

Spurstow Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in the Tower Room at St Boniface Church, Bunbury on Thursday 19th May 2022 immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

(24th May 2022

The meeting started at 20:30.

Apologies for absence and attendance. Councillor Warriner is recovering from an operation; the Council send him their best wishes for a swift recovery and Councillor Augustin is unable to attend due to work commitments.

Present: - Cllrs. Hutchinson, Bell, Finney, Lea, Middlemiss.

In attendance: - Cllr. Stan Davies, Nell Jones, Chris Crompton, Chris Jones (Clerk)

- 1. Declaration of interests** – Members to declare any interests under the following categories: - Pecuniary interests, Outside body interests, Family, friend or close associate interests. **None.**
- 2. Approve the minutes of last meeting** - Cllr. Bell proposed the motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Cllr. Middlemiss and agreed unanimously.
- 3. Open Forum (15 minutes).** No items were raised.
- 4. Community Jubilee Celebration.** The Clerk was asked to generate a list of local events for councillors, the Council Noticeboard and website.
- 5. Constitution of the Council. To discuss the responses to the recent letter sent to all Electors and the constitution of the Council. To welcome Nell Jones and Chris Crompton, who have both expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council to the meeting, and consider the best way forward.**

Cllr. Warriner has offered his resignation, with great regret. The Chair thanked him very much for his contributions over many years, especially in regard to road safety and maintenance.

Cllr. Augustin, who has previously been chair of Spurstow Parish Council for 3 years has offered his resignation, with great regret. The Council thanked him very much for his contributions over many years, especially in respect of the new lighting in the Parish, road safety and communications with Electors.

In the light of the approaching Council Elections due in May 2023, it was agreed that the Council would be willing to Co-opt potential new Councillors.

The Chair invited Nell Jones and Chris Crompton to join the Council at the earliest opportunity.

Nell Jones and Chris Crompton expressed their willingness to be Co-opted onto the Council, after following the due process.

The Council warmly welcomed both new potential Councillors and asked the Clerk to ensure that the correct process be followed and necessary documentation completed.

- 6. Flooding in the parish. Update and report of recent discussions, particularly with respect to the area around the Yew Tree and the junction of Long Lane and the bend of Cappers Lane.**

Ms. Jones enquired about whether the cause of the flooding in this area was overflow from the nearby pond, or a drainage issue between Mr Hiscock's property at Dolphin Cottage and Mr Corry's at Green Butts Farm. Investigations have led the Council to believe that the problem is either on the grounds of Green Butts Farm, or perhaps under the drive to Green Butts Farm or maybe under Cheshire East's

property under the road. Cllr Middlemiss has arranged for the drains to be jetted as far as possible under the fields, and tried without success to contact Paul Reeves at Cheshire East to ask Cheshire East to repair their drain. Cheshire East Council have repaired the flood on Cappers Lane near the Stansfield's house.

7. **Recycling Facilities. To consider whether to press for access to the recycling centre at Tattenhall for local residents.** Several Councillors who live in Cheshire East have recently been turned away from the recycling centre at Tattenhall because it is run by Cheshire West and Chester Council. Cllr. Bell and the Clerk are to enquire **of Cheshire East Council and Cheshire West and Chester.**
8. **Mobile Phone Signal. To consider whether the Parish Council can help to improve the mobile signal in the Parish.** Ms. Jones will investigate the maps provided by the various suppliers.
9. **Planning applications, current, and outstanding. Please note that an updated list of applications for consideration will be supplied to Councillors in the week of the meeting.** The Clerk was asked to write to Cheshire East Council to express the Council's objections to an application for a Determination (Agricultural/Forestry) at Green Butts Farm. With 8.9ha and no livestock for 20 years or so, the view of the Council was that this fails to satisfy the required test set out in Schedule 2, Part 6 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), which requires that the applicant show that the requested development is "reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within that unit", and that the proposed development may impinge on the local flooding - there is no consideration of the impact on the local drainage.
10. **Highways Issues and Alternative Ways to Manage Speed. Report on the data collected from Peckforton Hall Lane and the A49. The Clerk and Councillor Middlemiss will update the meeting. The meeting will also consider whether to further discuss a contribution to the cost of the Speed Indicating Device with other local Parish Councils or Parish Meetings. The Council will also consider whether to contact Cheshire East again about their Safety Camera.** It was agreed not to pursue a contribution at the moment, but to reconsider the matter in 6 months or so. The Council will not contact Cheshire East Council again about their Safety Camera at the moment. After some discussion of the data, Cllr. Middlemiss and the Clerk are to discuss details of a new position for the Speed Indicating Device, it was suggested that it be put on Long Lane for approximately 1 month, then between The Yew Tree and Springfield pointing towards traffic travelling in the direction of Nantwich for approximately 1 month, and then on the A49 pointing towards traffic travelling in the direction of Chester for approximately 1 month. It was agreed to ask Cheshire East Council for an update on the speed camera plan for the A49, asking for confirmation that they have cancelled their plan for a new camera near the long lane junction and that they will leave the very useful inoperative camera further south.
11. **Correspondence. To review any correspondence received and note that Cheshire East's Governance Review in respect of Spurstow Parish Council recommend no changes.** It was noted that there is a caravan on the Long Lane/Dob Lane junction, and the Clerk was asked to write to Cheshire East Council again. It is believed to be occupied by the same person as last time. The outcome of the Governance review was noted.
12. **Footpaths. To review the progress made towards the Council's initiative to check the state of the Footpaths in the Parish.** There has been some encouraging progress and a few reports received.
13. **Finance Update and payments due. Please note that the Clerk will provide the documentation for this at the meeting.** It was agreed to make the payments below and noted that the Clerk is soon to submit a timesheet for the last 6 months, showing about 80 hours worked.

Per AGAR at 31/3/22	£ 5,605.83	
Paid - Scottish Power by DD	-£ 86.12	
Per Bank at 19 May 2022	£ 7,344.71	
Less Payments submitted for approval		
Chalc	-£ 75.00	David Kaiserman online course
Zurich	-£ 351.35	Annual Insurance
Chalc	-£ 112.68	Subscription 2022-23

Balance after Payments £ 6,805.68

14. Date of meetings for 2022-2023.

It was agreed that the meetings for 2022/2023 will be scheduled for

22nd September 2022

24th November 2022

23rd March 2023

The Annual Parish Meeting and Ordinary Council Meeting will be held in May 2023

– exact date to be decided in the light of the 2023 election timing.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 22:20