

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
held on Thursday 30 September 2021 in Hanchurch Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr (Mrs) N Adams (Chairman)  
Cllr P Bickerstaffe  
Cllr B Price  
Cllr T Love  
Cllr S Amison  
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 Newcastle Road and Whitmore Road

**Apologies** Cllr J Nixon, SBC  
Cllr (Mrs) J Malkin  
Cllr E Mateu

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

**The Meeting commenced at 8.05pm when sufficient Councillors had made it through the gridlocked traffic for the Meeting to be quorate. Further Councillors arrived later.**

Cllr Adams welcomed everyone to the Meeting including seven members of the public from Trentham Ward. who wanted to discuss the ongoing problems with HS2 works in the area of Newcastle Road from the M6 roundabout to Hanchurch traffic lights, and Whitmore Road down to Trentham.

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

Their main concerns were:-

- i. The incidence of four trees falling down this year across the road from the thicket along the south side of Whitmore Road; clearing the weeds and bushes growth across the footpath from the junction of Whitmore Road and the A519 Newcastle Road heading towards Beech. Cllr Pert explained that this was a matter for the landowners (Trentham Golf Club). SPC and residents to write to landowners stating their complaint. **Action: Clerk**
- ii. Increased pollution – above EU standards on at least two occasions recently. Pollution detectors should be fitted on to lampposts. **SBC issue: Cllr James to investigate**
- iii. HGV lorries have been using Whitmore Road to avoid the M6 Junction. Is this an agreed diversion and if so, agreed by whom? **Action: Clerk**
- iv. With traffic as heavy as tonight due to a motorway pile-up, it might be an idea to stop vehicles trying to overtake along Whitmore Road by painting a solid white line down the middle and/or use average speed cameras to slow cars down. **Cllr Pert to investigate**
- v. Councillor Pert (SCC) informed the residents that SCC (Highways) has to abide by the Highways Manual and can't go against the National guidance for setting speed limits, etc. Whitmore Road to the Trentham signpost will remain 40mph. He also said that chicanes are very expensive to build and generally create more problems. However, he strongly approved of setting up a Community Speed Watch and had previously recommended this as it involves the Police. **Action: Cllr Love**
- vi. The request for another SID to be sited along Whitmore Road had previously been turned down on the grounds that the footpath (houses side only) is far too narrow to allow passage for a wheelchair around the pole without going into the road. It is also the primary route of the main utilities. Mrs Lisa Creswell said that she would offer part of her front garden to house the SID if it meant walkers were made safer by installing it. She was thanked for her generous offer and was advised that the Council would look into it further.

Date .....

Cllr N Adams, Chairman.....

## 2.1 Report from County Councillor

In addition to the above, Cllr Pert advised that the greatest transmission of Covid-19 is through Senior Schools and although case numbers were rising, the number of fatalities and hospital admissions continued to fall. Our local vaccination rate is very good with Staffordshire one of the top four areas in the country. Booster jabs and flu jabs are now being rolled out. Take up among 12-15 yr olds is very good and positive.

As the chicane idea wasn't welcomed in Swynnerton, the use of double yellow lines will be used in the centre of the village as it is important to push cars up the road to safer parking places. Cllr Pert thought that the lead-in to the village should be staged, i.e. 50mph to 40mph and then 30mph as the safer option.

## 2.2 Report from Borough Councillor

Once again, 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.

## 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 was one declaration of interest from Cllr Bickerstaffe.

3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021** which had been subject to amendments. They were so **APPROVED**.

**To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2021.** They were **APPROVED** without amendment.

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

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.

6. **Financial matters**

6.1 **August Accounts for approval**

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

6.2 **Banking Matters**

The Bank Mandate has been completed and submitted and an advisor from the Business Customer Service is doing her best to expedite matters as we are unable to pay our creditors without the new signatories being approved by NatWest.

6.3 It was **RESOLVED** that purchase of spring bulbs for each Ward to plant should proceed together with the purchase of Poppy Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday at the two War Memorials :

**Action: NA/ Clerk**

6.4 It was further **RESOLVED** that the annual payment of £500 to each Village Hall should proceed.

**Action: Clerk**

Date .....

Cllr N Adams, Chairman.....

**7. Traffic issues in the Parish**

- 7.1 The Clerk has offered the SIDs data to Staffordshire Police but has had no response as yet. It was also suggested that it be shared with SCC Highways. There was no objection to this. **Action: Clerk**
- 7.2 SID for Hanchurch and Tittensor – The Clerk is still trying to make an appointment with Tim Buxton (Highways) for a site visit here for confirmation as to whether it is possible or not, and at the proposed Groundslow site in Tittensor.
- 7.3 Swynnerton, Early Lane residents contacted the Clerk to ask about fixing a couple of mirrors to the wall on the wall opposite the Early Lane entrance/exit on to the Main Road to help drivers get out of Early Lane. Councillors felt this is a matter for the residents to discuss directly with the owner of the proposed site for the mirrors

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

- 8.1 A Swynnerton lady and her husband are to fundraise for a ‘Lest we Forget’ black metal bench with the suggestion of placing it on the War Memorial triangle. Although Councillors were appreciative of the idea, they felt that the triangle was too small and that the design of the bench was too modern to be placed adjacent to the ancient buildings which are all compatible. Councillors suggested other sites might be considered depending on the landowners.
- 8.2 Another Swynnerton resident enquired about planting Spring bulbs along the railings on either side of the main Road heading south towards Eccleshall and on the triangle between Frobisher Drive and Weavers Walk where he would like to put a small plaque to remember those village residents who lost their lives to Covid-19. The bulbs had already been agreed and he was advised to approach Swynnerton Gardens Residents Association Ltd about the plaque.

**9. Website and Facebook**

- 9.1 As time is running short before Avdec Ltd’s association with SPC’s website expires and the new website builders are unlikely to produce our new website before December, Avdec director, Councillor Bickerstaffe, kindly offered to extend the period of hosting for another month (to 3 November 2021). SPCA and our internal auditors have confirmed that having a new website under construction was sufficient reason for a website to be inoperative for a few weeks, as long as residents were informed of the break by other methods and given alternative opportunities to contact the Clerk for information otherwise posted on the existing website. Councillors **APPROVED** the appointment of the Staffordshire County Council digital team to supply the Silver grade website.
- 9.2 The Clerk has now taken over the administration of the Facebook account and is currently investigating whether this is considered a suitable platform to use to post all our statutory documents until our new website is up and running. **Action: Clerk**

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

- 10.1 Highways England sent out information about resurfacing work on the A500 which was circulated.
- 10.2 Landmark (MoD) sent out information about increased noise levels including explosions coming from Swynnerton Training Camp. This was circulated.
- 10.3 Councillors have been sent the links to Stafford Borough Council press releases concerning the £2.5m spend on leisure in Stone and the ice rink to be erected in Victoria Park in Stafford and other attractions over the Christmas period.

11. The date of the next Meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be Thursday 28 October 2021 at 7.15pm in Tittensor Village Hall.

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