

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2019 IN TITTENSOR VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr K Ong (Chairman)
Cllr N Adams
Cllr D Butler
Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr B Price

In attendance: Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
Cllr R James, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: None

19/44 Public Participation Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

19/45 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Pert reported on a meeting with Hanchurch village residents, who were concerned by the recent removal of trees as part of the Smart Motorway work on the M6. Residents were particularly concerned by the possible impact on the Conservation Area, light pollution, and noise pollution from motorway traffic. The monitoring station in Hanchurch has reported very little pollution in the last 10 years as motorway traffic is generally moving. Villagers would be meeting representatives of Highways England the following week. Councillors discussed the likely impact of the HS2 project on traffic.

Cllr James had nothing to report, due to the elections to be held the following week. Cllr Price had two more Planning Committee meetings to attend before his retirement from Stafford Borough Council. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

19/46 Apologies There were no apologies.

19/47 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.

19/48 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2019

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 28 March 2019 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

19/49 Clerk's Report, Items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that she had met a Trentham resident who clearly needed support. Councillors discussed groups and organisations that could help in the community with loneliness, and agreed to report back to the next meeting. Councillors were reminded to comply with election requirements, particularly the completion of election expenses forms.

A list of meeting dates to the end of 2020 was circulated; an alternative venue was being sought for the meetings scheduled for 23 May 2019, as European Elections had been announced for that date.

19/50 Financial matters

19/50 .i April accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses	519.82
SPCA, annual subscription	350.00
Mr E Challinor, moving speed sign	35.00
BHIBI, annual insurance cover (due 01/06/2019)	770.15
SBC, Amenity vehicle visits	1,206.00
Wicksteeds, replacement cradle swing seat	162.76
St Luke's Church, Tittensor, entry in church magazine	258.00
D Malley, payroll services	<u>81.00</u>
Total payments for April 2019	£3,382.73

RESOLVED – That the accounts for April 2019 should be approved for payment

Date

Cllr K Ong, Chairman

19/50.ii Approval of end of year financial statement

A draft statement had been prepared; AGAR documents would be presented to the next meeting..

19/50.iii Renewal of insurance cover for Swynnerton Parish Council/payment for space in Church publication

Councillors approved the payment of the annual insurance cover, and agreed to continue to pay for space in the Church magazine which was now being distributed bi-monthly.

19/50.iv Remuneration of Clerk to cover reduced area of SPC; revised NALC pay scales

After discussion Councillors agreed that the Clerk's hours of work should be reduced from 12 to 10 per week, with effect from 1 April 2019, to cover the reduction in size of the Parish from four Wards to three. The Clerk would monitor her hours with a view to reducing them to 9 per week in the long term. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should be paid according to the revised NALC payscales on the new Scale 23, again with effect from 1 April 2019.

19/51 Traffic issues in the Parish

19/51.i Report on operation of flashing speed sign throughout the Parish

Cllr Butler reported that the flashing speed sign unit had been re-programmed and now operated at 25 mph from a distance of 50m; since then the unit had operated in Swynnerton for two weeks, and in Tittensor for almost three weeks, which was a considerable improvement

Councillors agreed that an application should be made to Safer Roads Staffordshire for funding towards a permanent site for a solar powered unit in Trentham.

Action: Clerk

19/51.ii Installation of traffic calming gates in Swynnerton

The gates had been delivered and would be installed the following week.

Cllr Adams reminded Cllr Pert about the request for warning signs and chevrons to advise drivers exiting the A34 on to Whitmore Road, Trentham, of a bend and hidden entrance, who agreed to report back.

SCC Highways were progressing the public consultation on the installation of yellow lines in Swynnerton and Tittensor.

It was hoped that the drains in Swynnerton village would be cleared in May as scheduled.

19/52 Ward matters

19/52.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

Cllr Butler reported the sign for Weavers Walk had been damaged and removed. He had been advised by Streetscene that a replacement sign would be installed.

The village had entered the Best Kept Village competition again this year. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would donate £50 more gardening vouchers than the previous year. The Clerk would request the attendance of the road sweeper.

Action: Clerk

19/52.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Tittensor had entered the BKV competition again this year and were hoping to do well again. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would donate £50 more gardening vouchers than the previous year. The Clerk had requested the attendance of the road sweeper.

Action: Clerk

Winghouse Lane, opposite the turning to Beechcliffe Lane, had flooded following recent heavy rain. The Clerk had already reported the blocked drain, and would send a reminder.

Action: Clerk

19/52.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents,

The Clerk would send a reminder to SCC Highways requesting a sign warning of a concealed entrance near the junction of Whitmore Road with the A34 and request additional road markings (19/51.ii)..

Action: Clerk

19/53 HS2

Mr Ralls had now reached agreement with HS2 and had withdrawn his Petition.

SPCs Petition had brought concerns of residents in Newcastle Road, Trentham, over access during construction, and damage to Ferndown Nature Reserve, to the attention of the Select Committee and HS2, which had now been recognised. After discussion Councillors agreed that Cllr James SBC should submit a letter to the Select Committee reiterating the concerns.

Action: Cllr James (SBC)

A decision on whether or not SBCs representatives (Cllr Ong, Cllr James SBC) should attend the Select Committee hearing would be made after discussions with the residents of Newcastle Road, Trentham.

Action: Cllr Ong (Cllr James SBC)

19/54 Parish Council Newsletter

Councillors agreed that the next Parish Council Newsletter would include a list of the new Parish Councillors and a group photograph; details of the Petition on HS2 submitted to the Select Committee, which had secured assurances recognising the concerns of residents, and details of the Petition submitted listing concerns resulting from the AP2

Date

Cllr K Ong, Chairman

proposals; details on the flashing speed sign, and traffic calming gates installed at Swynnerton; saving of the bus service to Ferndown and the Saturday service for Swynnerton and message to 'use it or lose it!'; what goes on at the village halls; the problem of loneliness and local services available to help combat it.

19/55 Draft article for inclusion in the Church Magazine

Councillors agreed to include information similar to 19/54 above.

19/56 Confirmation of meeting dates for Swynnerton Parish Council for 2019/2010

The Clerk circulated a list of meeting dates for 2020, and would seek an alternative venue for the meeting on 23 May 2019 as this now clashed with European elections.

(8.45 pm, Cllr Pert SCC, left the meeting.)

19/57 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members Digest 254, SBC notification of election of Swynnerton Parish Councillors with effect from the day following 2 May 2019; invitation to Annual Council and Mayor Making Ceremony, Saturday 18 May 2019, HAGS play equipment brochure; offer to quote for insurance from Zurich.

19/58 The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 23 May 2019 at a venue to be confirmed. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 9 pm.