

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER SEPTEMBER 2018 IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL**

- Present:** Cllr D Butler (Chairman)
Cllr N Adams
Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr F Cromey
Cllr R James
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr J Nixon
Cllr D Tucker
- In attendance:** Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
9 members of the public
Ms Michelle Shaker, Speedwatch Co-ordinator
- Apologies:** Cllr K Ong
Cllr B Price

18/129 Public Participation Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A resident of Swynnerton raised concerns over the state of roads in the village, particularly with regard to the number of potholes. Potholes that were rated 'Urgent' were repaired within seven days but others took considerably longer. The Chairman urged everyone with concerns over potholes to report them, and to send reminders to SCC Highways. Cllr Pert noted residents' concerns over potholes in Swynnerton, raised ironworks left following recent roadworks, and the drains in the main street which had still not been cleared.

The flashing speed sign should be functioning within the next few weeks.

Swynnerton Speedwatch group in a recent exercise had recorded 21 people travelling above the speed limit, the fastest travelling at 47 mph.

A Yarnfield resident reported that several villagers had still not received the Parish Council's newsletter, including residents of the mobile home park situated behind the school. Cllr Nixon confirmed he would complete the outstanding deliveries within the next few days. **Action: Cllr Nixon**

A Yarnfield resident made a number of comments on the September minutes relating to the contents of the recent newsletter which were noted by the Clerk. Additional copies of the newsletter could be placed in shops and village halls. Another Yarnfield resident referred Councillors to the Nolan principles.

A Swynnerton resident reported that the cessation of the Saturday bus service to Swynnerton village was causing hardship to villagers, particularly those who had to travel to work. The nearby village of Yarnfield (1.25 miles away) still had five buses in each direction on a Saturday; the replacement of just one bus in each direction would enable the affected Swynnerton residents to continue in employment. The current situation was unsatisfactory and unfair. Cllr Pert agreed to take the matter up with the bus company.

Swynnerton residents were also concerned over the parking situation in the centre of Swynnerton, with pavements frequently blocked and cars parked the wrong way at night.

The Chairman had contacted SBC Conservation Officer concerning the painting white of The Old Post Office. The Officer would inspect the site and make a report.

The Chairman introduced Ms Michelle Shaker, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, who reported there were 67 active Speedwatch groups operating in the county, with 30 more hoping to join the scheme. Speeding offences incurred £22m of costs to the public purse, so reductions in speed could result in significant savings. The groups in Swynnerton and Yarnfield had achieved noticeable results in reducing traffic speeds and raising driver awareness, but more volunteers were always needed. Speedwatch can only operate in 30 mph and 40 mph restricted zones, not in 20 mph zones. The Chairman thanked Ms Shaker for an interesting and informative presentation.

18/130 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Pert apologised that he had not been able to attend the last Parish Council meeting and urged everyone to report potholes and not to assume they had already been reported.

SCC Highways were drawing up plans for the installation of double yellow lines in the Parish and urged Councillors to consult fully with residents before the proposals went out to public consultation. Parking is always a contentious issue, and SBC were unlikely to be able to enforce compliance with double yellow lines when installed.

A request had been received for disabled parking facilities to be provided near to the War Memorial in Tittensor.

Cllr Pert hoped that the speed van would shortly attend at Yarnfield.

Cllr Pert had requested a meeting with D & G Buses to discuss their situation regarding bus services to villages in the Parish.

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Cllr K Ong, Chairman

SCC had to save £37m from future budgets which would have far-reaching impacts on local communities, and a reduction in the central grant to Parish Councils; Cllr Pert would be writing to Parish Councils to invite them to a Forum with SPCA on 29 November.

Cllr Pert had been working over the last 12 months to make SBC dementia friendly, and this had now been recognised by the Alzheimer's Society.

Cllr Pert was asked by Trentham Councillors to encourage the provision of a 'Concealed entrance' sign on Whitmore Road, and agreed to raise this at his meeting with SCC Highways the following week.

Cllr Pert was asked by Yarnfield Councillors to remind SCC Highways about overgrown trees and hedges on Yarnfield Lane. The Chairman thanked Cllr Pert for his report.

Cllr James reported that the results of the recent consultation would be considered by SBC Resources Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting; it looked extremely likely that Yarnfield would be represented by a separate Parish Council following the elections in May 2019. Councillors agreed that the proposed reduction in Councillors to seven to represent the reduced Swynnerton Parish Council would not work. The Committee would be urged to reconsider. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

18/131 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Ong and Price.

18/132 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.

18/133 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 20 September 2018 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

18/134 Clerk's Report, Items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Hixon and Sandon Parish Councils to advise on traffic gates and flashing speed signs

There were concerns that a car had been abandoned on Yarnfield Lane on the verge near the motorway. It had been established that the car was taxed and was being parked on the verge.

Streetscene were understood to have removed a large branch that had been blown down in recent high winds at the end of The Furlong, Yarnfield.

Mr Challinor had supplied a quote of £95 for staining and treating benches on Northwood Lane and Whitmore Road, Trentham, and £195 to repair and treat a bench on Yarnfield Green. After discussion it was agreed the Clerk should instruct Mr Challinor to carry out the work. **Action: Clerk**

18/135 Financial matters

18/135.i October accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses	756.82
HMRC, PAYE/NI	355.00
Mazars, annual external audit fee	240.00
Royal British Legion, 3 wreaths	51.00
JCPS, Yartnfield, groundscrews for flashing speed sign	2,450.00
Glasdon, traffic calming gates (est)	2,000.00
Total payments for October	£5,852.82

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

18/135.ii Crocuses, request to support Rotary immunisation programme

After discussion Councillors agreed to support the Rotary 'Purple Crocus' immunisation scheme with the same contribution as made in 2017 (£200), and to distribute crocus bulbs to each Ward. **Action: Clerk**

18/136 Traffic issues in the Parish – proposals for double yellow lines to be installed at Swynnerton, Tittensor, and Yarnfield; programme to roll out flashing speed signs; bus services in the Parish

Tittensor residents had expressed a number of concerns over the proposals for double yellow lines on Winghouse Lane. Discussions were continuing over the proposed siting of double yellow lines in the centre of Swynnerton, and Councillors would consult with residents in both villages before the next Parish Council meeting. Yarnfield Councillors confirmed that yellow lines were required outside the village hall, as previously agreed.

A flashing speed sign was now operating successfully in Great Bridgeford.

A request had been made for the installation of traffic lights or a zebra crossing on the A34 to enable residents to fully use the bus service in both directions. Sufficient funding would not be available, and Cllr Pert had investigated with

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Cllr K Ong, Chairman

the bus company the possibility of buses turning into the village; unfortunately the road layout would not permit buses to turn. Councillors discussed the possibility of a 'Walking Bus' but felt that would not be feasible.

18/137 Ward matters

18/137.i Swynnerton, request for support from 1st Swynnerton (NNS) Scouts

A new Scout Group had been formed in Swynnerton and had requested support, particularly with insurance costs. After discussion Cllr Leeson agree to take the matter up with the Lady Katharine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity.

Action: Cllr Leeson

The drains in the centre of the village had still not been cleared, and were now flooding after heavy rain. The Chairman would contact Highways again.

18/137.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

A request had been made for a bench to be provided in the bus shelter(s) on the A34. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The Clerk had attended the ceremony to mark the formal presentation of the BKV plaque to Tittensor, following their recent success. The plaque had been installed on the triangle outside the post office.

18/137.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents,

Cllr Leeson reported that he had attended a meeting of the Lady Katharine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity. The Charity had recently funded a washing machine for a school in Stoke, made money available for new school uniforms, and supported a curate to carry out missionary work in Africa.

18/137.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents,

Councillors asked when the Section 106 monies from Yarnfield Park would become available as the estate was almost complete. The Clerk would contact SBC for advice.

Action: Clerk

18/138 Programme of Swynnerton Parish Council meetings for 2018/2019

After discussion Councillors agreed to hold the January meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council in Yarnfield Village Hall, and to hold future meetings in Tittensor in the church hall.

139 Local Governance Review,

This item had been covered in Cllr James report (Minute 18/130 refers). The Clerk had supplied SBC with a copy of the Asset List.

18/140 HS2 updates by SPC representative and SRCG

Cllr James reported that it was unlikely to be able to include a footpath or cycle path along Yarnfield Lane to the junction with the A34 due to the cost. It would be possible to include a footpath on the new road from Swynnerton to the A51. The list of Additional Provisions should be published after Christmas.

SRCG representatives had attended a recent HS2 Consultation Day at Yarnfield Park.

18/141 Annual Inspections of Play Areas

The Clerk reported on the inspections of the three play areas in the Parish, and would circulate summaries to Councillors.

18/142 Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan

This had been delivered to SBC Planning for comment.

18/143 Draft article for Church magazine

After discussion Councillors agreed that the next issue should include information on the progress of the Local Governance Review, traffic calming measures, and parking difficulties in the Parish.

18/144 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members' Digest 247, information on children's play equipment and adult exercise equipment, BHIB Community Fund, SBC Mayor's Charity Ball, Staffordshire Playing Fields Association AGM, Stone Town Council Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade, SBC Sports provision survey.

The Chairman would attend the next meeting of the Stone Parish Council Liaison Group.

18/145 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 22 November 2018 in Hanchurch Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed. There will be no meeting in December..

Date

Cllr K Ong, Chairman