

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2020 IN TITTENSOR VILLAGE HALL**

- Present:** Cllr (Mrs) K Ong (Chairman)
Cllr (Mrs) N Adams
Cllr P Bickerstaffe
Cllr D Butler
Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr (Mrs) J Malkin
Cllr E Mateu
- In attendance** Cllr J Nixon, SBC
Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
21 members of the public
- Apologies:** Cllr N Leeson
Cllr B Price
Cllr J Pert, SCC
Cllr R James, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)

20/51 Welcome and Public Participation Time

Cllr Ong welcomed everyone to the meeting. A number of Tittensor residents had attended to raise concerns over the behaviour of residents at The Groundslow, Stone Road, Tittensor. Due to Covid 19 restrictions implemented by the government and Tittensor Hall Management Committee, no more than 21 residents could be allowed entry to the building.

A copy of a leaflet circulated round the village earlier was handed to the Chairman. Residents reported a year of anti-social behaviour, noise pollution, and nuisance, since the home opened. Residents stressed they were not blaming the children, but believed the home to have been sited in the wrong location and near to several retirement properties. Residents believed there was insufficient recreation and outdoor space provision; those residents in neighbouring properties were unable to use their gardens due to the noise, obscene language and gestures; food had been thrown over the fences, and damage had been done by stones thrown over fences, and on occasion bricks had been thrown over. Although staff would come round to apologise for unpleasant incidents, and compensation would be paid for damage caused, residents felt the incidents should not have been allowed to happen.

Concerns were raised over the safety of the children, who on occasion had been seen climbing out of upper storey windows or exiting skylights; a child had had to be restrained when found in the churchyard; children had begged for cigarettes in the village. Residents reported that staff smoked outside the property.

The Clerk explained that Parish Councils were not given prior notice of the change of use of a property to a children's home as they were approved by use of a Local Development Certificate (LDC) and not a planning application for Change of Use, being classed as a domestic dwelling.

After discussion the meeting agreed that the Clerk should write in the first instance to Unity Care, the management company for the home, to ask them to address the public nuisance caused by the home's residents, and concern for the safety of the young people; the Clerk would also contact SCC for further information on the commissioning of services from Unity Care. Cllr Nixon would make enquiries with SBC about a statutory notice, and pass on details of the Local Safeguarding Officer so concerns over the safety of the children could be raised. Residents would consider raising concerns with their local MP.

Action: Clerk, Cllr Nixon SBC

Residents were urged to keep diaries of incidents and report them by letter or email so that a full record would be available

A resident reported that the number of Wm Gilder HGVs travelling through the village seemed to have diminished in the past few weeks.

The Chairman thanked all the residents who had attended, and assured them the Parish Council would do all it could to assist them with the problems they had experienced.

20/52 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Apologies had been received from Cllr Pert SCC and Cllr James SBC. Cllr Pert had reported to the Chair that work was continuing to prepare public consultations on proposals for traffic calming measures for build-outs in the centre of Swynnerton, and proposals for double yellow lines at sites in the Parish. A request had been made for a 40 mph speed limit between Eccleshall and Swynnerton, which would also go out to consultation. The government's 'Eat Out to Help Out' campaign had been very successful locally.

Cllr Nixon SBC reported that he had met residents of Whitmore Road, Trentham, and 47 volunteers had come forward for the proposed Speedwatch group. Residents had been very pleased that the order had been placed for permanent solar powered flashing speed signs (SIDs) on Whitmore Road and Northwood Lane, and would continue to press SCC Highways and the police for action on the traffic issues in the area.

Work was continuing on the feasibility of a garden village at Meece Brook and further information should be available in the next few weeks.

Date

Cll K Ong, Chairman

Proposals had been made by national government for the establishment of unitary authorities, merging Borough and County Councils, as a cost saving measure. The Chairman thanked Cllr Nixon for his report and closed the public session of the meeting.

20/53 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Leeson and Price, and these were accepted. Cllrs Pert (SCC) and James (SBC) had sent their apologies,

20/54 Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

No Declarations of interest had been received.

20/55 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2020

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 30 July 2020 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/56 Clerk's Report, Items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that she had written to the Friends of Ferndown to thank them for forwarding their remaining funds to the Parish Council; Mr Challoner has secured the screws on play equipment at Ferndown p (20/43.i, 20/45.iii). SCC Enforcement had been contacted about the soil treatment plant at Cold Meece, and will visit the site (20/44.iii). Lord Stafford's Estate has been contacted about the hedge in Swynnerton and will cut the hedge back further if requested (20/45.i). The earthworks to the south of the village had apparently been cleared on instruction from Cllr Pert.

20/57 Financial matters

2057.i August accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses	436.16
Hanchurch Village Hall	500.00
Tittensor Village Hall	500.00
Trentham Village Hall	500.00
E Challinor, moving sign, checking play equipment	75.00
John Green Landscapes	576.00
C Heelis, audit	75.00

Total payments for August 2020 **£2,662.16**

RESOLVED – That the accounts for August 2020 should be approved for payment.

2057.ii To receive the governance statements on Annual Return for financial year 2019/2020

RESOLVED That the governance statements on Annual Return for financial year 2019/20 should be approved.

2057.iii To receive the accounting statement on Annual Return for financial year 2019/2020

RESOLVED That the accounting statement on Annual Return for financial year 2019/2010 should be approved.

20/58 Traffic issues in the Parish

20/58.i Update on installation of solar powered speed signs

The order had been placed for three solar powered SIDs for Trentham and one for Tittensor. Delivery was expected late autumn. A fifth unit for the site at the south of Swynnerton would be ordered in the autumn. Suitable posts had also been ordered through SCC.

20/58.ii Reporting of traffic and road issues to SCC

Cllr Bickerstaffe reported on the difficulties experienced in reporting issues, particularly if urgent, to SCC Highways as the only communication is via email or an app. There had recently been a diesel spill in Tittensor, resulting in a traffic accident; the only means of reporting the incident urgently was via the police using the '101'; or '999' numbers. It had taken time for the incident to be sorted out as the cleaning crews had attended the wrong site (Chase Lane rather than Winghouse Lane). Other problems in reporting issues in the Parish were discussed, including the necessity of making three separate reports if a road sign is obscured, and the difficulty in identifying which category an incident should be reported to.

20/60 Ward matters Swynnerton, Tittensor, Trentham

There were no further matters raised; Tittensor issues had been discussed during the public question time.

20/61 To confirm and adopt Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment, Code of Conduct

The Internal Auditor had stated that the above documents should be confirmed and adopted annually, and not at the Annual Meeting which would be held in 2021 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Clerk would edit Standing Orders to remove the word 'Model'.

Date

Cll K Ong, Chairman

RESOLVED That Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment, Code of Conduct should be confirmed and adopted.

20/62 Website

Cllr Bickerstaffe urged greater use of the website, which could be used to provide more up to date information on the Parish and be interactive for opinion gathering through the use of polls,

20/63 Letter of thanks from the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire for Covid service in communities Trentham Councillors discussed possible recipients and agreed to send cards to Tittensor and Swynnerton Post Offices and the Fitzherbert Arms, Swynnerton. **Action: Clerk**

20/64 Neighbourhood Plan, progress on submission of Plan

After discussion Councillors agreed that as almost all the work was completed the Clerk should investigate the possibility of applying for further grant funding to cover the cost of employing a professional to complete the Plan, amending it to cover the removal of any matter relating to the former Yarnfield Ward. **Action: Clerk**

20/65 HS2, update on project

Residents of Hanchurch Crossroads were expecting to submit their Petition to the House of Lords on 16 September 2020, along with SRCG and residents of Yarnfield. No date had yet been set for the annual meeting between HS2 and residents affected by the project, which would be virtual despite the clear majority of residents having stated a preference for a face-to-face meeting.

20/66 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk reported that playing equipment brochures, bank statements and cheque books had been received; relevant email correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors. SBC had emailed earlier in the day to ask for reports on how Parish Councils have coped with Covid 19 and how they have assisted residents.

20/67 Date of next meeting

After discussion Councillors agreed that the September meeting should be moved to Thursday 17 September to avoid clashing with SBC Parish Forum meeting, and would be held in Swynnerton Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed.