

Spurstow Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 20:00 remotely via Zoom.

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

25th November 2020

Note:- The Government has removed the legal requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person during the coronavirus pandemic under legislation enacted on 2nd April 2020 applicable to meetings held before 7th May 2021. Therefore, in line with Government Guidance, this meeting will be held remotely via Zoom.

The Council welcome attendance by members of the public. Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting remotely should contact the Clerk to the Council via clerk@spurstow.org.uk to request the login details.

1. Apologies for absence.

Written Apologies have been received from Cllr Augustin-Wood, who is attending a medical procedure and Cllr Warriner who is unable to attend due to his responsibilities as a carer, following Government Guidelines in respect of the current pandemic. Cllr Stanley Davies also sent his apologies via Cllr. Finney. Present – Barry Bell, Stuart Lea, Reynold Finney, Katherine Hutchinson, Jonathan Middlemiss.

The Council sent Cllr Augustin their best wishes.

It was resolved to accept the apologies offered, and it was noted that the meeting was quorate.

2. Declaration of interests – Members to declare any interests under the following categories: - pecuniary, outside body, family, friend or close associate.

Cllr. Hutchinson explained that as a near neighbour, she would express no opinion, should Mr Thompson wish to discuss a planning application at his residence “The Cottage”

3. Approve the minutes of last meeting.

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2020.

4. Members of the public - Open forum (15 minutes).

It was noted that The Council welcomes attendance by members of the public who wish to attend the meeting remotely should contact the Clerk to the Council via clerk@spurstow.org.uk to request the login details. It was noted that an extract of the Council’s standing orders was appended to the Agenda including the Standing Order that relates to recording the meeting.

Mr Thompson brought to the Council’s attention the Council’s response to his planning application. He read his note requesting information about the process with 3 queries, to which the Chair responded that the Council’s decision was a corporate decision taken after discussion. It was noted that the job of the Council is to provide an opinion on behalf of the local residents, which may not be the view of a specific individual resident, and that the council are not required to take directions from any individual or group driven, the requirement is for the Council to consider the consequences for others outside any group should those wishes be granted. The discussion with Mr Thompson ended after approximately 25 minutes. It was noted that Mr Thompson had sent documents at about 14:30 on Tuesday 24th November.

5. Planning correspondence and applications, current, and outstanding. Please note that an updated list of relevant applications will be sent in the week of the meeting

No relevant applications have been submitted, and there was minimal discussion.

6. To consider whether to support as a Council Haughton Parish Meeting’s campaign to preserve the Nag’s Head, Haughton as a community resource.

It was resolved to write a letter of support to Haughton Parish Meeting.

7. Update from alternative ways to manage speed group.
Waiting for lockdown to end – may be worthwhile borrowing the SID in the spring.

Cllr Middlemiss had sent some figures for a defibrillator, which had been forwarded to the Council. There was some support for the idea, with others feeling it was unlikely to be used.

It was resolved that Cllr Middlemiss obtain the Speed Indicating Advice at his convenience, perhaps in the spring of 2021.

It was resolved that the matter of a defibrillator be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Highways Issues

Cllr Bell reported that after many emails and the help of Cllr. Stan Davies and Cllr. Janet Clowes a jetting team has jetted the drains about 2 weeks ago. Cllr Bell has asked that the verges be maintained to avoid repetition of the flooding.

The Chair thanked Cllr Bell for his help with this.

It was resolved that the matter be discussed at the next meeting.

Clerk's report

- a) Parish Precept Arrangements & Taxbase 2021/22

It was resolved that the precept be left as per last year.

- b) The Council to consider authorising any payments to hand, including those shown on the schedule below totalling approx. £ 270,000.

It was resolved that the payments above be processed.

- c) Litter Picking

It was noted that Mr Wilson had a short-term solution.

10. Chair's Update

Cllr. Finney has, with Stan Davies's help made some progress with attempting to get the street lights adopted, but progress is slow at the moment.

The chairs of Spurstow, Beeston, Peckforton and Haughton meet virtually as needed to review the Community Support scheme. It was felt that we should re-publicize the phone support number with a leaflet drop in the light of the new lockdown and that this was a good opportunity to deliver another small idea to try to help isolated people. We decided a small packet of birdseed was affordable and could allow hours of watching the birds as well as providing an idea for the future.

Helen Cornwell-Lee bought the packets and a large bag of bulk birdseed and made up the packs as well as arranging delivery in Haughton and the packs were delivered by Barry, Reynold and me between 7-10th November.

I had several expressions of thanks, and have since had a couple more phone calls on the help line from elderly residents whose family normally offer support but have been requested to self-isolate temporarily after contact with a known case of Coronavirus. I think this delivery has been a great success and my thanks to all councillors for agreeing to this and helping with the deliveries.

It was resolved that the Clerk should send a brief mail of thanks to Cllr Davies for his help with the jetting and adoption of the lights.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 21:06