

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2019 IN HANCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

- Present:** Cllr D Butler (Vice Chairman)
Cllr N Adams
Cllr F Cheadle
Mr N Leeson
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr B Price
- In attendance** Two residents of Trentham Ward
Cllr R James, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Cllr J Nixon, SBC
Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
- Apologies:** Cllr P Bickerstaffe
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr K Ong (Chairman)
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

19/75 Public Participation Time

In the absence of Cllr Ong, Cllr Butler (Vice Chairman) welcomed everyone to the meeting and assumed the Chair. Two residents of Hanchurch reported that they were still waiting to receive up to date reports on environmental pollution in their area. The most recent reports gave levels of 39 and 38; European regulations state that a level of 40 would be a matter of concern. HS2 have not revealed the figures on which they are basing their calculations. The residents are hoping to discuss with SCC Highways the proposal to remove a number of trees, which would mean that pollution levels would rise further. Mixed messages have been received regarding pollution; Newcastle-under Lyme and Stoke City Council are both taking action but SCC has provided little information.

SCC Highways have agreed to come to Trentham and view the situation where the existing traffic levels are causing manholes and properties to vibrate; HS2 have agreed to reduced traffic speeds along Newcastle Road in discussions with the Select Committee, the meeting agreed this should happen whether the project goes ahead or not.

After discussion the meeting agreed that the residents should contact Cllr Pert on his return from holiday, and the Clerk would write to SCC Highways raising the Parish Council's concerns over pollution, safety, and the lack of action, with a copy to Cllr Pert.

Action: Clerk

Concerns were also raised about the state of drains and gullies in the Parish, particularly Winghouse Lane, Tittensor, and the centre of Swynnerton, and after discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to SCC Highways to reiterate local concerns and ask when action would be taken.

Action: Clerk

19/76 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

There was no report from Cllr Pert SCC. Cllr James SBC reported that a training programme for new Borough Councillors was underway; the Local Plan for Stafford was under review but it was not anticipated that that would necessitate changes to Swynnerton's Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

19/77 Apologies Apologies had been received from Cllrs Bickerstaffe, Malkin and Ong, and Cllr Pert SCC.

19/78 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.

19/79 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2019

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 23 May 2019 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

19/80 Clerk's Report, Items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that she had received information that the M6 Motorway would no longer be closed overnight on 28 June, and confirmed that action would be taken to achieve action on the state of drains in the Parish.

19/81 Financial matters

19/81.i June accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses	553.17
HMRC	355.00
Mr E Challinor, moving speed sign, installing gate	120.00
John Green landscapes, grass cutting	266.00
Hanchurch Village Hall	500.00

Date

Cll D Butler, Chairman

Swynnerton Village Hall	500.00
Tittensor Village Hall	500.00
Avdec, web hosting	78.00
Mrs C Heelis, audit for 2019	<u>100.00</u>
Total payments for June 2019	£2,972.17

RESOLVED – That the accounts for June 2019 should be approved for payment.

19/81.ii To receive the end of year governance statement on Annual Return for financial year 2018/2019

RESOLVED That the end of year governance statement on Annual Return for financial year 2018/2019 should be received. and signed by the Chairman.

The report from Mrs C Heelis, auditor, had been circulated and was agreed.

19/81.iii To receive the end of year accounting statement on Annual Return for financial year 2018/2019

RESOLVED That the end of year accounting statement on Annual Return for financial year 2018/2019 should be received, and signed by the Chairman.

19/81.iv Contribution towards village hall expenses

Councillors confirmed the payment of £500 to Swynnerton, Tittensor, and Hanchurch Village Halls to support the facilities they provide for local communities.

19/81.v Contribution towards installation of broadband in village halls in the Parish

Tittensor Village Hall had reported their progress in installing a broadband facility at the Hall, and asked for help with monthly costs of £29.99 for the first year, after which time the costs should be covered by hire fees. After discussion Councillors agreed to provide assistance up to £300 in total for the first year to enable broadband provision to be established. Tittensor Village Hall would be asked to provide receipts as appropriate, together with a report on progress and the procedures they had followed, as other village halls in the Parish could benefit from their experience.

19/82 Traffic issues in the Parish

There were still problems with grids and drains, and the Clerk would contact SCC Highways and Cllr Pert. The MoD site at Cold Meece had installed an unsightly arrangement of bollards and poles behind the verge on Eccleshall Road to prevent unauthorised parking. This area is within the Parish of Swynnerton, and after discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to request the installation of a permanent and more conventional installation.

Action: Clerk

HS2 had established a site on the A51 and Councillors considered there was an excessive number of signs advertising its presence. The Clerk would write to HS2/SCC Highways and ask if they could be reduced. **Action:Clerk** The flashing speed sign had been moved to Whitmore Road; Cllr Butler had adjusted the operating speed range to less than 25 mph and the impact of the unit to less than 50m and this had extended the life of the battery considerably. Cllr Butler was investigating the operation of a solar powered unit and the feasibility of adding a solar powered unit to the existing sign, and the downloading of data, and would report back to the next meeting.

19/83 Ward matters

19/83.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

The Clerk was contacting SCC Planning for advice on the state of the road outside the soil treatment centre at Cold Meece.

Action: Clerk

19/83.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Areas of Winghouse Lane had flooded recently due to blocked drains. The Clerk would contact SCC Highways.

Action: Clerk

19/83.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents,

A volunteer was being sought to help with moving the flashing speed sign in the Ward. Cllr Adams would investigate reports received of a business being operated from a property on Whitmore Road which had led to complaints about parked vehicles blocking the pavement.

Action: Cllr Adams

19/84 Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk had been advised that Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC had decided to prepare a separate Neighbourhood Plan for their Parish. SBC Planning had advised that the existing Swynnerton Neighbourhood Plan could proceed if all references to Yarnfield were removed and a new map included to show the revised Parish boundary.

(8.07 pm, Cllr Nixon left the meeting.)

RESOLVED That Swynnerton Parish Council should proceed with its Neighbourhood Plan, omitting references to the former Yarnfield Ward and including a revised map to reflect the area covered by Swynnerton Parish Council

19/85 HS2

Full details of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill were now available at Stone and Eccleshall libraries. Work had commenced locally with a depot being established on the A51. HS2 were hoping to set up a local meeting with Newcastle Road residents shortly.

Date

Cll D Butler, Chairman

19/86 Parish Council Newsletter

In the absence of Cllr Ong, this item was carried forward to the next meeting on 25 July 2019.

19/87 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members Digest 256; SBC Year Book and Diary; Stone Town Council for Chairman and Consort to attend Civic Sunday on 28 July 2019. A new PCSO was arranging regular meetings to meet local communities, and this was welcomed.

19/88 The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 25 July 2019 at Tittensor Village Hall. Cllr Adams gave her apologies. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.