

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 24 JANUARY 2019 IN YARNFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr K Ong (Chairman)
Cllr D Butler
Cllr F Cromey
Cllr R James
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr B Price

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

Apologies: Cllr N Adams
Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr J Nixon

19/01 Public Participation Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillors and members of the public observed one minute's silence in memory of the late Cllr Tucker who had served the Parish, and particularly the community of Yarnfield, for almost twenty years.

Several residents questioned why Yarnfield was the last Ward where groundscrews to hold the flashing speed sign were being installed. The groundscrews had been ordered and paid for and would be installed in Yarnfield, and one to the north of Swynnerton village, in the next few weeks. *(During a heated discussion when a resident refused to recognise the authority of the Chairman, Cllrs Leeson and Price left the meeting for the duration of the public participation time.)*

A Yarnfield resident raised concerns over the appearance of an advertising banner in a garden on Yarnfield Lane; concerns were also raised over a large shed which had been erected in a garden opposite the shop and appeared to be a place of business. Both issues had been raised by the Clerk with SBCs Planning Enforcement Officer, who would investigate.

A representative of SRCG asked for details of a meeting between HS2 representatives and Cllrs Pert (SCC) and James.

A resident asked for a summary of the procedure following the vacancy for Yarnfield Ward. As a matter of respect SBC issued the notice of the vacancy after the funeral of Cllr Tucker, and it was placed on notice boards on 18 January 2019; the expiry date is 7 February 2019, and the vacancy will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council on 28 February 2019.

There followed a general discussion about the availability of Section 106 monies from the Yarnfield Park development, which had been allocated for Yarnfield.

A resident had investigated the siting of a bench opposite the Labour in Vain, and the planting of trees on Yarnfield Green. Permissions had been obtained, but no costs had been provided. The Clerk would seek advice from the Head of Legal Services SBC, but it was likely this was something Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC would need to take up. *(7.50 pm, Cllrs Price and Leeson re-joined the meeting. Cllr James also joined the meeting.)*

19/02 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Pert confirmed that he had attended a meeting with HS2 representatives and Cllr James. No formal minutes had been taken. Discussions had taken place over the usage of the pedestrian route from Yarnfield to the A34.

Cllr Pert welcomed the installation of the VAR sign in the Parish. Additional signs had been installed in the Borough by Highways England in connection with the monitoring of traffic during closures of the M6 motorway.

Cllr Pert had been advised there was insufficient usage for the last bus out of Hanley to be reinstated. However he was delighted to report that the bus company had agreed to again provide a service on Saturday to Swynnerton and asked Councillors to advise on the timing; after discussion it was agreed the later service offered would be acceptable. Cllr Pert had agreed to provide funding for a new garden in Tittensor as part of the village's entry to the Best Kept Village competition.

Cllr Pert offered to match fund up to £1,000 to enable the clearance of gullies in the Parish. Gullies were scheduled to be cleared every three years and the Clerk would check the schedule to see when local gullies were due to be cleared and report back to Councillors. He had made a similar offer for pavements. **Action: Clerk**

All Councillors were invited to a conversation at Yarnfield Park on 21 February 2019.

The public consultation on the installation of double yellow lines in the Parish had not yet started. The Chairman thanked Cllr Pert for his contribution.

Cllrs James and Price reported that SBC had prepared a balanced budget to 2021. The Chairman thanked Cllrs James and Price for their contribution and closed the public session of the meeting.

Date

Cllr K Ong, Chairman

19/03 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Adams, Cheadle, Mateu, Nixon

19/04 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.

19/05 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 22 November 2018 should be approved and signed by the Chairman. As Cllr Ong had been Australia in November the minutes were signed by Cllr Butler (Vice Chairman).

19/06 Clerk’s Report, Items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that Mr Challinor had completed the work on two benches in Trentham. Work was continuing on the bench at Yarnfield and would be completed as soon as possible but was weather dependant.

Mrs Hughes, Yarnfield Forum, had contacted the Clerk about a bench and trees for Yarnfield, but too late for any proposals to be an agenda item. Mrs Hughes had approached the Parish Council in April 2018 for support on projects to site a bench in Yarnfield and to plant trees on Yarnfield Green, and was advised that the Parish Council would need to know the costs involved before making any decisions. No costs have been submitted for either project.

SBC Election Office has arranged a briefing meeting on 7 February 2018 for current and prospective Councillors.

19/07 Financial matters

19/07 .i December/January accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk’s salary and expenses, Dec and Jan	1,033.30	0020087
HMRC, PAYE/NI	355.00	0020088
Mr E Challinor	366.00	0020089
Total payments for December/January	£1,754.30	

RESOLVED – That the accounts for December 2018/January 2019 should be approved for payment.

19/07.ii Article for Church magazine

Councillors agreed to continue placing an article in the Church magazine. The costs would continue unchanged from April 2019, after date the magazine would be bi-monthly and in full colour; Photographs would be accepted.

RESOLVED That the Parish Council would continue to place articles in the church magazine at no additional cost.

19/08 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

After discussion Councillors agreed to consult further with residents on the proposals for yellow lines to be installed in Swynnerton and Tittensor. The proposals for Yarnfield had met with local approval.

The groundscrews for the flashing speed sign would be installed in Yarnfield as soon as possible. Cllr Butler reported that there had been very positive feedback from the testing of the flashing speed sign in different locations; the batteries did not last as long as had been anticipated and further tests would be carried out to achieve longer usage through re-programming; two people were required to move the sign to another location. After discussion it was agreed that a sub committee consisting of Cllrs Butler, Cromey, Malkin and Ong would report back to the next meeting with recommendations on the best use of the sign throughout the Parish. Councillors thanked Cllr Butler for the time and effort he had spent on ensuring the installation and operation of the flashing speed sign.

Stone Town Council had briefly operated a limited bus service to local areas but this had now ceased.

19/09 Ward matters

19/09.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

A Swynnerton resident had requested a grit bin in the Conservation Area of Swynnerton village. Swynnerton Ward Councillors would advise SCC Highways on the colour of bin required.

19/09.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Cllr Price would follow up the issue of the gate that had been installed at the top of Apsley Grove. **Action: Cllr Price**

Cllr Malkin reported that discussions for a crossing at Tittensor for the A34 were on-going.

19/09.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents,

No issues had been raised by residents since the last meeting.

19/09.iv Yarnfield, issues raised by residents,

Cllr Cromey and the Clerk reported on a very positive site meeting that had been held on Yarnfield Green with a contractor and SCC representatives to discuss proposals to improve the drainage. SBC had agreed to the proposals in principle, and would check that they comply with legal restrictions on village greens, and would report back to the Parish Council. An area of the Green would look unsightly for a period of time following completion of any work.

Date

Cllr K Ong, Chairman

The vacancy for a Councillor in Yarnfield Ward, following the sad loss of Cllr Tucker, would be discussed at the next meeting.

Concerns over planning issues had been raised with SBC Planning Enforcement Officer (Minute 19/01 refers).

19/10 HS2

(AP2) Additional Provisions were scheduled to be deposited to Parliament on 8 February 2019. HS2 representatives had proposed a meeting with Swynnerton Parish Council to discuss AP2; Councillors discussed inviting them to the next meeting, to consider AP2 proposals during the public session. Councillors agreed that if this were to happen, the meeting should begin one hour earlier at 6.15 pm. The Chairman and Clerk of Stone Rural Parish Council had asked to attend any meeting between Swynnerton Parish Council and HS2 representatives, and this was agreed.

19/11 Draft article for Church magazine

After discussion Councillors agreed that the next issue should include information on the installation of the flashing speed sign; continued Saturday bus service for Swynnerton; grant from Cllr Pert towards Tittensor's BKV entry; the loss of Cllr Henry Butters. **Action: Clerk**

19/12 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members Digests 249 and 250; Stone Town Council – Mayor's Charity Quiz Night on Saturday 9 February (three Councillors agreed to enter); SPCA/Cllr Pert invitation to 'A Community Conversation' on 21 February 2019.

SBC Planning had not pursued Swynnerton Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan owing to the imminent separation of Yarnfield into a separate Parish Council. The new Parish Council of Yarnfield & Cold Meece could agree to the inclusion of their Parish in Swynnerton Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan, and the renamed joint Plan could be progressed after May 2019 to give planning protection to both Parish Councils, providing it complied with the revised Local Plan for Stafford and was agreed by both Parish Councils.

19/13 The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 28 February 2019 in Swynnerton Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.