

# Spurstow Parish Council

## Minutes of a meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Clerk: C Jones, Rose Cottage, Spurstow CW6 9TG [clerk@spurstow.org.uk](mailto:clerk@spurstow.org.uk)

13th April 2025

The Council welcomed attendance by members of the public.

### Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Ian Jones, James Pearson, Yvonne Fairclough, Diana Williams– Present – Katherine Hutchinson (Chair), Jonathan Middlemiss, Nell Jones, Barry Bell, Stuart Lea, Reynold Finney.
- 2. Declaration of interests. Members to declare any interest under the following categories:**  
- Pecuniary interests, outside body interests, family, friend or close associate interests. None.
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting.** To be agreed at the next meeting.
- 4. To discuss any items raised by members of the public. To be considered under the Council's Standing Orders.** No members of the public were in attendance.
- 5. To discuss the recent "Residents Voice" letter from P C Sharon Jones.** The contents of the Residents Voice letter (attached) were noted. Cllr. Bell mentioned that there seems to be a gang trying car doors at night at the moment, and encouraged Councillors and members of the community to ensure that vehicles are locked. It was noted that there are a lot of drones flying in the area, which many people find disconcerting – it was thought that it is mainly local young people and not intended to be intrusive.
- 6. To receive the Clerk's Report, to include the Precept for 2025-2026, any planning items which come to hand after issue of this agenda and an update on previous planning items.** The Clerk confirmed that the requested precept of £ 5,312 has been approved. There was some discussion about local planning developments. There was some discussion about the Parish Council's costs, particularly the costs of the street lights and of litter-picking. It was agreed to continue the litter-picking for 2025-26, and to pay the latest invoice in the sum of £618. The Councillors feel reassured that the litter picking is going well and we have adequate records of Peter's activities.

However, the Council felt strongly that the cost of running the street lights was unsupportable. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cheshire East Council, the letter to say :-

1) Councillors have received informal complaints about the rates increases

2) As a small parish council we could not afford to replace the light pole in Southcroft, which is one of the most valued lights, therefore we need to stop paying for and being responsible for the lighting infrastructure due to high costs for the small amount of unmetered electricity the lights use and safety concerns with regard to the Southcroft lighting pole and probably others in the future.

- 7. To consider the budget for the remainder of 2024-2025, and an outline budget for 2025-2026.** Done
- 8. To discuss flooding on Long lane.** This seems to have got better recently, following Cheshire East Council's work in the area - there is no water behind the hedge and Mr Harding has cleared the ditch on his fields where it comes from Mrs Pegg's, however the drain does still appear to be blocked at a plank-bridge – this blockage has caused Cheshire East to close the footpath. However the issue of gardens flooding in the area has still not been resolved.

Mr and Mrs Walker of Dolphin Cottage and Yvonne Fairclough requested that we ask Cheshire East for the report of the CCTV review they said they would send which they hope might mention a blockage under the road of the lower (land) drain, such that now water must rise to the level of the grid on the Green Butts side of the road and drain under the road from that level using the road drainage system. They feel that if a report saying the land drain was blocked where Mr Correy built his new drive or in his field was available that this would be enough to get his cooperation in mending the drain.

- 9. To discuss the caravan on Long Lane – See the attached email from Kelly Rochelle.** It was agreed that the situation would be monitored in conjunction with Houghton Parish Meeting

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- 10. To discuss waste collection on Nursery Lane/Back Lane.** Cllr Bell has spoken to the parishioners and told them what to do if the issue with car parking and non-collection occurs again.
- 11. Speed Indicating Device.** This is still on Long Lane since the last meeting. Cheshire East Council have upgraded the road markings and signs on that corner of Long Lane. It was noted that Peckforton Parish Meeting have expressed an interest in renting it for a few months. Now that Cheshire East have upgraded the road signs on that corner – it was agreed to offer Peckforton Parish Meeting use of the Speed Indicating Device for 1 or 2 months maximum at £100.00 per month.
- 12. Any other business raised by Councillors.** The new speed camera fitted on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at the junction of Long Lane, Peckforton Hall Lane and the A49 was discussed. Cllr. Finney brought up the condition of the Spurstow sign near Sadlers Wells, which has been damaged. The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of a replacement and to enquire of the Council's insurers about whether the cost is covered by the Council's policy.

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13. It was noted that the next meeting of Spurstow Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting, at which the Chair is usually appointed, there was some discussion and it was noted that the current Chair had said last year that she would like to step back from the role in May 2025. There was also some discussion about the role of Vice-Chair for the year 2025-2026. **Agreed all councillors to come to the next meeting with at least one suggestion for a new councillor who may consider being chair after a year or so in post.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:50

### **Appendix 1 - Summary of emails with, Kelly Rochell, Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team, Housing Strategy and Commissioning Team. Cheshire West and Chester Council**

*A member of our team is due to visit \*\*\*\* next week so we will speak to him regarding the dogs.*

*Thanks,*

***Kelly Rochell***

*Good afternoon,*

*I am writing to you to in relation to the current position relating to the caravan and occupant at the above site.*

*The occupation of the land was initially drawn to the attention of Cheshire East Council in July 2024, and although the caravan had been there prior to this time, it was not clear of the land ownership. Confirmation has since been provided the land is owned by Cheshire East Highways.*

*Cheshire East Council were contacted by the Cheshire & Warrington Traveller Team (CWTT) around a similar time and were provided information relating to their contact with the occupier. The occupier has connections with the area and wishes to seek local alternative accommodation. Following the initial notification on the site, Cheshire East Councils Legal Department were contacted requesting advice on an approach to the situation. Information was shared with the Legal team of the intention for the occupier to gain assistance from the Housing Team, in addition for a referral to Adult Social Care being made to assess any further support needs for the occupier.*

*The decision was to allow occupation whilst services could progress both the housing application and any social care needs whilst maintaining regular communication with the occupier and his family members through the Traveller Team.*

*Representatives of partner agencies involved in this matter have recently met to fully assess the situation and consider the options to bring the matter to a suitable conclusion for all parties. The priority is to find alternative accommodation for the occupier and a focus has been placed on prioritising the housing application whilst encouraging him and his family to actively bid for accommodation using the Housing Options process.*

*Contact with the occupier and his family is being maintained and the Partners involved have arranged to meet again to ensure the position is closely monitored.*