

Spurstow Parish Council

Notice to Councillors & Residents

Clerk: C Jones, Rose Cottage, Spurstow CW6 9TG clerk@spurstow.org.uk

16th November 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 20:00 at The Tower Room, St Boniface Church, Bunbury.

The Council welcomes attendance by members of the public.

Agenda - Quarterly Council Meeting

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declaration of interests – Members to declare any interests under the following categories: - Pecuniary interests, Outside body interests, Family, friend or close associate interests.
3. Approve the minutes of last meeting - Matters arising and vote for acceptance
4. Open Forum (15 minutes).
5. Planning applications, current, and outstanding.
Please note that an updated list of applications for consideration will be supplied to Councillors in the week of the meeting.
6. Highways Issues and Alternative Ways to Manage Speed.
 - 1) Discussion of the Safety Camera on the A49.
 - 2) Bearing in mind that not only does speeding remain an issue in the Parish, but also that Peckforton and Haughton Parishes face the same issues and would therefore like access to a Speed Indicating Device ("SID"), Spurstow Parish Council should consider purchase of one. This would be demonstrable evidence of pro-action on the part of the Council in trying to manage local speeding as well as contributing to local inter-Parish relationships.
7. Correspondence. To include the Council's response to Cheshire East's Governance Review plans in respect of Spurstow Parish Council. (See Appendix 4.), a letter received from Meadow House Residents Association. (See Appendix 5.) and discussion about the caravan at the junction of Badcocks Lane and Long Lane.
8. In the light of Cheshire East Council's Draft Community Governance Review suggesting Peckforton merges with Bulkeley and Ridley, which all three parties have rejected, to consider whether to discuss a possible merger with Peckforton or Haughton Parish Meetings would be in the interests of Spurstow residents.
9. Footpaths To review the progress made towards the Council's initiative to check the state of the Footpaths in the Parish
10. Finance Update and payments due: -
Please note that the Clerk will provide the documentation for this at the meeting.
11. Date of next meeting.

Appendix 1 : Letter re item 5 of the previous meeting.

Cllr Craig Browne
Chair, Highways and Transport Committee
Cheshire East Council
Municipal Buildings
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 9HP

26th September 2021

By Email only to craig.browne@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Re Long Lane Spurstow and Haughton

Dear Mr Browne,

In the last three weeks Long Lane, which passes from its junction with the A49 in Spurstow to the A534 near Faddiley has become very congested and dangerous, following the closure of the A51 between Calveley and Barbridge. You may well have heard of the accident on 10th September on the Oaklands Farm bend on Long Lane. Haughton Parish Council are also extremely concerned about the safety of residents and travellers on this road, whilst the A49 remains closed. Long Lane is a very small road, often only just wide enough for two cars, and often not wide enough for (say) a car and a lorry.

Please see the map below – the red box is the approximate site of the closure and the blue line the alternative route taken by many drivers when travelling from Tarporley to Nantwich.

The lighter blue sections are the A49 and A534, and the darker blue section is Long Lane, often referred to as “Long Lane, Spurstow” and “Long Lane, Haughton”.

On behalf of the residents of Spurstow and Haughton, may I ask you to

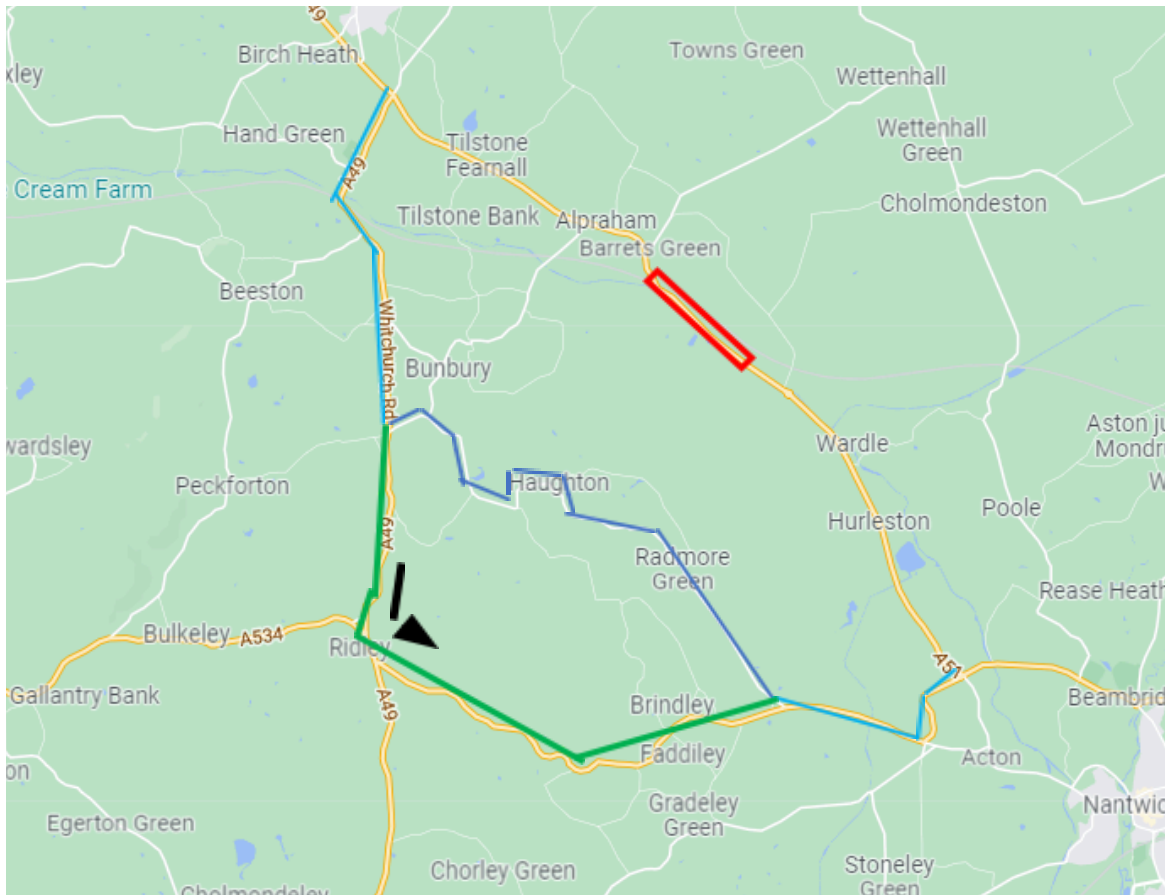
- 1) temporarily restrict the size of vehicle that can access Long Lane by putting up “NO HGV except for access” signs on Long Lane at the junction with Bunbury Lane by The Yew Tree and at the other end where it joins the A534
- 2) install temporary warning signs on the corners
- 3) put up Speed Indication Devices at the end of the two “straights” in Spurstow and Haughton
- 4) Put up signs at each end of the lane showing a diversion along the A49 to its junction with the A534 suggesting that diverted traffic use the A49 and A534 only, and vice-versa. (Shown in green on the map below.
- 5) May we also request that the Cheshire East Council reinstate the gritting and salting regime on this road, as the increased traffic over the winter will make this narrow, twisty route even more dangerous than it already is in adverse weather conditions.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council

Yours faithfully

C Jones

Clerk to the Council,
for Spurstow Parish Council



Appendix 2 : Letter re item 8 of the previous meeting.

Paul Reeves
Flood Risk Manager
Cheshire East Highways
7th October 2021
By Email only to:- Paul.Reeves@cheshireeasthighways.org

Recent Flooding Issues in Spurstow

Dear Mr Reeves,

Further to our previous letter of 24th March 2021 (and follow-up on 12th July 2021) members of Spurstow Parish Council have now walked around the area which flooded significantly in January and February 2021 after storm Christophe. Councillor Finney cannot recall flooding in this area on this scale in the forty years or more that he has lived in the area.

This flooding was dangerous and stopped all traffic passing this area of Long Lane for several days. Part of the road was impassable requiring cars to go on the other side of the road behind a blind bend for weeks which is clearly very dangerous so we are very keen to avoid the risk of a recurrence this year.

The area in question seems to flood with surface water from the field in front of Green Butts Farm and behind Dolphin Cottage. Most winters a small area just south of Long Lane inside the bend between Nursery House and The Yew Tree Pub floods and we believe there is a culvert under Long Lane close to the drive up to Green Butts Farm, which we believe may have drained this field.

. There is a ditch which now seems to start just north-west of Talbarn's garden, which in former years used to run much nearer to the rear of Talbarn and probably ran along the boundary hedge between Talbarn and Nursery House which this culvert may at one time have drained into though we do not know this for sure.

We do not know anything about the drainage within Green Butts fields themselves nor do we know the exact location of the culvert under the road, which may have become damaged during drive surfacing works carried out by Green Butts Farm over the last few years. They have added roughly a lorry-load of stone and made a slightly raised drive to improve their access to Long Lane, but as far as we know have not provided any drainage to the small area which floods. Looking at the onward drainage from north of Springfield and north-west of Talbarn these are good deep ditches- some cleared out well this year since the flooding and there is a good fall on the land to the north, where the drains end up in one of the headwaters of the Gowry running along the bottom of Wakes Meadow and The Hawthorns in Bunbury.

Clearly it is possible that the abnormally high rainfall simply overwhelmed old drains, but as this could occur again and the severe flooding of earlier this year caused significant damage to property we would like to investigate where the culvert is and whether it is damaged. When Roy Cook came out to review the area on Thursday 8th April he looked at the manholes in Nursery House garden, one was flowing well and one was dry but was not able to see any input from a culvert under the road apparently his men tried to jet out a drain going towards the field but came to an obstruction they feel may have been a manhole, though I do not know how far down the drain this was. He did say he would be happy to send out a team to clear any drain or culvert we could find but seemed to suggest we would have to find it.

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was. He did say he would be happy to send out a team to clear any drain or culvert we could find but seemed to suggest we would have to find it.

We are not sure how we proceed from here.

Clearly there is now more hardcore and the tarmac drive to Green Butts Farm in the approximate area of a culvert which the owners will not want to disturb.

We feel that at this stage Cheshire East should help with the investigation of any culverts as clearly they will be needed in any solution which allows more water to flow under Long Lane as opposed to flowing on top of Long Lane as occurred after Storm Christophe, Spurstow Parish Council feels that it is not our job to investigate in the verge opposite Talbarn and Nursery House, though without digging few holes I am not sure how we will find out more.

If we can find a culvert which the new drive has not affected, (we would hope that the Highways team might be able to clear this)

However if we cannot find a culvert – which is possible if it continues straight from the boundary of Talbarn and Nursery House or alternatively, if we find evidence of a culvert on the other side of the road directed towards the new drive, can you advise with regards to asking Green Butts Farm to clear the or about installing a new land drain under Long Lane, which clearly would not be possible for a private individual as traffic management would be needed ?

Whereas Long Lane has been free from flooding this summer, clearly there is an increased possibility this winter, so the council would be very grateful if you could reply urgently to let us know a sensible and legal way to proceed from here, before winter arrives.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council

Yours faithfully

C Jones
Clerk to the Council,
for Spurstow Parish Council

Appendix 3 : Letter re item 10 of the previous meeting.

Chris Hindle
Head of Infrastructure
Cheshire East Council
Municipal Buildings
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 9HP

5th October 2021

By Email only to chris.hindle@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Re Safety Camera A49 Spurstow

Dear Mr Hindle,

Thank you for your email of 29th June in which you say that the new Safety Camera had been ordered for a position just south of the Long Lane/A49 junction and your reply to Edward Timpson M.P. on 4th August.

We understand how this location meets your considerations as listed (now that your team has trimmed the bushes near Long Lane junction), and although we would agree the electricity supply would be several yards further away, we do not agree that the location near Panama Hatty's fails to meet your listed considerations, and feel that it would meet the needs of the local population much better.

We also note that this site was chosen because it has a convenient electricity supply and a wide area of pavement for the installers, however we are told that Cheshire Police do not choose the locations of safety cameras and are therefore very surprised that you say that Cheshire Police have been consulted. Would you be kind enough to pass the details of your Police contact back to the Clerk to Spurstow Parish Council?

I note that the usefulness of the Safety Camera once installed is not amongst your criteria for installation, nor is any danger due to restricted vision for cars turning out from the side lane.

As a Parish Council we note that there have actually been no speed-related serious accidents on this stretch of road for some years now and we continue to notice that the old non-functional Safety Camera causes vehicles to slow down well now that it points quite well at the marked lines in the road. This may well be why there have not been any speed-related accidents since it was installed. As Parish Council we keep this free from vegetation which would otherwise indicate that it was not being used.

We consider that a new Safety Camera in your proposed location would increase the danger at this junction sufficiently (for all the reasons we have given in our many previous letters) that we would prefer not to have a new Safety Camera at all and save Cheshire East Council this expense, provided we can continue to have the old (non-functional) Safety Camera in its current location. We would only require very occasional re-painting of the lines on the road, which would need doing anyway at the new Safety Camera location. We will continue to clear the vegetation as required.

Whereas we realise the money saved from not installing this inappropriate Safety Camera is not ours to spend, could I suggest a couple of safety issues locally which we feel would be of far more use in improving safety locally? These would be-

- 1) Continuing to grit Long Lane, which is a very busy road, especially this winter when the A51 is closed for road improvements
- 2) Re-marking the very dangerous corner by Spurstow Old School, this was the scene of an accident very recently.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council

Yours faithfully

C Jones
Clerk to the Council,
for Spurstow Parish Council

Appendix 4 : Governance Review Response.

Cheshire East Council
Community Governance Review

26th October 2021

By Email only to:- CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Re: Cheshire East Council Community Governance Review

Dear Sirs,
Cheshire East Council Community Governance Review Draft Recommendations

Page 24

During the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey, one individual response proposed a change to the boundary with Spurstow. However, Bunbury Parish Council requested no change to its boundary and there were no survey responses from Spurstow. In proposing that no change be made to this parish, the Borough Council was also mindful that Spurstow is in the Wrenbury borough ward, while Bunbury is in the Bunbury borough ward.

Spurstow Parish Council agrees that there should be no change to the boundaries between Bunbury and Spurstow.

Page 55-56

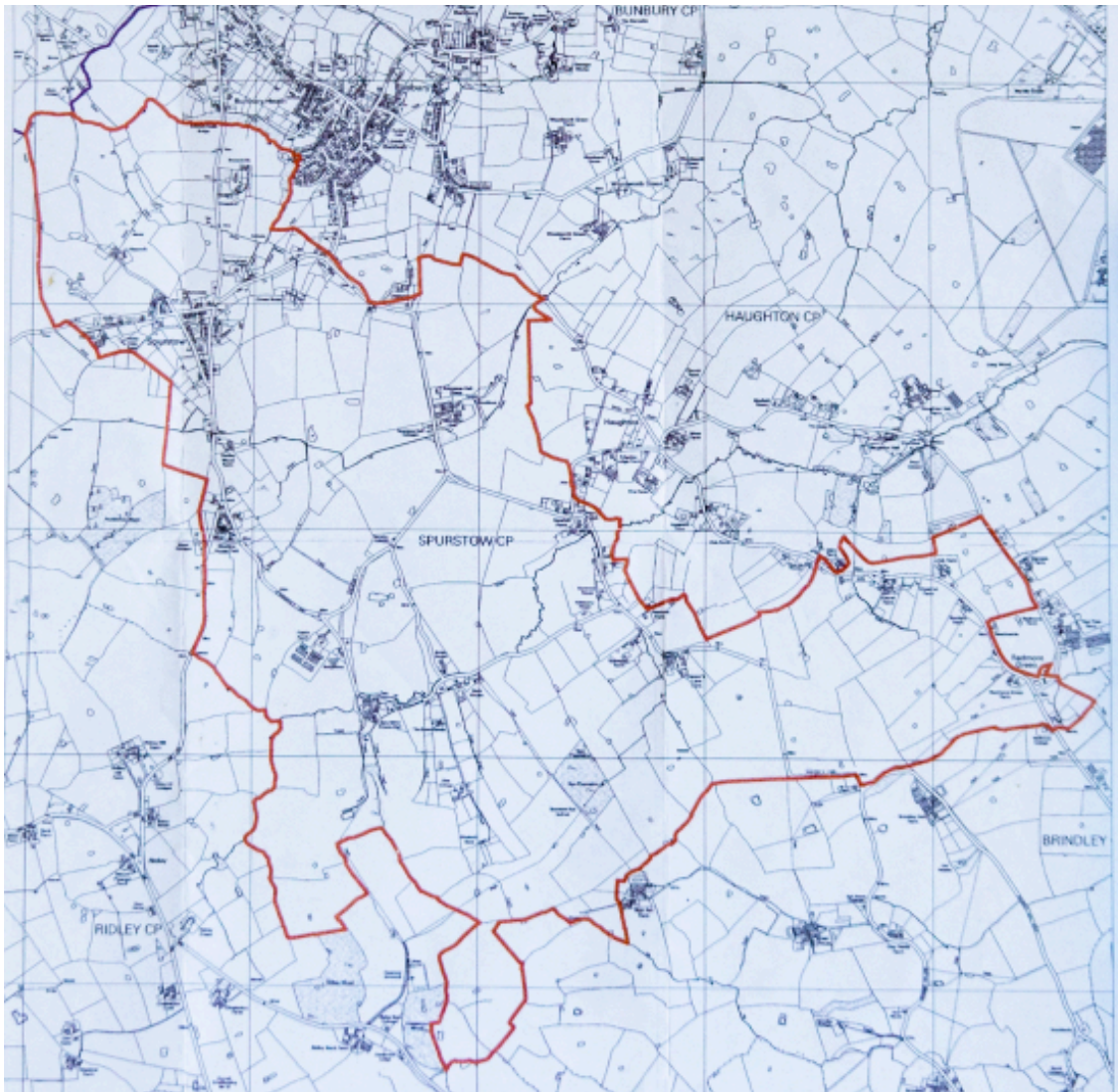
Spurstow The current governance arrangements of Spurstow Parish Council are as follows

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>no. Electors (2018)</i>	<i>Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)</i>
8	320	40

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Spurstow. Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Spurstow has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council therefore recommends a decrease to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors. After the last ordinary elections in 2019, five out of eight members were co-opted in Spurstow. This high proportion of co-options adds to the case for a decrease in the number of seats. The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows: The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

<i>Councillor</i>	<i>no. Electors (2025)</i>	<i>Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)</i>
7	325	46.4

Spurstow Parish Council would like to retain 8 Councillors for the foreseeable future as the Parish is geographically large bearing in mind the number of electors, being just over 3 miles East-West and 2.6 miles North- South, please see the map below.



Whist the parish is not “warded”, the Council do feel strongly that representation from the different areas of the parish is very important.

The main issues in the parish are planning and highways issues, both of which have differing aspects in the different areas of the parish, East, West and Central.

The Highways issues in particular are micro-local, ranging from safety and speeding on the very busy A49 trunk road which bisects the West area of the parish, to the very poor state of the smaller lanes in the East of the parish, taking in the substantial flooding issues in the Central area nearest to Bunbury.

Intimate local knowledge of the issues is essential, and thus the Council would suggest that 2 councillors from each area, a Chair and Vice-Chair gives a good mix of expertise on the Council.

Planning issues, again tend to show different issues in the different areas of the parish, with

- 1) a greater concentration of applications in the West, which have tended to impinge dramatically on the nature of the parish to the west of the A49.
- 2) Planning requests that directly impinge on the A49, and often seem to present safety hazards on that busy trunk road.
- 3) Planning requests in the East tend to be much more agricultural in nature, often involving plans to either improve agricultural settings, or to re-purpose existing redundant agricultural buildings.

The expertise of the different Councillors in these differing aspects of life in the Parish is very valuable, and does, of course mean that the Council is able to express a carefully thought out and relevant view on these matters.

The Council does appreciate that 5 co-opted councillors might be seen as a reason to reduce the number of Councillors, however the Council's feeling is that there have been several current members of the Council who had expressed an interest in contributing to local democracy some time before joining the Council, and that the Council has been very pleased to welcome them onto the Council as other members had felt that it was time to bow out of the Parish Council.

Spurstow Parish Council is very conscious that the cost of an election can be substantial to a relatively small Council, with a relatively small precept, and thus feels that (within the obvious democratic requirements) the option of co-opting Councillors is useful in the environment of Spurstow Parish Council. In the context of Spurstow Parish Council, the expense of an election would be a very substantial proportion of the Parish Council's financial resources.

The Council do hope to Co-opt an Elector with particular strengths in their knowledge of the area and it's particular issues in next few weeks, to bring the Council back up to the usual number of 8.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council

Yours faithfully

C Jones
Clerk to the Council,
for Spurstow Parish Council

Appendix 5 : Letter from Meadow House Residents Association.



MEADOW HOUSE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
Badcocks Lane, Spurstow, Tarporley, Cheshire. CW6 9RT

29th Sep 2021

Dear Rob

My name is Gordon Whitehead I am the secretary of Meadow House park Residents association we have 25 houses on the park we are having problems with road safety issues which we feel need to be addressed as soon as possible, we live in a triangle of roads which are all causing concern I would like to know if we could arrange a visit to see for yourself the problems we encounter on a daily basis. here is a list of the issues photos can be submitted if requested. I have attached a rough drawing to give you some perspective of the problems. We would like to have considered a one way system and road improvements

Item 1 on the attached drawing.

Junction of Badcocks lane to A49 there is a listed building which has been struck by many vehicles is in a dangerous state of disrepair. temporary fencing has been erected causing problems exiting and entering the lane onto and off a very fast moving road, vision is poor and trees and bushes around the property are overgrown adding to the danger. we have reports of two vehicles hitting this fencing causing damage to their vehicles both have had to make insurance claims for repairs details can be provided if required.

Item 2 on the attached drawing.

this section of lane is in poor condition with the central part overgrown with weed and debris causing vehicles to have exhaust pipes damaged this road is very narrow and used by milk trucks and tractors to access farms .often vehicles are forced to reverse back onto the main road we have had many close shaves with vehicle braking at the last minute to avoid problems. also the banks and verges are constantly damaged by the large vehicles,

Item 3 on the attached drawing.

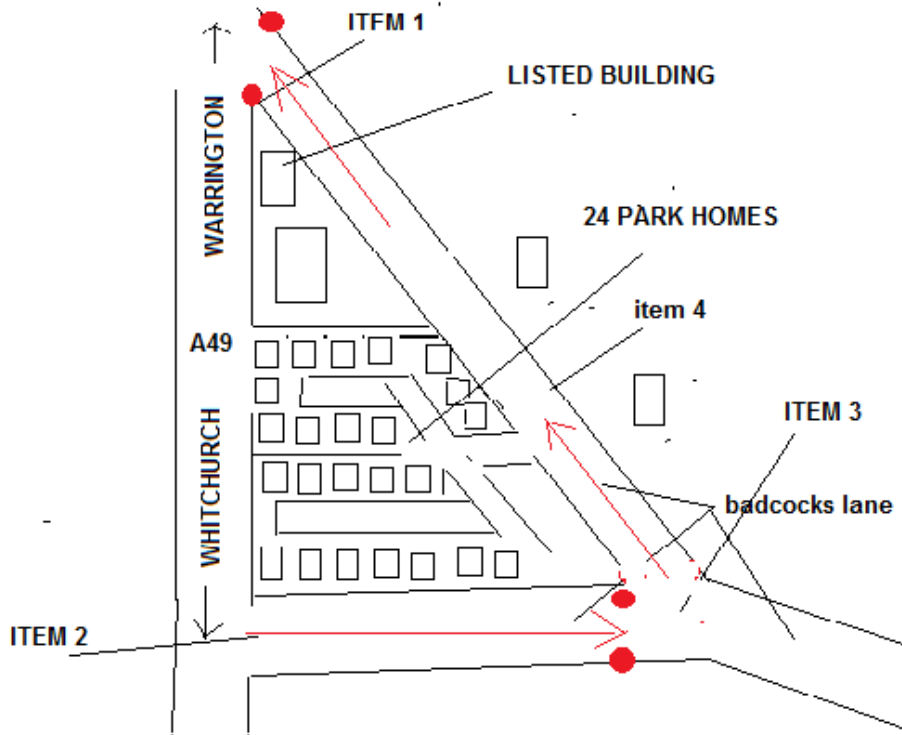
This road splits with no give way signs vehicles are in danger of hitting vehicles coming from the A49 entering badcocks lane. We havemany reports of near misses especially in the mornings when tractors and milk vehicles rush down the lane.

Item 4 on the attached drawing this part of the lane is also narrow but the verges are constantly destroyed by large vehicle trying to pass other vehicles. Also vehicle speed past in both directions the entrance to the park which often causes vehicles to brake heavily.

finally the condition of badcocks lane surface is in a dire state full of pot holes and loose stone.

We understsnd that budgets are tight but we believe in the long term this will assist in keeping the cost down to Cheshire east council.

We believe if a one way system could be introduced immediately this would reduce a lot of the problems and danger. As vehicles will only be entering or leaving the lane in one direction only. the lanes need to be widened otherwise but if we could just have a resurface and a one way system we believe it would save future problems. I have put the suggested one way in red on the attached drawing. we are council tax payers but see very little ever being done on this lane. Could we please make an arrangement to meet and discuss and observe the problems before someone gets hurt.



Many thanks
Gordon Whitehead Secretary 23 Meadow House Park ,Badcocks lane, Spurstow CW6 9RT
Mobile: 07456842784

Appendix 6 : Cheshire East Council's Governance Review for Haughton.

Haughton

The parish of Haughton presently has no parish council, and its representative body is the meeting of the electors of the parish ('the parish meeting'), a meeting that is required by legislation to be convened twice each year.

Where the electorate of a parish is between 150 and 1,000 electors, it is for the Borough Council to decide whether or not the parish should have a council. As a general principle, the Council has sought to ensure that all the parishes of the Borough have a parish council.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Haughton.

In this Review, Haughton is the only parish that does not currently have a parish council which is not affected by any proposals to merge it with other parishes. It could therefore remain as a parish where the only form of governance is its parish meeting.

Equally, because the electorate of Haughton lies within the range where the Borough Council has discretion in this matter, the Borough Council could recommend that a parish council is formed for this parish. If a parish council was formed, it would comprise seven councillors with a ratio of electors to councillors of 25.9 (2025 electorate).

While it is suggested that no change be made to this parish, Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations, including the formation of a parish council and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

The current and forecast future electorate is as shown below. As Haughton is (and would continue to be) a parish meeting and has no councillors, councillor numbers and ratios are not applicable.

Electors (2018)	Electors (2025)
178	181

OFFICIAL