

## SPURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 8pm on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

[www.spurstow-pc.gov.uk](http://www.spurstow-pc.gov.uk) clerk@spurstow-pc.gov.uk

### Peckforton & Beeston Village Room

**Present:** Barry Bell (**BB** (Vice Chair)), Stuart Lee (**SL**), Mrs Helen Exley (**The Clerk**), Reynold Finney (**RF**), Katherine Hutchinson (**KH**), Chris Warriner (**CW**)

**In Attendance:** None.

#### **1. Apologies received:**

Sean Augustin ((**SA**) Chair), Mandy Murton (**MM**), David Cox (**DC**)

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

There were no declarations of Councillor Interests declared.

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

- Dip in the Road in Peckforton Hall Lane - CEC Highways have been contacted again regarding this.
- Application for the fence at Castlevue is still awaiting a decision.
- Panama Hatty's gates - letter of acknowledgement written to the Proprietor for his efforts. **BB** to deliver.
- Clerk has had an e mail from CEC Highways regarding "Long Lane" sign stating that it won't be until next financial year that this will instigated.
- Lighting issues – The Clerk has requested a quote for the works of LED replacement.
- Phonebox in Peckforton Hall Lane. BT still to remove.

Minutes approved from 14/12/17 meeting. **FR** proposed and **SL** seconded. All Councillors agreed that these are a true record.

#### **4. Open Forum:**

No members of the public were present.

#### **5. Petition for speed limit reduction on A49:**

**BB** and **SA** have visited the 2 residents on Whitchurch Road who have sent letters regarding the speed issue (attached – originals are on file). E mail also received from David Bell 08/03/17 regarding current situation (attached) and further meetings planned. No decision has been made on the 30MPH and SPC are awaiting response from Cllr David Brown and CEC highways. The recent Speed Management Strategy from CEC that has been issued was discussed and it was agreed to upload this onto the website for residents to view.

#### **6. Planning applications:**

No update to report on planning applications.

## 7. Website update

Website is now ready for launch into public domain [www.spurstow-pc.gov.uk](http://www.spurstow-pc.gov.uk). Discussion regarding notifying the residents of Spurstow and a leaflet drop. It was agreed by all Cllrs present that they would undertake leaflet drop in the Parish. The Clerk to print and distribute. The Clerk to contact Link magazine to advertise. Recent e mail from David Bell suggesting a "bygones" page with old photos and anecdotes from past times that residents can send in. The Clerk will publish these when sent in. Flyer will also state if businesses wish to advertise, to contact Clerk.

## 8. Financial update

David Cox had previously sent this report to Cllrs and this can be found on the website.

## 9. Clerk's Report:

Clerk to attend a Finance course run by CHALC on 13/03/17 regarding the requirements for the Transparency code and the future reporting of the PC finances from April 2017.

Parish Council Laptop guarantee – 4 year deal for £164. Agreed by all Cllrs not to proceed with this.

## 10. Highways issues:

- Peckforton Hall Lane – see matters arising
- Road Signage – see matters arising
- Footpath on Whitchurch Road –Clerk to E mail to be sent to CEC highways regarding this.
- Lights – See matters arising.
- Back Lane/A49 – Road carriage is collapsing and needs repairing **BB** to e mail photos to the Clerk who will report to CEC Highways.

## 11. Saddlers Wells Community Woodland

There is a constitutional change required for the above charity and requirement for a SPC Councillor to be elected onto the newly formed Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It was proposed by **BB** and seconded by **CW** that **KH** remain as the PC representative. All Cllrs agreed.

<u>12. Payment of accounts:</u>	<u>Chq no</u>	<u>amount</u>
Scottish Power      16/01/17	627	£ 93.11
IntouchCRM (annual webhosting fee)	628	£360.00
Peter Wilson (Litter picking)	629	£ 164.40
Helen Exley (Salary)	630	£ 362.50
Peckforton & Beeston Village rooms (room use)	631	£ 20.00

All payments were proposed by **CW** and seconded by **SL**.

**13. Dates of next meetings**

10<sup>th</sup> May (Inc Annual Meeting), 5<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> December.

**14. AOB:**

**SL** have an active e mail account up and running by 22<sup>nd</sup> March to ensure that he receives all current e mail and PC related information.

Notice Board in Back Lane is collapsing and needs a new hinge. **SA** and **BB** to organize and repair. Bench in Southcroft will be power-washed when the weather is better - **BB**

Chestnut meat survey has been sent onto Councillors for completing.

Meeting closed 21.15pm

Signed.....Chair

.....Date

Spurstow A49 Speed Limit Petition

Copy for Information to: Helen Exley Parish Clerk Spurstow Council

Mr Augustin  
Spurstow Chapel  
Peckforton Hall Lane  
Spurstow  
CW6 9TF

Dear Mr Augustin,

I am writing to you as Chairman of Spurstow Parish Council to ask that the council re-consider their view on the resident's petition for a 30 MPH speed limit near Spurstow A49 crossroads. As you are aware more than 90 residents including myself who live near the main road have signed a petition for a 30 MPH speed limit. I also signed a similar petition in 2013 when Mr Cox was chairman.

I have lived in Spurstow at Purbrook, since 1938 and have seen many changes in the volume, size and speed of traffic. Although the reduction in speed limit from 60 to 50 and then 40 has improved safety I think that it would be better to have 30 MPH as it would make me feel safer. In my late 70s the speed of traffic has become a concern to me both as a driver and a pedestrian. You may be aware that I deliver the Bunbury Journal Link to Spurstow residences and that now because of the dangers of traffic I find I have to use my car to deliver to houses on the A49 as I find the road unsafe to walk by especially when there are large speeding HGVs.

I would ask that at your next meeting in March you take the opportunity to discuss the petition and give more thought to the views of the more elderly residents who live directly next to the A49s

Yours Sincerely



Miss Hester Wade

Wayside, Whitchurch Road,  
Spurstow, CW6 9TD

20<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Spurstow Speed Limit Petition Copy for Information.

Helen Exley, Daisybank Off Top Farm, Lane, Cholmondeston, CW7 4DR

Mr Sean Augustin - Chairman of Spurstow Parish Council  
Spurstow Chapel  
Peckforton Hall Lane  
Spurstow Tarporley  
CW6 9TF

Dear Mr Augustin,

I am writing to you to request the support of the Council for a new 30 MPH speed limit in Spurstow. Although the council has the right to their own opinion on the matter I think that they have the responsibility to represent the view of their residents in this matter especially when so many residents have signed the petition for 30 MPH.

Unlike the members of the council I have lived in Spurstow next to the A49 for nearly 80 years and at my age find the speed of traffic a problem. Living by the main road and having recently had a hip replacement that makes walking difficult I have to use a walking stick as I am unsteady on my feet. I do not have a car and I have to walk on the pavement to the corner to catch the bus and lifts to Church and Chapel as well as cross the road to get to the Post Box which can be quite dangerous when Lorries pass me at speed.

I hope you will consider the plight of my situation when you are considering your future support for a 30 MPH limit. My situation is different from that of that of the council members who do not live by the main road. I would ask that you put this issue on the agenda for the next Parish Meeting so that the council can think more carefully about the matter and whether their duty is to represent the views of the community.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs C Fowles

Copy to:

Councillor David Brown, Cheshire East Council, Sandbach, CWII IHZ

Email from David Bell 08/03/17

Sean,

As promised - Just some points for information regarding the Speed Campaign that you may find useful at your meeting 8/03/17.

Cheshire East proposed a second with Highways on either 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> March but I have declined these dates due to prior commitments and I'm waiting to hear from Cllr David Brown. You will also be aware that the assessment data-logging cables were removed to day.

Items to be addressed when a meeting is confirmed.

### **1 Speed and Volume Assessment using Data Cables**

I have asked that **results are communicated before any meeting**. On 15/01/17 I notified David Brown the issue of the inappropriate timing (February) of this assessment as it is usual Highways policy to carry out assessments and I quote, "**during summer months when schools are not on holiday**". Consequently there would be grounds **for appeal** if a limit of 30 MPH was not forthcoming. **It is also usual practice to consult with Petitioners before undergoing any assessment.**

### **2 Decision Not To Implement 30 MPH in 2013 in line with RTC Data.**

Cllr Brown has still not got back to me on this although he is now aware that Joe Dahler of Cheshire Constabulary has stated "**I have spoken to Robin Johnson and he is not aware of any involvement by the Constabulary in the 2013 decision**". This contradicts the view held by some individuals that the Constabulary supported a preference for 40 MPH A49 Spurstow.

### **3 Speed Camera – Ineffective Placement in terms of Prosecutions and Damage Costs.**

Due to vandalism (second time) the camera has now been out of action since October 2016

Prosecutions forwarded by the camera unit to the Central ticket office are 2015 – 91 and 2016 – 174

This contrasts sharply with prosecutions at the Bunbury Heath Speed Camera – July to August 2016 – 2000 and 1035 from November to January - empirically supporting why assessment should be carried out during Summer Months.

The Spurstow camera would be far more effective closer to the crossroads and residences – ideally either at the crossroads as per Bunbury Heath or slightly to the North.

### **4 Positioning of 30 MPH Limit if Implemented**

See attached map.

### **5 Implementation of Improvements (Visibility) at the Crossroads**

This issue is addressed with photographs in the original petition statement and endorsed by SPC in their consideration of planning permission for the Gables. (As below)

"Access to both the A49 and Peckforton Hall lane **poses hazards risks due to limited visibility.**" and "walking to Bunbury is **hazardous ...**"

### **6 Road Surface Issues**

Vibration from HGV's and timetable for resurfacing.

### **7 Other Items**

(i) Flooding of the A49 Spurstow                      (ii) Vulnerable residents.

If you have any other issues you think should be raised then please advise.

It was kind of you to see you take the time to visit my elderly, and therefore more vulnerable neighbours and listen to their views. I hope this gave you an insight into how a reduced speed limit would especially benefit such residents both as pedestrians and drivers.

Regards

David

