

MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on THURSDAY 26 AUGUST 2021 in HANCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr (Mrs) N Adams (Chairman)
Cllr P Bickerstaffe
Cllr (Mrs) 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)
Candidates for Casual Vacancy – Mrs P Cheadle, Mr. J. Lowther and Cllr. R. James

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 especially the three candidates for the Co-option vacancy.

2. Public Participation Time

2.1 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Pert sent information by email to the Clerk in case he couldn't make the Meeting in time.

2.2 Report from Borough Councillor

Cllr James reminded us of the importance of getting tested for coronavirus to help establish the number and pattern of positive cases in our borough.

He also requested that as our 23 September Meeting clashed with Stafford Borough's Parishes Forum, we could move our Meeting to 30 September if possible.

3. Close of Public Participation Time.

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) There were no Declarations for consideration.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021.

The Minutes were approved subject to the amendments at 4.1 and 4.2 detailing the votes cast requested by Cllr Bickerstaffe. Also, Cllr Amison requested that minute 7.2 be split to make clear that the Hanchurch request would not slow down the purchase of the Tittensor and Swynnerton SIDS. The Minutes were duly amended.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 22 July 2021 not covered later in the Agenda

There were no further matters raised.

5. The Co-option Vacancy

The three candidates were separately asked to speak to the Council on why they wanted to join and what they had to offer before replying to questions from Councillors. After a discussion without the candidates present, a secret ballot was taken. The candidate chosen as a result was Roy James. The Chairman thanked all the candidates for their interest and welcomed Cllr James to the Council.

Date

Cllr N Adams, Chairman.....

6 Clerk’s Progress Report, Items not on the agenda

An Action Sheet was distributed showing the progress of items from previous Minutes.

7. Financial matters

7.1 July Accounts for approval

RESOLVED – That the accounts for July 2021 should be approved for payment. An Accounts Statement was distributed, and a copy attached to Minutes.

Action: Clerk

7.2 Banking Matters

The Bank requires a minuted Resolution that the changes to the Mandate are the wish of the Council -

7.3 RESOLVED that the Authorised Signatories in the current Mandate for the accounts detailed in 1.3 of the Mandate be changed in accordance with Section 3.

7.4 Budget for 21/22

Cllr Malkin had previously circulated a draft Budget for Councillors to read before the Meeting. She advised that we have a good surplus for the coming year. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Budget 21/22 as circulated.

8. Traffic issues in the Parish

8.1 Cllr Bickerstaffe explained the results from the SIDs first month’s data collection. Council was surprised by the high percentages of drivers obeying the speed limit under 30mph and at under 35mph in all three locations. Councillors requested the pie chart and readable data be circulated to show to interested residents. Cllr Bickerstaffe offered to prepare a quarterly summary.

8.2 Purchase of another SID for Hanchurch by the Village Hall. Cllr Pert advised that it would be unlikely to be agreed as the footpath is too narrow along the length of Whitmore Road from Hanchurch traffic lights to the Village Hall. It is also the route of the major utilities. Making the whole length of Whitmore Road 30mph would also be impossible as the road does not meet the national parameters for 30mph speed limits.

8.3 The request for the 30mph sign on Winghouse Lane from the A51 end to be moved further towards The A51 to take in the newer developments at Groundslow. Clerk is to have a site meeting with a Highways representative when he comes back from holiday. **Action: Clerk**

9. Ward Matters – Swynnerton, Tittensor, Trentham issues raised by residents.
As the Neighbourhood Teams programme will not be resurrected this year, it was suggested that the Clerk contact Drake Hall Prison as groups of prisoners can work in the community. Contact John Fraser, Clerk to Yarnfield PC. **Action: Clerk**

9.1 Trentham

Cllr Love has eleven residents interested in setting up a SpeedWatch in Trentham/Hanchurch. He has been in touch with the Police Co-ordinator and confirms that the £430 quoted includes the signs, hi-viz jackets and the Speed detection device as well as the training. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would pay this sum providing sufficient numbers signed up for training.

9.2 Swynnerton

Councillor Amison’s canvassing of residents about the amount of use made of the bench on Main Road, Swynnerton was positive for locals, visiting ramblers and cyclists so it will remain in its present position though it needs refurbishing. **Action: SA**
The Council is unable to contribute towards the repair of the Church clock for legal reasons. It was felt that the £200 required could be raised easily locally with e.g., a Quiz Night. A letter is to be sent to the Churchwarden explaining our decision. **Action: Clerk**

9.3 Tittensor

Mr Underhill, member of the public, has repaired the urgent items in the play area, sourcing the parts from Wicksteeds himself. He is also going to have a look at Ferndown Reserve play area to see what he can do. It was **RESOLVED** that we should offer him £25 for each play area for his time on top of repayment for the spare parts but we will need invoices for both the spare parts and his time.

Clerk to contact Mr Underhill.

Action: Clerk

10. Website and Facebook

Cllr Adams advised the Council that she and the Clerk have been looking for alternative website hosts as our internal Auditors have concerns regarding accessibility and the Clerk finds it difficult to negotiate particularly the Minutes section. They were advised by another Clerk to look at the Staffordshire County Council website for Parish Councils which many PCs use.

It was agreed that our Facebook page could be used for posting local information, e.g. HS2 communications as long there is no option to comment. The prime object would be to point users to our website.

11. Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

11.1 The Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford will represent the Borough at a service to commemorate the Anniversary of the Battle of Britain on 12 September. There will follow a Wreath laying Ceremony at the Borough War Memorial at 1pm followed by a Freedom Parade through the Town Centre which is of course open to the public.

11.2 Sarah Ruff, Health and Wellbeing Community Support Officer, sent an information sheet about 'Connecting our Communities through Walking'.

11.3 Joe Wilson, Community Engagement Manager from HS2 Ltd has shared with us the sixth report that documents their progress in delivering the community commitments set out in the HS2 Community Engagement Strategy. If you are interested the Clerk will send you his email with the link to access the document.

11.4 The Clerk has received information about the SLCC (The Society for Local Council Clerks) which has been recommended to her as a useful aide to new clerks. Membership and Subscription Rates for a new unpaid Clerk is £50 p.a.. This was **APPROVED** for payment.

12. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.

The date of the next Meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be Thursday 30 September 2021 at 7.15pm in Hanchurch Village Hall.

Date

Cllr N Adams, Chairman.....