

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2019 IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL**

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

**19/104 Public Participation Time**

Cllr Ong welcomed everyone to the meeting. A representative of Newcastle Road residents reported on a meeting held with Balfour Beatty and SCC Highways to discuss ground inspection work scheduled for October. The meeting had not been very productive, and a further meeting was planned for January.

The residents had submitted a Petition to the House of Lords. A meeting had been scheduled for 18 September with two representatives of HS2 to discuss the Petition.

A review of the HS2 project had been announced on 21 August and was due to report in the autumn; until then there was unlikely to be any significant activity to report.

A resident of Waterworks Cottages, Hatton, reported on a meeting with Cllr Pert to discuss a change to the speed limit on the road outside the Waterworks, which was currently 60mph. Due to the speed of traffic, residents had difficulty entering and exiting their properties in safety; cattle cross the road twice daily; there have been a number of minor accidents reported recently. Councillors discussed a number of options to address the situation including the installation of traffic calming gates, and agreed to visit the site and discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

**Action: All**

Cllr Pert would arrange for monitors to be installed to provide accurate information on the situation at Hatton and Newcastle Road, Hanchurch; a number of suggestions were made for action that residents could take to improve matters – cutting back vegetation, limiting the parking of vehicles on the road, etc.

Councillors reported that the speed limit installed at Cotes Heath had led to a great improvement in the situation there.

**19/105 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Pert congratulated Tittensor on winning the Best Kept Village Competition two years running.- a fantastic achievement by the BKV team.

The consultation on double yellow lines at Tittensor and Swynnerton had been linked to a proposal for a 'build out' at Swynnerton and should take place during September or October.

Most drains in Swynnerton had now been cleared; those that had not been cleared had been re-reported for action.

The HS2 review was good news, and Cllr Pert urged everyone to write in to make their views on the project known.

SCC had been appointed as a conduit to HS2 for all highways issues.

Cllr James reported that the SBC Parish Council Forum would take place on 26 September 2019 at 7 pm.

**19/106 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Leeson and Malkin

**19/107 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.

**19/108 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2019**

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 25 July 2019 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**19/109 Clerk's Report, Items not on the agenda**

The Clerk reported that a number of road closures had been scheduled at the end of August and beginning of September as part of the Smart Motorway project, and circulated details.

Congratulatory notices had been placed on the boards in Swynnerton and Tittensor to mark their success in the BKC competition. Swynnerton had held a celebratory Pudding Event on the 17 August, and Tittensor were arranging a celebratory barbecue in the village hall on 20 September.

Date .....

Cll K Ong, Chairman .....

**19/110 Financial matters**

**19/110.i August accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk’s salary and expenses	542.67
John Green Landscapes, grass cutting etc	288.00
Eddy’s Building Services, moving speed sign	35.00
Final payment to Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC	<u>1,179.78</u>
Total payments for August	£2,045.45

Hi-Vis Vests had been purchased for volunteers to wear when moving the speed signs, and would be stored by Mr Challinor.

Details of the payment to Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC were circulated to Councillors.

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

**19/111 Traffic issues in the Parish**

**19/111.i Update on available speed sign data**

Cllr Butler reported that the flashing speed sign had been moved to Tittensor; he had been unable to download information from the flashing speed sign and would consult further with Evolis. The response from the public continued to be very positive.

A second vehicle had been damaged whilst parked in the disabled bay at the bottom of Winghouse Lane.

Councillors received regular reports of problems caused by HGVs driving on undesignated routes in the Parish. The Clerk would write to the companies concerned if Councillors or residents could provide the names of companies, the time the vehicle was observed, and the location.

**Action: Clerk**

**19/111.ii Planned road closure during September**

Information had been circulated to Councillors and placed on notice boards on the closure of part of Beechcliffe Lane for scheduled works.

**19/112 Ward matters**

**19/112.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents**

Swynnerton were congratulated on achieving third place in their category in the BKV competition, after two consecutive years when they achieved Highly Commended. A celebratory Pudding event had been held on 17 August when presentations were made to winners of the poster competition.

The area at the Toposcope Viewing Point had been refurbished by Balfour Beatty, currently based at the HS2 depot on the A51; photographs of the site were circulated, and the Clerk would write to thank them. Lord Stafford’s Estate had arranged to cut the hedge in the next few days so that the view was unimpeded.

The Clerk reported that SCC Regulation Team had visited the soil treatment centre at Cold Meece, checked on road sweeping and wheel washing, and ensured that vehicles using the site were advised on the correct route to follow and not to drive through Swynnerton village.

**19/112.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

Councillors congratulated the BKV Committee on their wonderful achievement in winning the competition for the second year running, and agreed to nominate Mr Trevor Underhill, the leader of the team, for an SBC Community Award. The village had looked beautiful all summer with wonderful displays and beautiful individual gardens, almost all featuring watering cans, which was the theme this year.

**19/112.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents,**

Cllr Adams reported that a new gate and fence had been installed on woodland adjacent to Whitmore Road at a particularly dangerous area. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Price would investigate and report to the next meeting.

**Action: Cllr Price**

Residents on Ferndown Road South had reported an obstructed pavement. SCC Highways had attended very promptly and photographs were circulated showing the improved situation.

Trentham South Residents’ Association had asked for information on the flashing speed sign and this had been provided. The Association covers Longton Road from New Inn Lane to Brough Road; down Barlaston Old Road to and including Wedgwood; Jonathan Road and Severn Trent developments.

**19/113 SBC Community Awards, to consider local candidates**

After discussion Councillors agreed unanimously that Mr Trevor Underhill and the Tittensor BKV team should be nominated for a Community Award.

**Action: Clerk**

**19/114 SBC Polling District and Polling Station Review**

After discussion Councillors agreed that they had no comment to make on the Review as local polling stations were considered to meet the needs of all local voters.

Date .....

Cll K Ong, Chairman .....

**19/115 SBC Rural Survey**

Councillors did not feel able to answer many of the questions in the survey, as much of the information would be provided by an examination of the Council Tax records. The Clerk would write to SBC with Councillors' comments.

**Action: Clerk**

**19/116 Consultation on the Draft Stafford Borough Economic Growth Strategy**

The Clerk would circulate the Draft and ask Councillors to forward any comments as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk**

**19/117 Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman was continuing to update the Plan by removing all references to Yarnfield. The Plan was currently on hold whilst sizeable reviews of the Local Plan for Stafford were being completed.

**19/118 HS2, update on project**

This had been discussed earlier in the meeting (Minute 19/104 refers); The meeting felt that there was unlikely to be any significant action until the report of the review of the project in the autumn.

**19/119 Parish Council Newsletter**

Cllr Ong reported that she hoped to provide a draft Newsletter for the next meeting.

**19120 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members Digest 257; booking form for St Luke's Church Hall, Titternors, for the October meeting.

**19/121 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 19 September 2019 at Hanchurch Village Hall. The date of the meeting had been changed to avoid a clash with the SBC Parish Council Forum meeting which would be held on 26 September. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.