

Minutes of a meeting of Spurstow Parish Council held on 24th November 2021

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

28th November 2021

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 20:00 at The Tower Room, St Boniface Church, Bunbury.

In attendance: Councillor K Hutchinson (Chair), Councillor B Bell, Councillor R Finney, Councillor J Middlemiss, Councillor S Lea. It was noted that the meeting was quorate.

The Council welcomed Cheshire East Councillor Stan Davies, Helen Cornwell-Lee, Chair of Haughton Parish Meeting, and Yvonne Fairclough, a member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence.

Councillor Warriner, Councillor S Augustin-Wood, C Jones (Clerk)

2. Declaration of interests – Members to declare any interests under the following categories: - Pecuniary interests, Outside body interests, Family, friend or close associate interests.

None

3. Approve the minutes of last meeting - Matters arising and vote for acceptance.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

ACTION

Clerk to agenda a discussion for the next Parish Council meeting- whether Spurstow Parish Council would like to organise a community bonfire or any other evening event on or around 2nd June to coincide with the Queen's jubilee beacons since Beeston Castle are planning to light a beacon so our event would not need to be an official beacon event.

4. Open Forum (15 minutes).

There were no items brought forward by members of the public.

5. Planning applications, current, and outstanding.

Planning Applications were discussed, no new planning applications, no decision yet made on either Green Butts Barns nor Radley Green Farm, nor the Cottage.

6. Highways Issues and Alternative Ways to Manage Speed.

Bunbury cluster report: Councillor Bell has attended the Police's Bunbury Cluster for Spurstow Parish Council, where the current A51 closure was discussed. He had proposed that concrete blocks be laid to reduce width to prevent articulated lorries using the back roads through Calveley as a rat run and again asked for "No HGV Except for access" signs for Long Lane.

The Clerk has written to Cheshire East with some proposals, but no acknowledgment has been received.

Councillor Davies was asked for contact details at Cheshire East for someone who can be spoken to specifically regarding ensuring Long Lane is gritted. He said he would be in touch with the clerk.

ACTION

Clerk to write to the contact about the importance of gritting Long Lane, which has been taken off the gritting list but is now far busier owing to the A51 being shut, with several accidents already and would be a very dangerous situation if not gritted this winter.

Clerk also to make enquiries-how much would it cost to hire a council gritter while they are in the area to go along Long Lane.

Speed Indicating Device: The price has increased from £1,600 to £2,400 + VAT plus cost of fitting, or a bit more depending upon the specification. The battery is expected to last for at least 1 week between re-charges. Councillor Davies was asked whether his funds could help with the cost – he felt that if we made a good case and showed collaboration with other Parishes he may be able to contribute £1,000. After the meeting Sean Augustin said he felt other Parishes borrowing the SID should buy their own batteries as he felt battery management was key to maintaining good battery life- agreed the SID specification group would discuss this with the manufacturer.

Helen Cornwell-Lee suggested that Haughton parish could contribute approx. £500

ACTION

Councillor Middlemiss was asked to invite a Speed Indicating Device provider to present options and for representatives from Spurstow Parish Council and Haughton Parish Meeting to attend to make a decision about the specification we feel would be appropriate.

ACTION

Chris Jones to write to Haughton, Peckforton, Beeston and Bunbury Parishes to ask if they would be interested in hiring a SID if Spurstow Parish purchased one, and whether they had any requirements in term of specification they would want. We are proposing to buy a SID which would provide Smiley and Frowny faces, and/or indication of vehicle speed and would store anonymised data for vehicle speed.

Helen Cornwell-Lee offered to ask PCSO Sharon Jones that Long Lane receives mobile speed camera time.

Flooding:

Councillor Hutchinson reported that she had met with Councillor Finney and Mike Hiscock and had walked over the drainage of the fields immediately to the south and east of the area which floods in winter and written a report to Paul Reeves at Cheshire East. He said this was very useful and has arranged for Highways to contact the owners of Green Butts Farm and have the drains in the area between the boundary to Green Butts and the ditch behind Talbarn reviewed, possibly with more investigations. Spurstow Parish Council are willing to support this and maybe join a meeting between Derek Pegg and David Correy to discuss this further. Councillor Hutchinson also attended a Zoom meeting about flooding in Cheshire and can provide the slides to anyone who is interested.

ACTION

Councillor Hutchinson to contact Derek Pegg

Discussion of the Safety Camera on the A49.

Councillor Bell has met PCSO Sharon Jones who showed him to precise position the new camera is planned to go. This is further away from Long Lane than we had feared and should not obstruct vision turning out of Long Lane too badly, however she suggested that the Clerk writes to Mr John Dwyer about this.

Stan Davies said Cheshire East, on the advice of the police, originally said the position of the current (non-functioning) speed camera was the only appropriate position in Spurstow.

ACTION

Clerk to ask Councillor Bell what John Dwyer's role is so as to know how best to extract a few paragraphs from previous letters asking him to get involved in leaving the old (non-functioning) speed camera where it is and not installing a new one

7. Correspondence.

Governance review response: Cheshire East are regularising the size of councils and boundaries: proposal for Spurstow to reduce councillors from 8 to 7. It was noted that Spurstow Parish Council had written to Cheshire East Council to explain why we feel 8 councillors is preferable. Spurstow council agreed that there should be no change to boundaries between Bunbury and Spurstow, however we have many common interests with Haughton and there may be advantages in amalgamating.

Councillor Stan Davies suggested that there would be no benefit to Spurstow Parish Council merging with Haughton Parish Meeting for now as there is no commercial benefit. This is to be discussed at the next meeting of Spurstow Parish Council.

Gordon Whitehead of Meadow House Residents Association has written to Cheshire East Council to propose a one-way system around the Park. This was felt to be a good idea.

ACTION

The Clerk was asked to forward to the letter to Cheshire East with a covering letter in support, and to let Gordon know that we have done this. Also to inform Gordon about the new bus service residents can call and book.

Discussion on the caravan parked on the junction of Long Lane and Badcocks Lane – it is believed that the occupant is on the list for local housing.

8. Footpaths

Stephen Hutchinson came to demonstrate the new footpath section of the website. Detailed maps and reports are now available via the Footpath tab on the Spurstow Parish Council website. Reports can be written by anyone on a Word document to flag up the conditions of most of the 40 footpaths and arrange for those reports to be uploaded by contacting the Clerk. The plan is that anyone wishing to report on a footpath will inform the Clerk who will add the note "Report being produced" so as to avoid duplication of effort, and who can help them produce their first report if they have any difficulties.

9. Finance Update and payments due: -

The current bank balance is £11,155 including £1,150 received recently from Cheshire East Council. We are expecting an invoice for Peter Wilson shortly. It was noted that the Bunbury Charities have given about £11,000 recently to local good causes and deserving individuals.

10. Date of next meeting.

9th March 2022

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.50pm.