

MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Thursday 28 October 2021 in Tittensor Village Hall

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

In attendance Kay Ong, Clerk to Swynnerton Parish Council
Cllr R James, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Cllr J Pert, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
Seven residents from Swynnerton, Tittensor and Trentham

Apologies Cllr J Nixon, SBC

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting which included seven Parish residents from all Wards.

2. Public Participation Time – to consider matters raised by members of the public.

- i. Mrs Diane Rogers from Tittensor reported that she had not received the dog waste bags promised by Stafford Borough Council. Apparently, there are two bins along the A34 near the bus stop which are mostly unused. Mrs Rogers asked if one or both could be repositioned to areas where they would be used. Saul Hocking to be approached at SBC for assistance. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. Mrs Dawn Wibberley told the Council that reducing speed is very important to residents of Swynnerton. She also brought up putting mirrors on the wall opposite Early Lane to assist people turning out on to Main Road. Cllr Pert advised against using mirrors as they always have a blind spot and can give a false sense of safety when manoeuvring. Also, the owner of the wall would have to be consulted. Cllr Pert advised that double yellow lines were to be painted and a graduated speed reduction from Cold Meece from 50mph to 40mph and then 30mph when entering the village, backed up with SLOW road markings. He stated further that the Community Speed Watch Group sessions were a good demonstration of community will and reminded everyone that speeding is a criminal offence and is in the hands of the Police.
- iii. Cllr Bishop also reported that four Cazoo car transporters had come through Swynnerton recently despite the weight restriction signs and there had been considerable juddering and shaking felt within nearby homes in the Conservation area. **Action: Clerk**
- iv. David Butler asked why the flashing Speed sign in Swynnerton had disappeared. Cllr Amison said it wasn't providing any speed data so he and Cllr Bickerstaffe removed it and put it up in Tittensor so it could be monitored. The Chairman said that this had been done without the consent of the Council.
He also asked about the defective streetlamp on Weavers Walk. The Clerk advised that she had received a new invoice for work done in early October (apparently) which she recommended remained unpaid until they correctly identified our light from the maps and photos she had sent to EON for clarification. This action was **AGREED** by the Council.

3. 1. Report from Borough Councillor

Cllr James had little to report apart from a reminder to be lateral flow tested at least once a week and especially if you have been in contact with the general public.

DATED.....

SIGNED
Chairman

2. Report from County Councillor

- i. Cllr Pert reinforced Cllr James’s comment re Covid-19 testing and also emphasised the importance of getting the booster and flu jabs as 10,000 people in the Borough have not done so.
- ii. Cllr Pert said that he had spoken very strongly to HS2 about the issue of ‘lying’ Parish Councils. He also suggested that HS2 should increase the circulation of information e.g. road closures, to a wider audience.
- iii. Cllr Pert also confirmed that Whitmore Road from Hanchurch traffic lights to the A34 is not an agreed diversionary route for HS2 vehicles; the bus stop lines on Newcastle Road have been painted in again when this not a bus route and hasn’t been for many years. It will be taken off again. Cllr Pert also agreed that graduated speed notices should be used on the A519 through the bends at Beech.
- iv. Cllr Pert had attended a site walk around the Whitmore Road/Newcastle Road Trentham Park Golf Club boundary with the Chairman, Cllr Love and Keith Harvey (resident of Whitmore Road) to inspect the trees, etc.. The Clerk had also requested a copy of the Golf Club’s Tree Survey which we believe has been undertaken.

The Chairman closed the Public Participation Time.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- 1. **Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Cllr Nixon.
- 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 made.
- 3. **To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021.** They were **APPROVED** without amendment.
- 4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of 30 September 2021 not covered later in the Agenda**

Following the unpleasant meeting last month, and in light of the murder of another MP, Cllr Adams requested we review our own safety procedures in relation to our monthly meetings. For instance, to make sure we cannot be trapped with the public between us and the main doors or fire doors and also to develop a procedure for closing the meeting if it becomes unruly. **Action:Clerk/NA**

There were no further matters raised.

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

An Action Sheet was distributed showing the progress of items from previous Minutes. Under Min 22/5/21-5. Cllr Adams suggested that as this streetlight has been an issue for a long time, we might consider buying and having installed a new lamp, which we can agree with EON and start afresh. **Action: Clerk**

6. Financial matters

6.1 September Accounts for approval

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

6.2 Banking Matters

The Clerk has completed the Application for Online Banking and is waiting for a reply to an email regarding a hold up in their system which must be resolved by 3 November or we will have to start again.

Dated.....

Signed

- 6.3 Copies of the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return from our external auditors had been circulated to Councillors before the Meeting. No problems were raised.
- 6.4 Cllr Malkin raised the issue of our forthcoming budget requirements and suggested Councillors ask their residents what their priorities are that are within our remit.

Action: Council

7. Traffic issues in the Parish

- 7.1 Cllr Pert suggested we get hold of a copy of the 'Manual for Streets'. This would give us the opportunity of giving residents sight of the national criteria so as not to raise their expectations.
Action: Clerk
- 7.2 SIDs for Hanchurch and Tittensor – The Clerk will continue to contact Highways, (a new person now Tim Buxton has retired) for a site visit for confirmation as to whether it is possible or not in Hanchurch, and at the proposed Groundslow site in Tittensor.
- 7.3 The Clerk requested a new quotation from ElanCity for the two new SIDS to see the price difference. It is only £80 more per item inc, VAT with a discount of 7%. This was **ACCEPTED** by the Council. The lead time is 2-3 weeks.
- 7.4 Cllr Amison reported that the road markings in and around Swynnerton, particularly though the centre of the village, were almost non-existent and several locals have had near misses with cars well over the centre line on the bend by the War Memorial.
Action:Clerk
- 7.5 He also reported that the SLOW signs on the road from Hanchurch towards Swynnerton are very faint as are the bend signs, and chevrons are damaged.
Action:Clerk

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

- 8.1 **Trentham** - CSW operations are on-going now the first volunteers are trained. Five people came to the first session but more are being processed through the police system. The CSW co-ordinator, Michelle, has asked if we would purchase six new CSW permanent signs as the old ones from Swynnerton CSW were cracked. The cost would be £120 in total. This was **APPROVED** by the Council.
Cllr Love asked about purchasing large paper poppies to be attached to lampposts along Whitmore Road and Newcastle Road. This would be investigated for next year and also whether Highways would object to the lampposts being used for this purpose.
- 8.2 **Swynnerton** - Preparations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was **AGREED** that Councillors would go back to their Wards to see what ideas residents had if any. Swynnerton hopes to have a beacon up by the toposcope and bunting (Union flag?) round the village. The Clerk will investigate the possible cost of a metal basket on a pole which is fired by LPG cylinder.
- 8.3 **Tittensor** – Dog waste bin for Winghouse Lane. See PPTime – first paragraph.
Cllr Bickerstaffe asked if funding would also be available if Tittensor also wanted to begin a CSW should he find sufficient volunteers. This was **AGREED** in principle by Councillors.
The possibility of graduated speed signs at the Groundslow area of Tittensor, from 50mph to 40mph and then 30mph with a SID to reinforce the message was raised. The Clerk will try again to reach the new Highways officer as he should have this on his to do list.
Action:Clerk

9. Clerk Training and employment contract

The Clerk had been given the standard NALC employment contract by SPCA and a similar document from SLCC neither of which is really appropriate as the Clerk is not yet employed and is a volunteer. Cllr James produced an Employment Agreement which might suffice. Cllr Adams will contact Andrew McRae to discuss this.
Action: NA
As far as training is concerned, the Clerk is not against taking up the offer of the CILCA qualification, but she would rather see a whole year in the Clerk's role first. There is no CILCA training available until next spring. The Council's liability insurance to be checked for an unpaid Clerk.
Action:Clerk

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10. Website and Facebook

Since Councillors approved the 'Silver' option available from SCC digital team, Cllr James has contacted SCC to see what the 'Gold' version offered. He explained it offers a fortnightly in-depth security check as opposed to a standard monthly check. The difference in price is £25 pa. Council **APPROVED** the upgrade especially as hacking has been so much in the news of late. Further details to be obtained. **Action:Clerk**

The Clerk has started posting information on the Council's Facebook page. Cllr Amison suggested www.google.drive.com to assist.

11. Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

Most correspondence is received by email and has already been circulated.

12. HS2 – Phase 2a

It was **AGREED** that there should be a meeting arranged between HS2 representatives, residents of the Parish, Staffordshire County and Borough Councillors, and Swynnerton Parish Councillors. It was further **AGREED** that the Ward Councillors will be Cllr James, Cllr Amison and Cllr Malkin, and Cllr James who would chair the meeting. No date or venue has been set as yet.

13. The date of the next Meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be Thursday 25 November 2021 at 7.15pm in Swynnerton Village Hall.

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

DATED.....

SIGNED.....
Chairman