

SPURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 8pm on 9th May 2018

www.spurstow-pc.gov.uk clerk@spurstow-pc.gov.uk

Peckforton & Beeston Village Room

Present: Sean Augustin ((SA) Chair), Louise Hare (**The Clerk**), Reynold Finney (**RF**), Chris Warriner (**CW**) David Cox (**DC**), Katherine Hutchinson (**KH**).

In Attendance: Chris Jones, Jonathan Middlemiss

1. **Apologies received:**

Stan Davies (a note was made to add SD to the circulation list for meeting dates and agendas.

2. **Declaration of Interests & Councillors Code of Conduct:**

There were no declarations of Councillor Interests declared, from Councillors present.

3. **Matters Arising & approval of previous minutes**

Minutes approved from 14th March 2018 were approved with some amendments. These minutes have now been updated. The minutes were approved by KH and seconded by RF. All Councillors agreed that these are a true record.

4. **Open Forum:**

No members of the public wished to raise any issues in the open forum session.

5. **Alternative ways to manage speed group formation**

Local resident Jonathan Middlemiss has agreed to lead this group to include CW, RF and BB, he proposed that the first meeting to take place in the Yew Tree pub on Wednesday 23rd May at 8pm. Councillors also discussed the possibility of reaching out to other local residents who might be able to provide a valuable contribution to the group. It was resolved to hold the first meeting and discuss the direction with this group before make any decisions on this.

Action: Group to feedback progress to at the next parish meeting.

6. **Planning Applications**

The Clerk reported that there are currently two outstanding planning applications to be considered.

18/1795N The Butlands, Whitchurch Road, Spurstow – Agricultural Shed to house plant for maintaining land Councillors unanimously agreed that they would not make any official comments of the application and leave Cheshire East to make the decision.

18/2008N Spurstow Hall, Long Lane, Spurstow - Proposed Outdoor Menage with floodlighting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should draft an objection to the floodlighting of the manege and run this past DC and SA for review before submitting the objection.

Action: The Clerk

7. Annual Audit and Governance statements and approval of accounts

DC as RFO circulated the annual accounts book and financial regulations to all councilors that were present. It was agreed that financial matters had been managed in accordance with the financial regulation, and therefore Chris Jones acting as our internal accounts auditor signed off page 4 of our Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

DC explained that all councils with a turnover of less than £25K are eligible to submit a certificate of exemption from the need to have our accounts externally audited. DC proposed that the council apply for this exemption. This was agreed by SA and seconded by BB. All the councilors were in unanimous agreement to this proposal.

Action: The Clerk to scan and return the form to the auditors, draft the accounts poster for the notice board and upload the accounts document to the parish website.

8. Clerks Report:

The Clerk discussed with the Council her challenge with managing her compete work commitments an agreed consider staying in the role until the September meeting.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with SA.

9. Operation Shield

SA informed the meeting that we intend to take Operation Shield forward on a phased roll-out basis were local residents contribute 50% of the cost of the kits. The Council wish to initially purchase 50 kits and more once demand has been established. We are currently waiting to hear back from Ged Gigg to discuss the logistics of how this might work.

10. Parish Insurance Renewal

The Clerk informed the meeting that we have received the insurance renewal quote from Zurich insurance. The renewal price is £313.38 but the letter suggests that we could receive a reduced rate if we commit to a long-term agreement of 3 or 5 years. It was agreed to consider a 3-year period and then investigate alternative insurers at that end of that period. Councillors asked the Clerk to further investigate reductions and then make a decision from there.

Action: The Clerk to contact Zurich find out about discounts.

11. Highway issues

SA raised the issue of lighting still not working in Southcroft.

Action: RF to investigate further.

BB flagged up the uneven road surface at the South junction of Back Lane and the A49, that is both dangerous and causing vibration/noise problems for local residents. BB has been in contact with Roy Cook from highway about this issue.

Action: BB to forward on photograph of the problem and to the Clerk for her to raise the issue again with Roy Cook.

12. Payment of Accounts

Since the last meeting we have had outgoings for the following items

Parish Clerk wages and expenses £335.25

CHALC membership renewal £47.40

Scottish Power £91.35

David Cox (to re-pay HMRC tax paid) £63.40

Total £612.40

We have also received our first installment of the precept of £1,750 and a grant for continuation of the lengthsman work for £1,150.

Action: Clerk to bank cheque.

At the meeting the Clerk presented an invoice for Clerk expenses for £16.54.

This was approved and a cheque signed accordingly.

13. Date of Next Meeting: 12th September 2018 at 8pm.

14. Any other business:

Barry Bell gave his apologies for the next meeting.

Meeting closed 21.50pm

Signed.....Chair.....

.....Date