

## **MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Thursday 24 February 2022 in Swynnerton Village Hall

**Councillors in attendance** : Peter Bickerstaffe (Vice-Chairman), Jo Malkin, Terry Love, Stefan Amison, Roy James (also SBC), Brian Price, Enrique Mateu, SCC Cllr Jeremy Pert.

Three members of the public were also in attendance.

**Apologies received** – Nicky Adams (Chairman), Dee Bishop and accepted.

### **Public Question Time**

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and invited the residents to speak.
2. To consider matters raised by members of the public.
  - a. A resident raised the issue of the lack of information on the Council's website and Facebook.
  - b. A resident raised the problem of flooding in Tittensor at Beechdale Lane and Winghouse Lane.

### **Reports from County and Borough Councillors**

1. Cllr Pert explained that the current pressure on County Council services was very great at present but problems on Winghouse Lane had been attended to that morning. He had also requested that the gulleys be cleared/pumped every two years in future.
2. Cllr James advised the Council that SBC had approved the precept and the increase is 1.9% overall. There has been no increase in brown bin charges or parking charges.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

1. Apologies for absence – as above.
2. Declarations of interest, to consider written requests from Councillors to grant a dispensation (under S33, Localism Act, 2011). None were received.
3. To approve the Minutes of the last Meeting on 25 January 2022 – duly APPROVED and signed
4. Matters arising from the Minutes – there were none.
5. The safety of Councillors and the public at Meetings – deferred to next Meeting.
6. Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the Agenda – See Action Sheet

### **7. Financial Matters**

- 7.1 January 2022 expenditure for approval – duly APPROVED and signed.

7.2. Banking Matters – online banking update.

The Clerk explained the problems with the current banking arrangements. She also recommended to the Council an online bank that Staffordshire Parish Councils Association has just joined and are so far proving satisfactory - Unity Trust Bank plc. Cllr James proposed we open an account with them to run in parallel with Natwest until we have the new accounts up and running. Cllr Amison seconded the proposal and the Council APPROVED the motion. **Action: Clerk**

**8. Traffic Issues within the Parish**

8.1. Cllr Bickerstaffe reported that the SIDS in spy mode showed a definite increase in the speed of traffic which dropped back as soon as normal mode was used.

Cllr Amison requested a new battery charger for the non-solar SID from Elan City and asked about the possibility of converting it to solar power. **Action: Clerk**

**9. Ward Matters raised by residents**

9.1. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee preparations.

**Tittensor** – The various village organisations are working together and have produced a draft timetable of events to be confirmed.

**Swynnerton** – celebration plans are centred on Swynnerton Hall. The front lawn has been offered to Swynnerton residents for a ticket-only celebration tea party. Cllr Amison also has requested the purchase of a beacon which will be sited at the Cricket Club.

**Trentham and Hanchurch** – no plans have been suggested to the Council as yet. It was proposed that the Clerk contact Roy Clarke (ex-Chairman of Friends of Ferndown) to see if anyone from the old group could be contacted with a view, for example, to hold a picnic on the top field of the Nature Reserve. **Action: Clerk**

9.2. All Speedwatch groups have been impeded by roadworks and extreme weather conditions. It was agreed between the three co-ordinators that they might share their trained watchers if numbers are falling and also advertise for more people to be trained. New groups are still waiting for the new police Speedwatch signs which are on order.

9.3. Via Cllr Pert, a Tittensor resident, Anthea Lavene, requested a bench to be sited on the triangle outside the Post Office in Tittensor in memory of her late father, Albert Holmes, who had been a significant figure in Tittensor for most of his life. She would buy the bench and asked the PC to liaise with County Council on her behalf. It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Amison and duly APPROVED by the majority of Councillors. **Action: Clerk**

**10. Website and Facebook**

The Clerk will have both operational next month. **Action: Clerk**

**11. Neighbourhood Plan update**

Date .....

Signed.....  
Chairman

Cllr James informed the Meeting that our NP is almost at the point of being checked by SBC prior to being put out to residents for consultation. He has also acquired a new map of Swynnerton Parish Council boundaries which he will send to the Clerk.

12. **Correspondence etc. received by Clerk**

All general emails are already circulated to Councillors. Late additions are the dates for the Civic Amenity Vehicle visits which will go on Facebook and the noticeboards as per usual.

Cllr Malkin asked to advise the council about the possibility of acquiring a thermal imaging camera to show the heat loss areas on residents' homes. Cllr James requested that if we decide to offer this to our residents, we should also link this to Stafford Borough Council for their advice on heat loss reduction. He will talk to SBC about us acquiring one. **Action: RJ**

13. The next meeting will be held at 7.15pm on 24 March 2022 in Swynnerton Village Hall. The Chairman closed this Meeting at 8.50pm.

Date .....

Signed .....  
Chairman