

SPURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 27th November 2019

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

Peckforton & Beeston Village Room

Present: Katherine Hutchinson ((**KH**) Chair), Barry Bell (**BB**), Louise Hare (**LH**), Reynold Finney (**RF**), Chris Warriner (**CW**), Stuart Lea (**SL**), Jonathan Middlemiss (**JM**), Chris Jones (**CJ**).

In Attendance: Andrew Thomson, Neighbourhood Planning Expert.

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

1. Apologies received:

Apologies for absence were received from Sean Augustin and Cllr Stan Davies

2. Declaration of Interests & Councillors Code of Conduct:

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Matters Arising & approval of previous minutes

Minutes from 11th September 2019 were approved. All Councillors agreed that these are a true record.

4. Open Forum:

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

5. Neighbourhood Plan – Informal Presentation by Andrew Thomson.

Andrew spoke for approximately 20 minutes on the value of completing a neighbourhood plan. Below are some of the salient points from this discussion.

Neighbourhood Plans are created by a group of local residents that are concerned about the protection and preservation of key elements of their parish landscape, and form an official part of the local authorities statutory planning guidance.

There is funding of £9,000 available to complete the plan and information about the plans available via the CE neighbourhood planning website.

Neighbourhood plans can include information on Housing and Design, Landscape Value, Affordable Housing, Biodiversity and Ecology, Transport, Infrastructure and Economy amongst other things.

The whole process would be led by a steering group of local residents and would require approximately 2 years to complete. On average you would expect this group to be meet on a monthly basis.

Completing a neighbourhood plan can prove useful to help challenge out of character planning applications and developments and can also be useful to support the drawing down of additional funding for future projects and area assessments.

Katherine discussed the strong implication that neighbourhood plans would require additional allocated houses to build and Andrew said the council have already filled their 5 year housing allocation so this is not a major issue at the moment. He felt that the most likely threat for building in Spurstow was in the area nearest Bunbury to effectively enlarge this "Local service centre" outside the area covered by the Bunbury neighbourhood plan. Discussing this after the meeting I have since heard that the current local plan has not been approved as it does not contain enough housing, so I do not know if this information is up-to-date.

The parish council discussed their thoughts on the process and resolved to contact Haughton to find out if they would be interested in completing a joint plan.

Action: JM to contact Helen Cornwell-Lee to find out if Haughton might be interested in joining forces.

6. Planning applications, *current and outstanding*

At the time of the meeting there were no new planning applications to consider.

Clerk's Report

- Website Development

We will be handing over from our existing website to the new one on 31st December, the new domain name will be www.spurstow.org.uk and will require a change of email addresses for both the Clerk and Chair.

Online Banking

KH and LH have been successfully making payments via the online banking now.

Action: BB to call up Barclays to be able to make payments online as well. SA to complete mandate change form to become an additional bank signatory.

Scottish Power review of metered reading.

LH has successfully negotiated with Scottish Power to reduce our fixed electricity costs for the new LED lighting and received a rebate for the duration of the time when the lights were not working.

-Correspondence

LH presented a number of emails to the meeting.

1. From David Bell re notification of planning applications on the noticeboard. Whilst we have sympathy with the local residents request for us to include fuller information on the agenda displayed on the noticeboards this is not something that we can deliver due to the fact that the meetings are only quarterly and most of the applications are discussed outside the meetings to allow a full response within the planning notification timescales, so these are frequently not current when meetings are due to be held and there is no funding for posting parish council activities between meetings.
2. A further notification from David Bell re the drainage outside house alongside the A49 due to poor drain clearance.

Action: RF to draft maps of the extent of the flooding area with the position of any drains in this area so that we can send in a suggestion to highways about how this may be solved for their consideration.

3. From Pippa Hill, resident on Peckforton Hall Lane how is concerned about the high volume of agricultural vehicles travelling up and down Peckforton Hall Lane and the impact on the soft verges.

Action: KH to contact the contractor re making the verges good again after the completion of their works

Update: KH has subsequently rang a very helpful man who has agreed to re-make the entry to the field and re-grade the edges near the field, which has now been done. He also said he would endeavour to replace soil back over the edge of the road where this has been displaced when it was dry enough and not frosty, however he cannot add any stone etc as this would make him liable for any future harm from his work in these areas so if we want stone adding we should request this from the council.

8. Update from alternative ways to manage speed group -silhouette, bin stickers, SID loan, highway alterations

JM has had approval for the Horse signs on either side of the Equestrian Centre. JM is continuing the champion the completion of this work. It is scheduled to be completed before the end of March 2020.

He will continue to liaise with Highways to push for its timely completion.

9. Update on the Removal of Electricity Pole – CW

CW reported that there is only one electricity pole left to be removed at the entrance to Southcroft. CW to continue to monitor the completion of this job.

9a. High Hedges on Peckforton Hall Lane

KH informed the meeting that she and CJ have been contacted by a resident of Peckforton Hall Lane who is concerned about the height of the hedges between theirs and their neighbour's garden. She hopes that their considered and tactful approach will encourage the neighbour to cut the hedge back significantly to resolve the issue since there is no legal basis for further action.

10. Highway Issues

JM and RF raised their concerns about highway safety on the road outside Spurstow Hall. The angle of a security on the Hall's property is such that shines directly in the line of sight of road users and could lead to an accident.

Action: LH to contact Highway to request support to resolved this matter.

11. Finance Update

Our payments out this year to date total £6,996.21 and our income has been £5081.01. Our current balance stands at £6,931.29.

Payments approved at this meeting

Clerks Salary £716.80

CHALC Training £35

Bunbury Church Room Hire £25

All of the above payments were approved.

Forecasting for the year ahead -agreement of precept.

After some discussing it was unanimously agreed that we would retain the precept at the same amount at during 2019/20. (ie £3,650)

Part 2 Approval of new Parish Clerks contract

The council discussed the salient points of the new parish clerk contract and resolved the accept the new terms and conditions.

Dates for 2020 meetings –

Wednesday 11th March 2020

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Wednesday 25th November 2020

The meeting closed at 21.45pm.

Signed.....

...Chair

Date
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Action List

| Agenda item | Action | Person Responsible for Actioning |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | | |
| 5 | JM to contact Helen Cornwell-Lee to find out if Haughton might be interested in joining forces. | JM |
| 7 | BB to call up Barclays to be able to make payments online as well. SA to complete mandate change form to become an additional bank signatory. | BB/SA |
| 7 | RF to draft maps of the extent of the flooding area with the position of any drains in this area so that we can send in a suggestion to highways about how this may be solved for their consideration. | RF |
| 7 | KH to contact the contractor re making the verges good again after the completion of their works | KH |
| 10 | LH to contact Highway to request support to resolved this matter. (Floodlighting Spurstow Hal) | LH |

