

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, SWYNNERTON
ON THURSDAY 23 MAY 2019**

Present: Councillor K Ong, Chairman of Swynnerton Parish Council (SPC)
Swynnerton Parish Council, 7 representatives
Staffordshire County Council (SCC), Cllr Jeremy Pert
Lord Stafford Estate, 1 representative
2 residents of Tittensor Ward
2 residents of Trentham Ward

In attendance: Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones, Swynnerton Parish Clerk (Minutes)

Apologies: Councillor D Butler, SPC
Mr N Leeson

1. Welcome

The Chairman of Swynnerton Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Swynnerton Annual Parish Meeting 2018

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 May 2017 had been circulated and agreed, and were **NOTED**.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented her Annual Report to the meeting (copy attached, Appendix 1).

4. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee

In the absence of Cllr Butler, the Clerk reported that the Planning Committee had considered carefully the 41 planning applications received and, using local knowledge, had made appropriate comments. The Parish Council had also considered the possible realignment of one footpath in Yarnfield.

Of the 49 decisions received from Stafford Borough Council, 4 were refused and the rest approved.

Three Appeals had been submitted and one Appeal had been withdrawn.

5. Financial Report of the Parish Council (provisional and subject to audit)

Mrs Harrington-Jones, Parish Clerk, presented an unaudited report on the financial position of Swynnerton Parish Council (copy attached, Appendix 2).

It had been a fairly quiet year, with expenditure being monitored by the Parish Council and the finances managed responsibly. Financial assets and funds had been shared proportionately with the new Parish Council of Yarnfield and Cold Meece at the end of the financial year and the final payment would be made on completion of the audit.

6. Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

Details of members' attendance at Parish Council and Planning Committee meetings over the last 12 months were circulated (copy attached, Appendix

7. Local issues

Cllr Ong invited local representatives to address the meeting.

Two residents of Trentham Ward reported on their appearance before the Parliamentary Select Committee, following their successful petitioning to the Select Committee. They had received assurances that measures would be taken to reduce the permitted speeds on the affected roads; HS2 were looking at the planned road layout with a view to reducing the number of lanes from four to two where possible, and the residents were hopeful that the plans would be amended.

A representative of Lord Stafford's Estate reported on good results from their negotiations with HS2 over recent years, with changes agreed to proposed access to the village.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

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Cllr K Ong, Chairman, Swynnerton Parish Council

1 Welcome to everyone

2 This past year has been eventful but, as Cllr Frank Cheadle said to me this time last year, it can't get worse so cheer up. And he was right, and we all survived.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow Councillors and particularly to our Parish Clerk for your help and support during this trying year. Also to Cllr Dave Butler for taking over as Vice Chairman so capably whilst I went out to Australia for three months over Christmas and New Year.

2018/2019 was largely dominated by HS2 and all the problems surrounding it. Cllr Roy James and others have attended meetings with HS2 representatives and have attended meetings with the residents of Newcastle Road, Hanchurch, who will be most affected by the proposed changes to the M6 interchange at Junction 15 with the A500 roundabout and the traffic lights on the A519/Whitmore Road crossing. The Parish Council submitted a Petition to the Select Committee in response to the new Additional Provisions (AP2) to the proposed HS2 Hybrid Bill in support of the residents' Petition; to help preserve the Ferndown Nature Reserve; and in support of a Swynnerton resident who is greatly affected by the proposed route of the A51. We decided not to attend the hearing after assurances were received from HS2 Ltd on most of our points, but we did submit a statement to the Select Committee which was circulated, and we are waiting to hear the results.

3 After several years of discontent, Yarnfield Ward has now left us and set up its own Parish Council. This means that we will have less income in future, and we have lost a proportion of our capital. But it does mean that we can concentrate more on our other Wards.

4 Last September our Neighbourhood Plan was finalised and I submitted it to Stafford Borough Council for examination. I was assured that this would be done by mid October. However, as Yarnfield had put in motion their plans to form a separate Parish Council, we were advised to put our Neighbourhood Plan on hold until this was decided. Also the Borough Council was in the process of updating its Local Plan and they would get back to us.

5 You will have noticed, I am sure, the flashing speed sign installed in your area only to see it disappear a short while later. This has been a period of trial and error to maximise the length of the charge on the battery which has varied considerably from Ward to Ward. As we have had a positive response to its effectiveness we hope to apply again for funding to purchase another sign. Our thanks are due again to Dave Butler and our go-to helper, Eddy Challinor, for their sterling work in shifting the unit around the Parish.

6 Our thanks to Cllr Jeremy Pert, SCC, for all his assistance this year. He has been instrumental in restoring Saturday buses to Swynnerton and maintaining the bus service to Ferndown Drive South in Trentham Ward.

7 Cllr Pert has also been trying to bring forward the consultation process for the painting of yellow lines on roads where there is congestion caused by parked traffic.

8 Although he cannot be with us this evening, I would like to mention Norman Leeson who as a Trentham Councillor has been our representative on the Lady Katherine and Sir Richard Leveson Trust. He has successfully argued for funding for the new Swynnerton Scouts group and also for a washing machine for a school in Stoke which is in a deprived area.

9 And last but by no means least. We are very pleased to have been a small part of the Best Kept Village successes of Tittensor and Swynnerton. It shows us that involvement and enthusiasm can reap such rewards in terms of the community. Winning is the icing on the cake.

Cllr Kay Ong

Balance Brought Forward	6,853
Receipts	29,843
BALANCE	36,696
Less Expenditure	23,353.16
BALANCE	13,343
Current Account	2,204.56
Reserve Account	121,910.25
NSI Account	4,569.91
BALANCE (Rounded)	18,685
Less Unpresented Cheques and grant	5,342.05
BALANCE	13,343
BALANCE (Rounded)	13,343

Councillors' attendance at meetings, April 2018 – March 2019

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	
Adams	X	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		X	√	√	9/11
Boulton	√	X	√	X	√	√	Resigned September 2018					4/6	
Butler	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	10/11
Cheadle	√	√	X	√	X	√	√	√		X	√	√	8/11
Cromey*	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	11/11
James*	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√		√	√	√	10/11
Leeson	X	√	√	X	X	X	√	√		√	√	√	7/11
Malkin	√	X	√	X	√	√	√	√		√	X	√	8/11
Mateu	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	X		X	√	√	8/11
Nixon*	√	X	X	√	X	X	√	X		X	X	X	3/11
Ong	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	X		√	√	√	9/11
Price	X	X	√	√	√	X	X	√		√	√	√	7/11
Tucker*	X	√	X	√	√	√	√	X		Passed away Dec 2018		5/8	

* Yarnfield Ward Councillors