

SPURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 8pm on Wednesday 28th November 2018

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

Peckforton & Beeston Village Room

Present: Sean Augustin ((SA) Chair), Louise Hare (LH), Barry Bell (BB) Reynold Finney (RF), Chris Warriner (CW) David Cox (DC), Stuart Lea (SL), Jonathan Middlemiss (JM), Katherine Hutchinson (KH), Cllr Stan Davies (SD)

In Attendance: No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting

1. Apologies received:

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interests & Councillors Code of Conduct:

SA declared a declaration of interest, he explained that he has started initial discussions with Cheshire East's Planning Department with regard to an extension to his property. No formal planning application has been made at this stage, but he will withdraw from any discussions re his planning application once it has been formally submitted.

3. Matters Arising & approval of previous minutes

Minutes approved from 26th September 2018 were approved. All Councillors agreed that these are a true record.

4. Open Forum:

The were no members of public in attendance at this meeting.

5. Appointment of Financially Responsible Officer

The Council unanimously approved the transition of Financially Responsible Officer from DC to the Clerk and agreed a handover period in January 2019.

6. Succession Planning for Chair and Vice Chair of the Council

SA reported that he and BB will be stepping down from their roles of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council at the next AGM and asked to all the Councilors to reflect o whether they might feel capable of taking up this role.

Action: All Councilor to consider if they could take on the role of Chair of Vice Chair in May 2019.

7. Planning Applications

LH reported that we didn't currently have any new planning applications to discuss, and confirmed that the planning application for The Gable on Peckforton Hall Lane is currently on hold pending further information from the agent.

8. Clerks Report

LH informed the meeting that she has now updated the website to include a GDPR policy for the Council.

9. Update from Alternative Ways to Manage Speed Group

JM reported that since the last meeting he had met up with Andrea Bickerton for Cheshire East Highways and developed a realistic programme of works including two key elements painted road markings (30 signs painted on Nursery Lane and Peckforton Hall Lane and white lines at the junction of Peckforton Hall Lane and the A49) and moving existing 30mph signs and setting them back further away from the junction so that they are more visible to drivers. JM agreed to continue pushing these proposals forward and asked for SD's support to get this work scheduled.

In addition, the group are keen to adopt a localized approach to speed management including the purchase of a Speed Indication Device, Slow bin stickers, and silhouettes of children to be located opposite the Nursery on Peckforton Hall Lane. The group have identified a source of funding that we would like to apply to, they sought the approval of the meeting to apply for this funding in collaboration with Haughton and Peckforton Parish Meetings. All councilors unanimously agreed to support this grant application.

Action : JM to cost out the project, BB to draft a business case, SA to create Safeguarding Policy, LH to draft application and manage the overall submission (closing date for the application is 31st December).

10. Operation Shield

SA reported that Cheshire Police have recently confirmed their cost for purchasing an initial 50 kits and 20 signs. This works out at £770 including delivery. The council unanimously agreed to progress with this project.

Action: LH to confirm purchase with Cheshire Police and to generate a flier to promote the kits to local residents.

11. Highways issues

LH reported that she had approached highways with the uneven tarmac between Peckforton Hall Lane and the A49 however on inspection they did not notice any issues with the patching work itself but did accept that the taping required replacement.

12. Damage to the Verges in Peckforton Hall Lane re Tough Mudder

LH reported that she had had a long discussion with United Utilities about the problems that Spurstow residents had had during the water collection for the Tough Mudder event at Cholmondley in September. She explained that we have now identified a contact within United Utilities to whom we need to address our complaints. He will then ensure that this information is added to the file when the Tough Mudder event is considered the following year.

Action: LH to use information from CW to help her compose an email to United Utilities to build a case for UU to find an alternative site for water fill ups next year and the push to get the damage to the verges resolved.

13. Lighting in Southcroft

SA updated the meeting that LH has obtained a quote for replacing all the lighting in the parish based on RF map. The total quote comes in at just over £11,000. It is clear that we based on our bank balance that we are not in a position to purchase these lights in full. Instead it was agreed that we should ask for SD's support to help us set up a meeting with Cheshire East's Ian Darlington to negotiate what could be achieved if Spurstow able to make a part contribution to the lights. The council agreed to allocate the maximum sum for the project of £5,000.

It was also noted that a possible temporary option would be to move light from outside CW house in Peckforton Hall Lane and replace it on the telegraph pole outside the nursery.

Action: SD to set up a meeting with Ian Darlington for SA and BB to attend to discuss our options going forward.

14. Noticeboard

LH presented a table of quotes for noticeboards, however JM proposed that he would be able to construct an Oak Noticeboard suitable for 9 sheets of A4 for a cost of £500. All councillors agreed based on the external quotes that this represented good value for money and agreed for JM to construct the noticeboard on behalf of the parish council.

Action: JM to construct a new noticeboard during 2019.

15. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors discussed the relative merits of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Spurstow and agreed that there was indeed some merit in having a plan. SA commented that commencement if agreed should be under the new chair.

Action: JM to contact the author of the Neighbourhood Plan for Bunbury to get a quote for him to compose one for Spurstow.

16. Payment of Accounts

The current balance for the Parish Council Accounts Stands at £10,740.86 There are two payments pending payment to be made these are as follows.

Bunbury Church	(for meeting room hire and contribution to police cluster meeting)	£35
Clerk Salary		£359.86
Total =		£394.86

After these payments are made that will leave the Council with a balance of £10,340.00.

17. Priorisation of Projects

The meeting discussed all current and ongoing projects including Operation Shield, a new noticeboard, Lighting, and speed reduction methods and used this information to review and agree on a precept for next financial year.

The meeting agreed that priorisation should be given to fund initial roll out of Operation Shield as this had been agreed to as a commitment earlier this year.

The meeting also noted that a new noticeboard was a priority given the poor state of repair of our existing one and our statutory obligation to provide information to the parish on the parish noticeboard.

Councillors agreed that new street lighting was desirable but Southcroft was essential, a grant funding stream has been identified from Cheshire East Council and an application will be completed during December 2018.

Speed awareness activities were considered desirable but our activity was constrained and would rely on external funding via a successful grant application or acceptance of work by Cheshire East Council.

18. Agreement of Precept 2018/19.

After some discussion it was agreed that the precept for this year should be nominally increased to £3650, from £3500 during 2017/18.

Action: LH to submit this figure to Cheshire East Council.

19. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2019 at Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall

The remaining parish meetings for 2019 will be held on the following dates.

Wednesday 22nd May 2019 (NB The date agreed at the meeting was Wednesday 15th May unfortunately this date has since had to be changed)

Wednesday 11th September 2019

Wednesday 27th November 2019 (St Boniface Church, Bunbury)

Action: LH to contact Gill Thexton to book hall and add dates to the website.

20. Another Other Business

There were no additional items to be discussed.

The meeting closed at 21.30.

Signed.....**Chair**
.....**Date**