

MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 24 March 2022 in Swynnerton Village Hall

Councillors in attendance : Mrs Nicky Adams, Chairman
Cllr Peter Bickerstaffe, Cllr Terry Love, Cllr Stefan Amison,
Cllr Brian Price, Cllr (Mrs) Dee Bishop

Three members of the public were also in attendance.

Apologies received – Cllr (Mrs) Jo Malkin, Cllr Enrique Mateu, Cllr Roy James SPC and Stafford Borough Council, Cllr Jeremy Pert, Staffordshire County Council and were 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 resident raised the issue of accessing our website. Several councillors agreed that it seemed to be difficult. This was noted and the SCC Digital Team would be asked to look at it.
Another member of the public expressed concern about the growing number of benches in Tittensor. Her comments were noted.

Reports from County and Borough Councillors

There were no Borough or County Councillors present and no urgent matters had been forwarded to the Clerk to be reported to the Meeting.

Parish Council Meeting

1. Apologies for absence – as above.
2. Declarations of interest, to consider written requests from Councillors to grant dispensation (under S33, Localism Act, 2011). None were received.
3. To approve the Minutes of the last Meeting on 24 February 2022 – APPROVED and signed subject to an amendment under Ward Matters to be added as follows:-

'It was requested that Winghouse Lane and Tittensor roads generally should be swept regularly. Cllr James said he would deal with this as Borough Councillor.'
4. Matters arising from the Minutes – there were none.
5. The Chairman asked for this item to be removed from any further Agenda as a statement had already been agreed at a previous meeting.
6. Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the Agenda – See Action Sheet update.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 February 2022 expenditure for approval – duly APPROVED and signed.

7.2. Banking Matters – online banking account with Unity Trust Bank has been delayed by the submission of our VAT Return which requires the details of our Current Account with NatWest and contact details of Clerk which is still Liz Harrington Jones. The Clerk will, however, continue with the online application with Unity Trust as soon as the position has been agreed with them.

Action: Clerk

7.3 VAT claim has now been submitted to HMRC.

7.4 ElanCity quotations received for comparison between buying a new battery charger for the older SID in Swynnerton against its conversion to solar power operation. The charger will cost £139.57 but the conversion to solar power will be £1,426.50 both including VAT and delivery. A new SID would be around £2,197.40 including VAT and delivery. It was proposed that we should purchase a whole new unit instead and it was RESOLVED in favour unanimously.

Action: Clerk

8. Traffic Issues within the Parish

8.1. SIDs operation and update – analysis. Cllr Adams asked for an explanation of the imbalance between incoming and outgoing vehicles- some 4,000 vehicles. Cllr Amison suggested that it was probably the result of vehicles using the Main Road, Swynnerton as a rat run from Eccleshall to the A34 when going to work or taking children to school at 8-9am but with widely differing return times or different routes used.

8.2 It was suggested that simple pie or bar charts would be easier for councillors and the interested public to understand if the SIDs data was presented in this way. Cllr Bickerstaffe agreed to try this to make the data more accessible.

Action: Cllr PB

8.3 Cllr Malkin asked the Clerk to report that Gilders Road Haulage have started using Winghouse Lane, Tittensor as a shortcut route again. Clerk to contact Gilders again.

Action:Clerk

9. Ward Matters raised by residents

9.1. Queen's Platinum Jubilee preparations.

Tittensor – Tittensor Cllr Bickerstaffe requested a beacon be purchased now that a local farmer has offered a field on high ground for this purpose. The proposal was approved unanimously. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should order a second beacon. It was also suggested that Cllr Bickerstaffe should check with the farmer whether residents are to be allowed on the field and what risk assessment will be considered.

Action: Clerk/Cllr PB

There will be a Best Kept Village Clean-up Day on 3 April 2-4pm. Meet at the church gates.

Swynnerton – Cllr Amison reported that the roof of a bus shelter in Swynnerton needs some repair. He has offered to do this and bill the Council for some wood and screws.

Action:Cllr SA

There is to be a litter pick through Swynnerton on Saturday 26 March at 11am in aid of the Best Kept Village Competition.

Trentham and Hanchurch – no plans have been suggested to the Council as yet. Roy Clarke, (ex-Chairman of Friends of Ferndown), didn't know of any plans but would ask a few residents. As the Clerk has not heard anything further the Council decided to let the matter drop unless approached by a resident.

10. **Website and Facebook**

The Clerk will have the website operational as soon as possible. Cllr Bickerstaffe asked why the website cannot easily be accessed. The Clerk is to check with the Digital Team. Cllr PB said that the Minutes published on the website should be the signed copies. The Chairman replied that she would be very unhappy to have her signature displayed to all. Hard copies of Minutes are available to the public upon application to the Clerk but she will check if signed copies can be sent out. **Action: Clerk**

11. **Clerk's Training**

Cllr Bickerstaffe was concerned that the Clerk was not taking up the opportunity to extend her knowledge by starting SILCA training. The Clerk explained that Clerks are not generally considered until they have at least 12 months in the job before starting this commitment. The current Clerk will not complete 12 months until the end of July.

12. **Neighbourhood Plan update**

The Clerk has found the accompanying papers and will get them to Cllr James in due course. **Action:Clerk**

13. **Correspondence etc. received by Clerk**

General press releases and circulars received have been circulated to Councillors via email. Events notices will go on the website, Facebook and the noticeboards as per usual.

14. The next meeting will be held at 7.15pm on 21 April 2022 in Tittensor Village Hall. The Chairman closed this Meeting at 8.50pm.