

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 22 JULY 2021 in TITTENSOR VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr (Mrs) N Adams (Chairman)  
Cllr P Bickerstaffe  
Cllr J Malkin  
Cllr T Love  
Cllr S Amison  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr (Mrs) D Bishop  
Cllr B Price

**In attendance** Kay Ong, Clerk to Swynnerton Parish Council  
Cllr R James, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)  
Mr Geoff Smith and Mr Chris Strumidlo from Balfour Beatty  
Me Joe Wilson, HS2 Liaison Officer  
Four members of the public including Mr T Underhill, Mr John Cummings, Mr Roger Townsend

**Apologies** Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)  
Cllr J Nixon, SBC

**1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman**

Cllr Adams welcomed everyone to the Meeting and invited Geoff Smith to make his presentation on behalf of Balfour Beatty, the contractor appointed by HS2 Ltd for the Junction15,M6 alterations.

**2. Public Participation Time**

**2.1** Geoff Smith is the Project Manager for Balfour Beatty at the Jnct 15 site where work will begin Mid-August. This work will comprise surveys including ground investigations at Newcastle Road - Hanchurch traffic lights section. Partial road closures will be necessary for three weeks from early August while 60-80m depth cores are taken and some night works will be necessary. Drainage surveys will then take place in late September.  
It is anticipated the traffic design will be settled in a few weeks which will not include a flyover. It is estimated that the detailed design will take 12 months with work beginning in late 2022. The overall design will make Newcastle Road a dual carriageway in both directions to alleviate congestion and that a footbridge has been proposed over the A500 for pedestrian/cycle access to and from Clayton. Further information packs would be circulated by the Clerk.

**2.2** Residents of Tittensor came to seek help and advice with traffic and footpath issues around the western part of the village – Winghouse Lane, Groundslow, Manor Farm Drive and Cedar Close to Beechdale Lane. The Clerk to raise issues with Highways. **ACTION: Clerk**

**Report from Borough Councillor**

**2.3** Cllr James again highlighted the importance of lateral flow testing. Stafford Borough Council had held its first full Meeting in Rising Brook since the outbreak of the pandemic.  
Freedom of Stafford had been granted to the British Legion for its outstanding work. Stone Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted.

**3. Close of Public Participation Time at 7.55pm.**

**Parish Council Meeting**

1. **Apologies for absence** As above.
2. **Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors to grant a dispensation S33 of the Localism Act 2011)** Cllr Amison declared an interest in Swynnerton ???.
3. **To approve the minutes** of the meeting held on 24 June 2021 and those of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 5 July 2021. Both sets of Minutes were approved.

Date .....

Cllr N Adams, Chairman.....

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes of meetings 24 June and 5 July 2021**

**4.1 Appointment of Parish Clerk**

It was **RESOLVED** that there is no requirement for a Clerk's vacancy to be advertised.  
It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Mrs K Ong be officially appointed as Parish Clerk.

There were no other matters arising from the minutes that were not covered later in the agenda.

**5. Clerk's Progress Report, Items not on the agenda**

An Action Sheet was distributed showing the progress of items from previous Minutes which will be attached to these Minutes. **Action: Clerk**

**6. Financial matters**

**6.1 July accounts for payment**

**RESOLVED** – That the accounts for June 2021 should be approved for payment. Accounts Statement attached to Minutes. **Action: Clerk**

**6.2 Banking Matters**

The Clerk and a previous Clerk met to visit NatWest Bank to sort out who is the account operator as Mrs Harrington Jones was still receiving our bank statements despite numerous letters sent. We were advised to go to Newcastle Branch but there was no certainty that this would alter the situation. Clerk to investigate possibly moving to an online bank with a chequing facility.

**7. Traffic issues in the Parish**

**7.1** Cllr Bickerstaffe was appointed Councillor in charge of all the SIDS in the Parish and would produce an analysis of results for the next meeting. **Action: PB**

**7.2** Purchase of more SIDS for Swynnerton and Tittensor. Also from Agenda Item 8.1 below, residents of Whitmore Road, Hanchurch have requested another SID be sited near to Hanchurch Village Hall. As this would be affected by the works about to begin on Newcastle Road and with HS2 in the offing, the Council agreed to see the outcome before committing funds. **Action: Clerk**

**8. Ward Matters – Swynnerton, Tittensor, Trentham issues raised by residents**

**8.1 Trentham See 7.2 above**

Cllr Love was advised that residents of Whitmore Road had already been advised about setting up a SpeedWatch as the best way to catch repeat speeding offenders. They should contact the Police if they want to learn more about this.

Cllr Adams reported that Trentham residents were having difficulty turning out of Fairway on to Whitmore Road (by the SID for eastbound traffic) as the tree canopy to the right is so dense, particularly on sunny days, it is like a tunnel and older cars do not have automatic headlights. Could the trees be trimmed back. **Action: Clerk**

**8.2 Swynnerton** - Cllr Amison to canvas residents of Frobisher Drive to see if anyone uses the bench in the hedgerow. If not, it may be removed to the fishing pond site but remains an SPC asset. Cllr Price also offered an old bench he has in his garden – both needing refurbishment. **Action: SA**  
Swynnerton Post Office is to close at the end of this year.

**8.3 Tittensor – urgent** repairs needed to play area and some pieces of equipment taped off. Cllr Malkin said that we should dot his as a matter of urgency for both play areas. The Clerk reported that the cost of quarterly inspections was £395 per play area which Councillors found expensive. Clerk to investigate repairs to both play areas from other companies as it would be good to have this sorted out early in the summer holidays. **Action: Clerk**

Mr Underhill, member of the public, said after the meeting that he would have a look at what needs to be done and see if he could do any of the repairs.

**9. Website and Facebook**

The Clerk had recently attended a Zoom Tutorial on 'Facebook – making it work for your Council'. Her notes will be typed up and circulated in due course. Cllr Bickerstaffe would pass on the access codes for our website to the Clerk.

**10. Casual Vacancy Process** The Clerk and Chairman informed the Council that this process had been followed to the letter. As soon as confirmation of whether an election is to be called or not from Trentham Ward is received from Stafford Borough Council's Elections Office, new notices of a vacancy will be posted on the noticeboards and website.

Date .....

Cllr N Adams, Chairman.....

**11. Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

- 11.1 Stafford Borough Council has circulated information about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the Borough next year
- 11.2 The Civic Parade and Reception in Stone has been rescheduled for 5 September 2021
- 11.3 SBC also circulated information and forms for nominations for the Community Awards 2021
- 11.4 Funtopia sent out a flyer for bouncy castles fun in Brampton Park, Newcastle for children 2-12 yrs and 13+.

- 12.** There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.  
The date of the next Meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be Thursday 26 August 2021 at 7.15pm in Swynnerton Village Hall.

Date .....

CIlr N Adams, Chairman.....