

MAY CATCH UP - SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Councillors

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Apart from the dispute over kissing gates on Footpath 18, the Parish seems to have been very quiet with lockdown continuing, although thankfully things are beginning to ease now.

Tittensor, HGVs along Winghouse Lane

A resident of Winghouse Lane has copied me in on a complaint she has made to a local firm (Wm Gilder) about the use their HGV vehicles are making of Winghouse Lane, the speed they are travelling, and the resulting pollution. I have thanked her for keeping the Parish Council informed.

Play Areas

I am continuing to check the play areas weekly. There is little evidence of people using them, and the grass is being cut regularly so that they look tidy. Particularly at Tittensor, the grass has benefited from a long period of not being used, as the worn patches are usually commented on at the annual inspection, and they in particular are currently much improved. I have agreed with John Green Landscapes that they will carry out reduced grass cutting during the current dry spell, but will tidy up where the weeds are continuing to grow.

HS2

I have registered interest in the archaeology briefing and am awaiting further details.

I have received the following update -

The Department for Transport has extended the remit of the current High Speed 2 (HS2) Independent Construction Commissioner to cover Phase 2a, the route between the West Midlands and Crewe, in addition to Phase One (London to Birmingham). The role of the Independent Construction Commissioner is to investigate matters that have not reached a satisfactory conclusion through HS2 Ltd's complaints process.

The Commissioner, Sir Mark Worthington OBE, provides independent, impartial decisions as well as advice on how to make a complaint, and builds relationships across industry and community groups, local authorities, HS2 Ltd and its contractors.

The Commissioner also mediates in unresolved disputes between HS2 Ltd and individuals or bodies, including claims under the small claims scheme. He monitors complaints, provides reports marking trends and provides advice on how to reduce the instance of complaints where possible.

Renewal of insurance cover

The insurance cover is now due for renewal.

The Parish Council has come to the end of a 3-year agreement where the premium had been set at a discounted rate of £770.15 pa; BHIB are offering to renew the cover for a further 3 years with the premium set at £782.47 pa.

Defibrillator, Swynnerton

Swynnerton & Yarnfield W I have written to ask if the Parish Council would meet the cost of a replacement battery for the defibrillator. The current battery was supposed to last for 5 years and has in fact survived for 6, so they have had good value for it! The cost will be £216, including VAT.

Finance Statement

The finance statement for May is attached; the expenses are my salary and the cost of the defibrillator battery and the insurance cover.

Planning

The following planning decision has been made:

20/32046/HOU

ALLOWED

31 The Parkway, Trentham

Demolish existing conservatory to front elevation and erect single storey extension to front elevation

The following planning application has been received:

20/32318/FUL

Harleythorn House, Harley Thorn Lane, Beech

Variation of condition 2 and 8 on planning application 19/30620/FUL

This is the new house that Lord Stafford is planning. There are proposed changes to some materials, a new plant room, and moving the proposed dwelling – the building is within the Green Belt.

Parish Council Meetings and Zoom meetings

I took part in Zoom training last week, and will join a Clerks' meeting next week so feel more confident about using the system. I do have reservations about effectively including members of the public, so am keeping my fingers crossed that we will all be able to meet normally soon and not have to utilise Zoom. Yarnfield held a Zoom Parish Council meeting last week – members of the public were invited to submit questions beforehand and could follow the proceedings on Facebook, which is far from ideal.

I hope you all continue to keep well and safe, and that it will not be too long until the Parish Council can meet again.

With kind regards