

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JULY 2020 IN SWYNNERTON 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 Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
1 member of the public

Apologies: Cllr N Leeson
Cllr B Price
Cllr J Pert, SCC
Cllr R James, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Cllr J Nixon, SBC

20/36 Welcome and Public Participation Time

Cllr Ong welcomed everyone to the meeting after a break of several months. A Swynnerton resident raised concerns over a very overgrown hedge on a sharp bend at the south of the village, which obstructed the pavement and was hazardous for pedestrians. After discussion Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to the occupier of the property and request that the hedge be cut back.

Action: Clerk

20/37 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Pert reported that he had been contacted by residents on Whitmore Road, Trentham, who were hoping to set up a Speedwatch Group to combat the problems of speeding traffic along the road.

Cllr Nixon had also been contacted by Whitmore Road residents with concerns about speeding traffic; he had delivered leaflets throughout the Parish, and was pushing for Amey to complete the work of removing the grassed area from the front of the bus shelter south of Swynnerton.

The Clerk had written to two residents on Whitmore Road and updated them on the Parish Council's plans to install permanent flashing speed signs (SIDs) at two sites on Whitmore Road and one on Northwood Lane, Trentham.

The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

20/38 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Leeson and Price, and Cllrs Pert (SCC), James (SBC), and Nixon (SBC) and these were accepted.

20/39 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.

20/40 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2020

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 20 February 2020 should be approved and signed by the Chairman.

20/41 Clerk's Report, Items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that the business of the Parish Council had continued during Covid 19 restrictions. There had as yet been no decision made on the resumption of Civic Amenity vehicle visits. All other matters would be considered as agenda items.

20/42 To award dispensations for Councillors unable to attend meetings due to Covid 19 restrictions

The 6 month rule states that if a Councillor fails to attend a meeting for 6 consecutive months then they cease to be a Councillor.

RESOLVED to grant dispensations to Councillors unable to attend meetings due to Covid 19 restrictions.

20/43 Financial matters

2043.i To note transactions made between March and June 2020

Expenditure between March and June 2020 is as follows;

March	Clerk's salary and expenses	321.55
	HMRC/NI	200.20
	SPCA subscription	350.00
	E Challinor, gate repairs sign	122.00

Date

Cll K Ong, Chairman

	Avdec, web hosting	72.00	
	SBC Election Recharges	<u>285.43</u>	1,351.18
April	Clerk's salary and expenses	471.04	
	D Malley, payroll	<u>81.00</u>	552.04
May	Clerk's salary and expenses	450.60	
	Defibrillator battery	216.00	
	BHIB insurance cover	<u>782.47</u>	1,449.07
June	Clerk's salary and expenses	676.82	
	HMRC PAYE/NI	303.40	
	E Challinor, moving sign	<u>55.00</u>	1,035.22

Councillors confirmed the payments made between March and June 2020.

The Friends of Ferndown were no longer operating, and had forwarded their remaining funds of £1,960.87 towards the upkeep of the play area at Ferndown Nature Reserve.

20/43.ii July accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered –

Clerk's salary and expenses	457.44
E Challinor, moving sign, replacing swing seat	75.00
Play-Ground Supplies, replacement cradle swing seat	126.00
John Green Landscapes	<u>576.00</u>
Total	1,234.44

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

20/43.iii. To consider financial contributions to village halls as in previous years

Swynnerton Parish Council has previously contributed £500 annually towards each of the three village halls (Swynnerton, Tittensor, and Hanchurch) in the Parish as a means of supporting an important village asset. Tittensor has submitted an invoice for £200 for the rental of the play area; as the Parish Council pays all maintenance and expenses of the play area this is normally deducted from the £500 grant so that each village hall receives the same amount. After discussion it was agreed to continue this practice.

RESOLVED That £500 should be paid to Swynnerton, Tittensor, and Hanchurch Village Halls.

20/44 Traffic issues in the Parish

Cllr Bickerstaffe had reported to SCC Highways the damage to a traffic sign in Tittensor.

20/44.i Update on installation of solar powered speed signs

Quotations had been received for the provision of 4 SIDs (3 in Trentham, 1 in Tittensor) at a cost of £2,119.90 per unit, or 3 SIDs (3 in Trentham) at a cost of £2,164.80. The provision and installation of poles would be an additional cost and an estimate for this should be received within the next two weeks. After discussion Councillors agreed that four solar powered SIDs for Tittensor and Trentham should be purchased and installed as soon as possible, and that an order should be placed for an additional solar powered SID for the south of Swynnerton in September/October when the second tranche of the precept had been received.

RESOLVED That 4 solar powered solar powered flashing speed signs should be purchased for Trentham and Tittensor Wards, with a further solar powered flashing speed sign for Swynnerton to be purchased in September/October.

20/44.ii Public consultations on traffic calming/double yellow lines etc

There was no progress to report.

Cllr Mateu reported that the Swynnerton Speedwatch Group had met earlier in the day; traffic would seem to have reverted to pre Covid 19 levels, as 15 drivers had been recorded exceeding the speed limit with two drivers recorded travelling at 50+ mph.

Cllr Malkin reported that Wm Gilder vehicles were not delivering to or collecting from a local farm as claimed, and would continue to monitor their vehicle movements.

The road by the soil treatment centre at Cold Meece was still very muddy and dangerous, and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact SCC Enforcement again to make them aware of the situation. **Action: Clerk**

20/45 Ward matters

20/45.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

The oil drums outside the military base at Cold Meece were extremely unsightly but were outside the Parish Council boundary.

The Clerk would investigate who had tidied the path area south of the village. **Action: Clerk**

20/45.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

The drain at the end of Beechcliffe Lane had still not been cleared. **Action: Clerk**

Date

Cll K Ong, Chairman

20/45.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents

The three telegraph poles would no longer be installed in the Conservation Area on Trentham Golf Course land. Damage to the Grade II listed bridge on Golf Club land had been reported to SBC Conservation Officer. The Clerk would consult with the former Chairman of the Friends of Ferndown for advice on where to site a notice at the play area giving details of procedures to follow in an emergency. **Action: Clerk**
The Clerk reported slight movement on two items of equipment at the play area and it was agreed to ask Mr Challinor to investigate. **Action: Clerk**

20/46 Review of Local Plan for Stafford

No progress had been reported since February..

20/47 Neighbourhood Plan, progress on submission of Plan

Updates on the information submitted in the questionnaires were still awaited from Cllr James (SBC). The Clerk had the original questionnaires and would analyse them and report back to the September meeting. **Action: Clerk**

20/48 HS2, update on project

Trentham residents were hoping to present their Petition to the House of Lords in the autumn. They had declined the offer of a virtual presentation, preferring to present their Petition in person. HS2 were obliged to hold an annual meeting with parish councils affected by the project; Swynnerton PC had stated their preference for an actual meeting rather than a virtual meeting.

20/49 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

The Clerk reported that only routine correspondence had been received; relevant email correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors.

20/50 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 27 August at Tittensor Village Hall. Councillors considered the arrangements that had been put in place for the meeting that had just been held, and agreed they had worked well. After discussion Councillors agreed that the wearing of face masks at future meetings should be voluntary, unless government instructions instructing otherwise were issued. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and declared the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.