

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019 IN HANCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

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

In attendance Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
Cllr R James, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Cllr J Nixon, SBC

Apologies: Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Pert, SCC

19/122 Public Participation Time

Cllr Ong welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

19/123 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr James reported that SBC had approved new Financial Regulations and end of year reports. Discussions had taken place on arrangements for VE Day celebrations next year in the Borough.

Cllr Nixon asked Councillors to submit applications for consideration as each year the firm he worked for dedicated a day to community activities by its employees. Councillors agreed to submit suggestions to the Chair. **Action: All**

Cllr Butler raised the difficulties experienced by a tenant of Stafford and Rural Homes in Swynnerton and Cllr James agreed to take this up on the tenant's behalf.

Councillors agreed to bring forward items 10 and 11 on the agenda as Cllrs James and Nixon had to leave to attend another Parish Council meeting.

19/124 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors agreed that the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan should be made as soon as possible. The Chairman had removed all references to Yarnfield, and would consult with Cllr James with regard to statistics derived from the questionnaire circulated to residents.

19/125 HS2

The review into the HS2 project was scheduled to report in the autumn, until then very little was happening. (7.25pm., Cllrs James and Nixon, SBC, left the meeting.)

19/125 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Leeson and Cllr Pert (SCC).

19/126 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.

19/127 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2019

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 22 August 2019 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

19/128 Clerk's Report, Items not on the agenda

The Clerk had circulated notes on the meeting, all of which would be discussed as agenda items.

19/129 Financial matters

19/129.i September accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses	512.19
HMRC, PAYE/NI to 5/10/2019	355.00
John Green Landscapes, grass cutting etc	576.00
Mazars audit fee	240.00

Total payments for September **£1,683.19**

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

19/129.ii.

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor and Certificate 2018/19 had been received from Mazars agreeing the accounts submitted and making no comment on them. Documents had been circulated to Councillors and displayed on notice boards.

Date

Cll K Ong, Chairman

19/130 Traffic issues in the Parish

19/130.i Update on available speed sign data

Cllr Butler reported that information for the last 6 months had been downloaded from the flashing speed sign; each vehicle passing the unit is recorded, whichever direction it is travelling; 128,000 vehicle movements had been recorded; the maximum speed recorded was 91mph on Whitmore Road; 104,000 vehicles had been recorded travelling below 40mph; the worst area for speeding was Whitmore Road. The Clerk would circulate details of the operating manual to all Councillors so that information could be downloaded and analysed by all. The unit would be moved to Tittensor next and then to Swynnerton. Councillors discussed alternative sites for the unit in Tittensor. Councillors discussed placing signs on the reverse of the traffic calming gates at Swynnerton. The Clerk would investigate. **Action: Clerk**

19/130.ii Reduction in traffic speeds near Hatton Waterworks

Councillors agreed that this item should be carried forward to the next meeting.

19/130.iii Planned road closure during September

The Clerk had received notice of a proposed road closure on Hanchurch Lane from 19 October 2019 until 26 October 2019. Notices would be placed on the website and all notice boards. .

19/131 Ward matters

19/131.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

Issues over the state of the road outside the soil treatment plant at Cold Meece were still being reported, and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact SCC again. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk would check the new Parish boundary and if appropriate would contact MoD Cold Meece to request that less unsightly barriers should be installed to prevent the parking of vehicles outside the site. **Action: Clerk**

Balfour Beatty had contributed two new benches and refurbished the Toposcope. The Clerk had prepared a formal letter of thanks and it was hoped to arrange a ceremony to record the community's thanks for the work done.

Cllr Butler reported the multiplicity of signs for the HS2 works site on the A51. **Action: Clerk**

19/131.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents including proposal for third defibrillator in the village

Councillors had considered the proposal for a third defibrillator in the village and agreed that the ideal position would be near the site of the former Groundslow Hospital. They were unable to contribute financially as this was the first year of the reduced Parish Council following the creation of Yarnfield & Cold Meece PC and expenditure was being closely monitored; they would view any application for funding sympathetically in the future.

19/131.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents

SCC Highways had attended the blocked pavement on Ferndown Drive South; the bins had been removed, the pavement tidied up, and some of the foliage cut back, so the situation had improved, but was still far from ideal.

Residents on Park Drive had complained that the refurbished telephone kiosk in the Conservation Area was now illuminated by a red light at night, along with the nearby lamp post, which was not considered appropriate or suitable for the area. The Clerk would investigate and contact SBC Enforcement. **Action: Clerk**

The ownership of the recently installed gateway on Whitmore Road opposite Northwood Lane was being investigated.

19/132 Autumn bulb planting

Cllr Cheadle reported that Swynnerton would welcome daffodils and tulips for autumn planting. The Clerk would contact the leader of the annual BKV entry to ascertain their requirements; the leader of the BKV entry for Tittensor to ascertain which bulbs they would like for autumn planting; a representative of Ferndown Nature Reserve and a resident of Northwood Lane for advice on bulb planting in Trentham Ward. **Action: Clerk**

19/133 Local meetings

19/133.i Stone Area Parish Liaison Group It had not been possible for a representative of the Parish Council to attend this meeting.

19/133.ii SBC Parish Council Forum All Councillors would be welcome at this meeting; Cllrs Ong, Butler and the Clerk agreed that they would attend. **Action: Cllrs Ong and Butler, Clerk**

19/134 Neighbourhood Plan, progress on submission of Plan

The Chairman was continuing to update the Plan by removing all references to Yarnfield and checking the validity of the data derived from the questionnaires.

19/135 HS2, update on project

This had been discussed earlier in the meeting (Minute 19/125 refers).

19/136 Parish Council Newsletter

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

Date

Cll K Ong, Chairman

19/137 Items for next Church magazine New traffic calming gates installed at Swynnerton; additional benches at the Toposcope viewing point; progress of the Neighbourhood Plan; bulb planting in the Wards; seasons greetings.

19/138 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk reported the receipt of SBC Members Digest 259; Stone Town Council – invitation to attend the Mayor’s Trafalgar Dinner at 7 pm on Friday 18 October 2019; Stone Town Council – invitation to attend the Mayor’s Quiz Night on Friday 25 October 2019; Clerks & Councils Direct, September issue; SCOPE – information on textile bins used to raise money for charities; Douglas Macmillan Hospice – ‘Bring a Pound’ fundraisers on 4 October 2019.

19/139 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 24 October 2019 at St Luke’s Church Hall, Tittensor 2019. The venue of the meeting had been changed to avoid a clash with Brownie and Guide meetings. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.