation of the A34. After discussion Councillors agreed they were not in favour of this proposal.

Cllr Malkin would forward details of a construction in Apsley Grove to Cllr James SBC. **Action: Cllr Malkin**

**18/107.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents, including proposals to retain the bus service to Clayton village**

Ferndown Nature Reserve had requested financial help to repair trip rails on the boundary at an approximate cost of £1,600 and after discussion this was agreed.

**18/107.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents, including Yarnfield Green grass cutting, Local Governance Review progress, parking at Yarnfield Village Hall, report on meeting with Yarnfield Park residents**

The cutting of the Green had resumed, following recent rain. Councillors confirmed that it was not necessary to arrange to cut the bank along the stream.

Cllr Tucker confirmed that SRCG had held drop in sessions and distributed flyers to encourage residents to take part in the Local Governance Review.

Cllrs James and Ong had met residents of Yarnfield Park who had a number of concerns with the development at Yarnfield Park, including inadequate grass cutting, the closure of the play area for the under 5s, noise, issues with the sports pitch and pavilion, landscaping not completed, dead trees that should be removed and/or replaced. The residents were being charged maintenance costs for areas that had been fenced off, and were advised to establish a

Residents' Association, ask RoSPA to carry out a check on the play area, and to continue to press the management company to meet its obligations . SBC had been asked by Cllr James to investigate whether these issues were in contravention of the original planning conditions.

Stafford and Rural Homes had given permission for the placing of a bench on the half moon of land opposite the Labour in Vain. The Clerk would circulate to Councillors the information received from the Chairman of Yarnfield Forum.

**Action: Clerk**

*(8.50 pm Cllr Pert left the meeting.)*

**18/108 Approval of draft Parish Council newsletter, arrangements for distribution**

Councillors discussed the draft Newsletter and after discussion agreed a number of amendments; Councillors were asked to let Cllr Ong have any other amendments by noon on the following Thursday.

**18/109 HS2 updates by SPC representative and SRCG**

Cllr James reported that he was hoping to meet with HS2 representatives soon to discuss the cycle tracks and footpaths from Yarnfield to the A34 and from Swynnerton to the A51. There were issues with land take up on the north side from Moss Lane to the motorway which would be discussed mainly with SCC Highways. HS2 were hoping to publish further Additional Provisions before Christmas, mostly for the area from Handsacre to Crewe. HS2 had recently met with business interests in Birmingham, and Cllr James had asked SCC to arrange something similar in Staffordshire and to encourage the employment by HS2 of a proportion of local business.

SRCG had met with Cycling UK, reminded Councillors about their meeting on 2 September 2018, and had sent a copy of their most recent flyer to the Clerk.

**18/110 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Tucker would provide a photograph of the gates at Yarnfield. Councillors were asked to read and feed back any comments to Cllr Ong any comments by mid day the following Thursday. The Draft Plan would be circulated to members of the Working Party before being sent to SBC.

**18/111 Draft article for Church magazine**

The previous submission had missed the publication deadline and would be rewritten to include congratulations to Swynnerton and Tittensor on their success in the Best Kept Village competition.

**18/112 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members' Digest, J Parkers wholesale plant and bulb catalogue, invitation from Stone Town Council to attend a Charity Quiz evening, Staffordshire Safer Roads confirming Grant Fund details, invitation from Stafford & Rural Homes to attend their AGM on Thursday 20 September, publication of Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan.

**18/113 Date of next meeting**

**The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 20 September 2018** in Tittensor Village Hall (changed from the previously advertised date of 27 September 2018 to avoid clashing with the SBC Forum meeting). There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.