

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 VIA ZOOM**

Present: Cllr (Mrs) K Ong (Chairman)
Cllr (Mrs) N Adams
Cllr S Amison
Cllr P Bickerstaffe
Cllr (Mrs) J Malkin
Cllr E Mateu

In attendance Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC) *joined the meeting at 7.50 pm*
Cllr R James, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
1 member of the public

Apologies: Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr B Price
Cllr J Nixon, SBC

21/20 Welcome and Public Participation Time

Cllr Ong welcomed everyone to the meeting. A Tittensor resident reported on action taken to address problems of dog fouling in the village. Cllr Nixon SBC had arranged for the printing of 350 flyers which had been distributed by volunteers; painted boxes for poo bags had been placed at different sites; mini posters had been put up in the village. As there were 13 bins in the village there was really little excuse for dog fouling; residents were encouraged to use available channels to report offenders. A review would be held in four weeks to assess the impact of the measures. The Chairman congratulated residents on the proactive response to a problem.

21/21 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr James reported that the new Mayor would be Cllr T Nixon; Cllr Peter Jones would continue as Deputy Mayor. Council Tax had been set for 2021-2022; the Corporate Business Plan had been updated, and the Pay Policy signed off. A grant of £14.4m had been approved for the regeneration of the north end of Stafford. Residents were encouraged to sign up for the brown bin collection scheme. SBC was making good progress with the vaccination for Covid 19. Anyone who was in contact with the public was urged to get tested weekly.

Cllr Pert reported on the successful roll out of the vaccination programme. Residents were urged to be tested regularly to help monitor any spread of the South African strain of Covid 19. Appointments were not necessary and the test centres would be open for another two weeks. Infection levels in Staffordshire were the second lowest in the county, and below regional and national numbers.

Elections for Police Commissioners and SCC Councillors would take place on 6 May 2021; an application to vote by post could be downloaded from the SBC website.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs James and Pert for their reports and closed the public session of the meeting.

21/22 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Cheadle, Leeson, and Price, and these were accepted.

21/23 Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors to grant a dispensation S33 of the Localism Act 2011) There were no Declarations of Interest.

21/24 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 21 January 2021 should be approved and they were signed by the Chairman.

21/25 Matters arising from the Minutes and not covered in the agenda

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

21/26 Clerk's Report, Items not on the agenda

The Clerk had written to Trentham Golf Club concerning recent incidents of trees falling on to Whitmore Road.

21/27 Financial matters

21/27.i February 2021 accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses (EHJ)	423.65
Clerk's salary and expenses (MA, inc PAYE)	470.40
SPCA, Training course	50.00
Mazars, annual audit fee	240.00

Date

Cll K Ong, Chairman

E Challinor, refurbishment of notice boards 325.00
Total payments for February 2021 £1,509.05

RESOLVED – That the accounts for February 2021 should be approved for payment.

21/27.ii Consideration of planting programmes for Wards in 2021/2022

The Best Kept Village competition (BKV) would not be held during 2021, but the residents of Swynnerton and Tittensor planned to continue the work in each community. After discussion Councillors agreed to match previous financial payments to support planting schemes by local residents.

RESOLVED That previous financial support for planting costs in Swynnerton and Tittensor would continue in 2021.

A resident had been cutting the grass verge extending to the top of the hill out of Tittensor, and it was agreed that the contractor should be asked to add this to his schedule.

RESOLVED That the grass cutting schedule should be extended to the top of the hill on Winghouse Lane, Tittensor.

21/27.iii Consideration of purchase of latest edition of Arnold-Baker 'Local Council Administration'

RESOLVED That the latest edition of Arnold-Baker 'Local Council Administration' should be purchased.

21/27.iv Purchase of replacement printer

Councillors confirmed the previous decision to purchase a replacement printer.

21/28 Traffic issues in the Parish

21/28.i Update on installation of solar powered speed signs in Tittensor and Trentham Delivery of the SIDs from France was awaited; a local contractor had agreed to complete the installation on delivery.

A resident was checking the batteries for the SID in Swynnerton in case they need to be replaced; replacements can be obtained locally. Concerns had been expressed in Tittensor over light disturbance from the solar powered SIDs, and this would be monitored after installation.

21/28.ii Speed and volume of traffic through Tittensor village The Clerk had contacted Groundslow Residents Association for their view on installing an additional SID on Winghouse Lane and forwarded their proposal to SCC Highways for agreement.

21/28.iii Traffic issues on Whitmore Road, Trentham (Cllr Pert joined the meeting) Residents had raised a number of concerns over the speed and volume of traffic in the area. Several solutions had been suggested and it was agreed that a meeting between residents, Cllr Pert, the Chairman, SPC Councillors, and residents should be arranged for September 2021. A Community Speedwatch group would be able to supply hard data for the police, as would the solar powered SIDs when installed.

21/28.iv Consultations from SCC on proposals for traffic calming at Hatton, Trentham, Swynnerton, Tittensor Documents had been received from SCC as part of the consultation with statutory bodies on schemes for Hatton, Trentham, Swynnerton, Tittensor, and Yarnfield. It was agreed not to discuss the proposals for Yarnfield. Implementation of the schemes, if approved following a public consultation, would be carried out in the summer.

A proposal for the speed limit for the road between Cold Meece and Swynnerton to be 40 mph had now been revised to 50 mph, reducing to 30 mph in the village. Councillors were unhappy with the siting of the proposed build out and urged reconsideration of the scheme

After discussion Councillors agreed to support the proposals for double yellow lines around the War Memorial at Tittensor; double yellow lines at the junction of Northwood Lane and Ferndown Drive South; 40 mph limit at Hatton

RESOLVED That Councillors support the proposals by SCC for double yellow lines around the Tittensor War Memorial.

RESOLVED That Councillors support the proposals by SCC for 40 mph speed limit at Hatton.

RESOLVED That Councillors support the proposals for double yellow lines at the junction of Northwood Lane and Ferndown Drive South, Trentham.

RESOLVED That Councillors were opposed to the proposals for the centre of Swynnerton, and recommended reconsideration of the proposals for the siting of build outs in particular.

21/29 Ward matters Swynnerton, Tittensor, Trentham

21/29.i Trentham - Ferndown Play Area A quote had been requested from the installer for the repair to the zip wire; in addition the Clerk would seek additional quotes from two local sources.

21/29.ii Tittensor – flooding on Beechdale Lane The Lane floods regularly, with several vehicles being stuck recently. Cllr Pert reported that the problem was partly caused by a blocked gully, which should be cleared soon and the situation assessed.

Run off from fields in Beechcliffe Lane caused drains on Winghouse Lane to be blocked. Cllr Pert confirmed that the gully clearing programme was behind schedule and this situation was being urgently addressed. If approached, landowners were generally keen to support the community and avoid causing run off from their land.

21/29.iii Swynnerton An overgrown hedge which was impeding the pavement opposite the church was causing problems for residents. The Clerk would contact the landowner. **Action: Clerk**

21/30 Creation of Facebook page for Swynnerton Parish Council The Chairman and Cllr Amison would meet to discuss access and content; they would report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllrs Amison, Ong**

Date

Cll K Ong, Chairman

21/31 Consideration of proposal to amalgamate discussion of Planning matters within the Parish Council meeting, rather than a separate meeting After discussion Councillors agreed to continue with separate meetings.

21/32 Neighbourhood Plan, progress on submission of Plan Cllr James reported that the Local Plan for Stafford was being extensively rewritten to run from 2022 to 2050; significant changes to the national framework were awaited from central government; as a result policies in SPC Neighbourhood Plan would need to be rewritten. It was therefore agreed to remove any remaining references to Yarnfield, insert replacement maps and change the date to 2022 to 2050, and forward the Plan to SBC who will advise what changes will be required when they are known.

21/33 HS2, update on project Royal Assent has now been granted. Residents who live near the HS2 line have been invited to join the Construction Commissioners Steering Group. Cllr Amison confirmed he would apply. The Chairman of Stone Rural PC was also recommended as a member. The response by SPC to HS2 Phase 2a Consultation had been agreed and would be submitted.

21/34 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk Only routine items had been received by post. All relevant email correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant had telephoned to urge Councillors to nominate residents for inclusion in the Honours List for their service to their communities as Staffordshire was under represented.

Councillors presented Mrs Harrington-Jones with a gift to mark her retirement from service as Parish Clerk. The new Clerk, Mrs Maria Adams, will begin her duties on 1 March 2021.

21/19 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held via Zoom on Thursday 25 March 2021 at 7.15 pm. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm,