

Chairman - Councillor E G R Jones

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

I E Davies	J Hood
R J Draper	R A James
A S Harp	P Roycroft

Cabinet Member - Councillor K S Williamson - Resources Portfolio
Cabinet Member - Councillor F A Finlay - Environment and Health Portfolio

Also present:- Councillors J M Pert and D B Price
Local residents and representatives from Swynnerton
Parish Council

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs J Peat	-	Democratic and Corporate Services Manager
Mr S Turner	-	Principal Solicitor
Mr J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer
Mrs J Pickering	-	Electoral Services Assistant
Mrs B Stott	-	Elections Officer
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

RSC14 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M G Dodson,
A T A Godfrey and A J Perkins.

RSC15 **Community Governance Review: Parish of Swynnerton**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Law and Administration (V4 17/9/18) setting out the results of the public consultation relating to community governance arrangements in the parish of Swynnerton.

The Committee commenced their consideration by seeking the views of the local Ward Members and County Council representative who outlined the following:-

Councillor R A James - Swynnerton and Outlon Ward Member

- a separately warded Parish Council for Yarnfield was needed
- the remaining Parish of Swynnerton should then be realigned to remove Yarnfield Parish

Councillor D B Price - Swynnerton and Outlon Ward Member

- a separate Parish Council for Yarnfield had been requested some years ago
- fully supported the creation of a new ward for Yarnfield Parish to include a separate ward for Cold Meece

Councillor J M Pert - Staffordshire County Council Eccleshall Ward Member

- needed to ensure that there was a sufficient number of residents to enable the removal of Yarnfield from the Swynnerton Parish in order to make the proposal viable
- there would be additional costs on the creation of a new Parish, for example, appointment of a new Parish Clerk
- important to ensure that there was sufficient people to volunteer to stand as a Parish Councillor and there was sufficient work for them to undertake
- there was a clear desire to deliver two separate communities for both Swynnerton and Yarnfield, each with diverse issues and priorities
- it was important that Cold Meece was represented

The Committee then discussed with the Democratic and Corporate Services Manager the following issues raised during the consultation exercise:-

- clarification of Cold Meece's requirements
- Yarnfield was a distinct, independent area with the prospect of the HS2 Railhead bringing the community together
- it was important to ensure the correct level of representation for the areas
- clarification of the level of response to the public consultation
- a Parish Council should work together as one body and not be constituted over one issue
- clarification of the uncontested local Parish Council Elections during the 2015 Election
- clarification of the process following this meeting

Following further discussion, the Committee recommended the following changes to the community governance arrangements in the parish of Swynnerton:-

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee, the following changes to the community governance arrangements in the parish of Swynnerton, be recommended, subject to further consultation:-

- (a) a new Parish comprising the Yarnfield Ward of Swynnerton Parish be created;
- (b) the boundaries of the existing parish of Swynnerton be altered to exclude the Yarnfield Ward;
- (c) the new Parish be called "Yarnfield and Cold Meece";
- (d) the new Parish should have a Parish Council;
- (e) the new Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council should have 7 Parish Councillors;
- (f) Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish should be divided into two Wards, Yarnfield Ward and Cold Meece Ward;
- (g) 2 Parish Councillors should represent the Cold Meece Ward and 5 Parish Councillors should represent the Yarnfield Ward;
- (h) Swynnerton Parish should retain its present name;
- (i) Swynnerton Parish should have a Parish Council;
- (j) Swynnerton Parish Council should have 7 Parish Councillors;
- (k) Swynnerton Parish Council should be split into three Wards, Trentham Ward, Tittensor Ward and Swynnerton Ward;
- (l) 3 Parish Councillors should represent the Trentham Ward, 2 Parish Councillors should represent the Tittensor Ward and 2 Parish Councillors should represent the Swynnerton Ward.

CHAIR