

Spurstow Parish Council
Minutes of a meeting held online at 20:00 on 20th May 2020.

Clerk- C Jones. Clerk@spurstow.org.uk <https://www.spurstow.org.uk/>

Present: Katherine Hutchinson – Chair (**KH**), Sean Augustin – Vice Chair (**SA**), Barry Bell - Vice Chair (**BB**), Reynold Finney (**RF**), Chris Jones (**CJ**), Jonathan Middlemiss (**JM**).

- 1) **Apologies received** Chris Warriner, Stuart Lea.
- 2) **Declaration of Interests & Councillors Code of Conduct** There were no declarations of interest in any items on the Agenda.
- 3) **Matters Arising & approval of previous minutes** The Minutes of the meeting of 11th March 2020 were approved. This was proposed by JM and seconded by BB. All Councillors agreed that the minutes were a fair record of the meeting.
- 4) **Open Forum** There were no members of public in attendance at this meeting.
- 5) **Planning**

Ref	Address	Description	Comments May 20 th Meeting	Notes
20/1659	Haycroft Farm	Corn Store	No further comments made.	"siting of the building is unacceptable"
19/5659	The Cottage, Peckforton Hall Lane	Proposed dwelling and garage	No further comments made.	"development is unsustainable because it is located within the Open Countryside"
20/1383	Radley Wood Farm	Change of use of Agric Building to dwelling	No further comments made.	SPC objected 01/05/20 "...existing building is not constructed to an adequate standard to merit preservation" and access objections
20/1215N	Land North of Hllview	Erection of one detached dwelling house	It appears that the plan has been updated on 23/4/20, the Council's view is that this revised plan is acceptable. No further action.	Decision was scheduled for 19/05/20
20/0607N	Land off Badcocks Lane	Prior Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling	No further comments made.	
20/0561N	Holmleigh, Whitchurch Road	Drop kerb etc	No further comments made.	SPC registered an objection 17/03/20
20/0758D	Radley Wood Farm	Discharge of Conditions	No further comments made.	
20/1468N	Radmore Green Farm, Long Lane	Demolition of outbuilding, lean-to chimney stack and porch ,,, -----,	Discussed – JM confirmed that this property not within the remit of Spurstow PC. There	

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		internal alterations to create 5 bed dwelling	were no objections raised in any case by councillors.	
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6. **Update from alternative way to manage speed group.** JM commented that all the work has been done, all signs put up, all roundels painted and the signs alerting drivers to the possibility of horses that we asked for have been put in place.

Chair thanked JM, SA, Stan Davies and Cheshire East for all their help. RF was of the view that the white lines near “Springfield“ had helped to calm the traffic. In the light of the lockdown, JM had decided not to borrow the SID, but has ordered the brackets. It was agreed to reconsider use of the SID towards the start of the Autumn Term. The improvements to Peckforton Hall Lane were noted, including the clearing of the ditch opposite Brambley Hedge.

7. **Correspondence.** There was no record of SPC’s letter to CE concerning the puddles on the A49 outside Hillview, it was agreed that RF would keep a watch on the situation and communicate with CE as needed. BB was of the view that the drains on Nursery Lane were in any case blocked. JM reported that Bunbury PC intend to get Latham’s Contractors to clear gulleys in Bunbury, if successful, Spurstow PC will consider something similar on the minor roads in the Parish at the expense of SPC.

It was agreed to put an Agenda item for the next quarterly meeting for SPC to encourage CE to adopt SPC’s new street lighting.

CJ Presented the appended Clerk’s report, which was accepted by the Council. It was decided that no immediate further action was needed on any of the action points.

8. Finance

a) Transfer of data and duties. CJ reported that he now has all the files and the PC’s computer.

b) Training. CJ has ordered the “Local Council Clerks Guide, and will take Chalc’s course when there is a course available.

c) Bank mandate and electronic payments The Council agreed that the current bank signatories should complete on behalf of the Council a revised Barclays Bank mandate form to remove Louise Hare and David Cox from the mandate and to add CJ to the mandate to allow him to sign cheques, access the account details and make electronic payments.

d) Clerk’s Contract and payment terms. The Council agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair should sign the Clerk’s contract on behalf of the Council at their convenience.

9. Report on Spurstow Community Support Scheme.

The Chair presented the appended report, which was accepted by the Council, who complemented the Chair on the successful implementation of the scheme.

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10. Report on “Sunflower Seeds To Grow” initiative.

The Chair presented the appended report, which was accepted by the Council, who complemented the Chair on the successful implementation of this very helpful initiative in these difficult times.

11. Finance Update and payments due: -

The Council authorised the payments below, after an explanation by the Chair of the amounts due to the former Clerk: -

Spurstow Community Support Scheme phone

Reimburse Chair for the duration of the scheme approx. £10.00 per month

It was agreed not to recharge a proportion of the cost to Haughton, Beeston or Peckforton Parish Councils

Purchase of Local Council Clerk’s Guide approx. £ 27.00

Annual Insurance -quoted by Zurich at £ 316.69 (£ 315.01 last year)

Outgoing Clerk’s costs approx. £ 13.00

The council thanked Haughton PC’s kind offer to fund the cost of the Sunflower Initiative at approx. £ 12.00

It was also decided that the Council should buy a voucher in the sum of £ 50.00 for Ms Hare , the former Clerk to the Council to thank her for all her hard work whilst in post.

12. Date of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting 18:00 Wednesday 27th May 2020. (not 18:30 as noted in error on the agenda.)

Dates of meetings for the year to May 2021.

It was agreed to schedule 4 meetings through the year at 20:00 on Wednesdays for the year to May2021

Wed 16th September 2020

Wed 25th November 2020

Wed 17th March 2021

Wed 26th May to include the Annual Parish Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:10

Signed.....Chair

Date.....

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Appendix 1 – Clerk’s Report

1) Finance

This will be covered under agenda items already scheduled, apart from the updates below :-

The balance at the bank as of 19th May was £ 6,157.73, the only movements since the year end being receipt of the first half of the annual precept from Cheshire East of £ 1,825.00 and payment of a cheque for £ 250.00 to Louise Hare.

David Cox has the files and has started the audit. There are no issues expected and I intend to send the data to the Council before presenting the Annual Accounts next Wednesday at the Annual Parish Meeting.

2) Planning

Ref	Address	Description	Notes	Decision
20/1659	Haycroft Farm	Corn Store	“siting of the building is unacceptable”	refusal 18/05/20
19/5659	The Cottage, Peckforton Hall Lane	Proposed dwelling and garage	“development is unsustainable because it is located within the Open Countryside”	refusal 06/04/20
20/1383	Radley Wood Farm	Change of use of Agric Building to dwelling	SPC objected 01/05/20 “...existing building is not constructed to an adequate standard to merit preservation” and access objections	Not decided yet
20/1215N	Land North of Hillview	Erection of one detached dwelling house	Decision was scheduled for 19/05/20	Not decided yet
20/0607N	Land off Badcocks Lane	Prior Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling		Approval not required 30/03/20
20/0561N	Holmleigh, Whitchurch Road	Drop kerb etc	SPC registered an objection 17/03/20	Approved 07/04/20
20/0758D	Radley Wood Farm	Discharge of Conditions		Approved 16/04/20
20/1468N	Radmore Green Farm, Long Lane	Demolition of outbuilding, lean-to chimney stack and porch canopy. Construction of single storey extension, new chimney stack, new porch canopy, internal alterations to create 5 bed dwelling		Decision target date 02/06/20

No other new applications have been registered since 20/04/20 as of 20/05/20

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3)Meeting

Chris Warriner has sent his apologies that he will not be able to attend today's meeting. I have had no requests from members of the public to join either meeting as of 17:00 20th May 2020.

Action List

Previous Agenda Item ref.	Action	Action since March Council Meeting	Action by:
6	JM and SA to co-ordinate SID activity and JM to source metal brackets for the device. It was agreed to retain alternative ways to manage speed on the agenda for future meetings.		JM/SA
7	It was agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter to send to Highways regarding these problems asking how they would respond to them.	No evidence of this letter	LH
7	Clerk to contact CHALC to discuss whether overarching representation would be possible in respect of Highways Matters	CJ emailed with Chalc, they are “.. would be happy to assist in this way.”	LH
8	To contact CHALC to ask about the legislation of holding a role as a Councillor and Clerk simultaneously and take action accordingly. To identify potential training opportunities for new Clerk.	CJ emailed with Chalc – Holding both roles is ok, CJ has ordered a book, and will take a course when there is one available.	RF
12	Bank mandate change form to add CJ	Bank Mandate received from Barclays, this will be covered under item 9 of the agenda	LH
12	Contact David Cox re audit.	Done – CJ – see above	LH

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Appendix 2 Spurstow Community Support Scheme and Sunflower Seed Initiative

Spurstow Community Support Scheme

Due to the sudden issue of the “Stay at Home” guidance for reducing the spread of the Covid-19 virus there was concern that some elderly or unwell people in Spurstow might have difficulty buying food and getting medicines and other vital supplies.

Mark Ireland-Jones started a Bunbury Support coordination network and kindly sent over his poster electronically and we met to discuss a similar idea for Spurstow. I felt this would be better undertaken with our local Parish meeting groups (Haughton, Beeston and Peckforton) so as to create a reasonable number of helpers and self-isolating individuals to coordinate.

I got in touch with the chair of these three meeting groups and we all agreed it would be an excellent joint venture.

My husband, Stephen used one of our old phones and bought a new Vodafone contract so we have a bespoke phone number 07879023033 and e-mail spurstowcommunity@gmail.com which come to the phone.

Stephen and I held the phone for the first two weeks to try to iron out any teething difficulties. Initially we had to deliver medicines, but then Bunbury and Tarpoley practises started delivering so we just had to inform people who were not aware of this service. We put about 14 pairs of volunteers and self-isolators in contact, usually finding fairly close neighbours who often knew each other to help the sense of supporting relationship and suggested that they remain paired unless any volunteer became ill or other problem occurred. Since the first two weeks there have not been many calls as the devolved pairs have just continued to work well, covering most of the self-isolating needs which are not being managed more informally with family and neighbours. We remain available in case of any illness amongst volunteers etc.

At present Helen Cornwell-Lee is minding the phone and only getting about 2 calls per week, Bunbury also say their phone has very few calls since the initial rush to sort out pairs.

The four chairs meet on Whatsapp every two weeks to check all is running well.

Sunflower Seed Initiative

Helen Cornwell Lee heard of a national scheme to grow sunflowers as an act of community and so that hopefully we will all be able to see lots of sunflowers in support of the NHS once we are moving around more after July (or whenever this turns out to be!)

We all felt this was such a nice idea for such a low cost in terms of effort and expenditure that we have done this so that we did not miss the best time for planting sunflower seeds- I hope you all got your three sunflower seeds.