

# Spurstow Parish Council

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

14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Minutes of a meeting of the Council to be held at St Boniface Church on

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 19:00.** The Council welcomes attendance by members of the public.

**Present** – Gordon Whitehead, Chair, Katherine Hutchinson (Vice-Chair), Nell Jones, Stuart Lee, Reynold Finney, Barry Bell, Jonathan Midlemiss.

In attendance , Cllr. James Pearson of Cheshire East Council., Yvonne Fairclough , Amanda and John Doyle.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** None
- 2. Declaration of interests. Members to declare any interests under the following categories: - Pecuniary interests, outside body interests, family, friend or close associate interests.** There were none declared.
- 3. Minutes of the previous meetings. To be agreed.** Agreed.
- 4. To discuss any items raised by Electors.** To be considered under the Council's Standing Orders. None that were not already on the agenda.
- 5. Finance. To note that Cheshire East Council have responded to the Clerk as follows – "... I hope you are keeping well. I confirm receipt of your 2024/25 Precept Requirement: £4,250. Best wishes for the New Year..."** The Council has received invoices for £ 594 for litter picking and £ 255 for website maintenance. Current bank balance is £ 4,424. The Chair was pleased to note that the latest litter-picking invoice contains much more detail, and that he was very grateful to Mr Wilson for the additional data
- 6. Composition of the Council. The Chair has been in contact with an elector, who has expressed an interest in taking a role with Spurstow Parish Council.**

Clr. Whitehead announced that, as he is to move house out of the Parish, he would, with great regret, have to offer his resignation as Chair and as Councillor, with effect from the end of this meeting. The Chair suggested that Ian Jones, also a resident of the Park Homes, might be willing to join the Council. Cllr. Hutchinson, as Vice-Chair said that she would be willing to act as Chair until the Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange to change the bank mandate to suit. Clltr Hutchinson thanked Cllr. Whitehead very much for his service, and Cllr. Jones seconded this to general agreement and thanks from all the Councillors.

- 7. Flooding on long lane. To receive any updates from Councillors.**

Cllr. Whitehead has had a good meeting with Ron Henderson and Mrs Fairclough, with particular emphasis on Mrs Fairclough's garden. Mr Henderson had promised to write to the local residents and landowners, to remind them of their obligations to keep the drains clear. Mrs Fairclough reported that when it rains, the fields behind her house still flood.

James said "Apologies if he has missed correspondence, and was pleased to say that he is recovering well from some medical issues, He has spoken to Ron Henderson very recently, and agreed with him to survey and clear drains more frequently, based on evidence of poor drainage. There are no further funds available this financial year, but was optimistic that from 1<sup>st</sup> April, much work would be carried out. Cllr. Pearson's view is that once Cheshire East Council has ensured that the Council Drains are working as they should, then Cheshire East Council may consider quiet words and letters to the landowners, reminding landowners of their obligations. (Ron Henderson has only been Ringway Jacobs' Manager of the Cheshire East Council contract for maintenance of drainage for less than a year). Cllr Pearson also said that there is a strong link between potholes and drainage, and that he fears that, until the drainage issues are dealt with, pothole issues tend to re-occur. James is on the Corporate Policy Committee of the Council which has met today and has agreed a £0.5m project to assess and remedy the needs in this area.

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Mr Doyle was pleased to report that the immediate flooding near the Butlands has been attended by Cheshire East Council – Cllr. Pearson said that the current way of thinking was, once water had been cleared as an emergency, then those areas that have been pumped temporarily will receive attention

Cllr. Middlemiss asked for clarification about whether it was acceptable for a resident to connect their land to a Cheshire East Council drain – and whether it was (as he believes) acceptable, but may require Cheshire East Council's permission to do so.

Cllr. Jones asked on behalf of a resident what provisions if any are there for a landowner who feels that damage has been done to their property due to the failure of Council Drainage – Cllr. Pearson isn't able to comment in detail, but feels that 2-year inspections meet the Council's minimum legal obligations, but hopes that a more evidence-based approach will greatly improve the services and drainage .

Cllr. Pearson said that the Fixmystreet website with photos showing where any issues are is the main route to informing Cheshire East Council about issues with roads, but said that he also welcomed communications with him, but did ask that the appropriate reference numbers were attached

Cllr. Bell has reported a hole in the A49, which was fixed within days, to the credit of Cheshire East Council's Highways Department.

- 8. Planning applications, current, and outstanding. There have been no new applications notified recently. The Clerk will update the Council at the meeting if there are any applications.** There were no new applications, however the enforcement actions from Cheshire East Council at Jasper's Stables, led by Taff Wilcox seem to have been effective.
- 9. Road safety improvements to the junction of Cappers Lane and Long Lane.** In early February Cllr. Pearson had driven down Long Lane and the A49, and had helpful conversations with Helen Cornwall-Lee. He has asked for the road markings to be reinstated. It seems that Cheshire East may have some issues with picking up the data about the number of accidents in that area, it was strongly felt that the speed limit at 40 mph was too high, Cllr Pearson suggested that Spurstow Parish Council might set the limit on the S I D even lower than 30mph.
- 10. Speed Indicating Device.** This has been on Long Lane recently. The Council to consider where it should be placed next, Mr Doyle of The Butlands, Whitchurch Road has enquired about speeds on the A49, and Beeston P.C have also enquired about using it, again on the A49, but in Beeston Parish. There was some discussion about the Speed Camera which faces traffic travelling to Whitchurch, some felt that the camera should actually be facing traffic travelling towards Tarporley. After some discussion, the Council's view was, as it seems to be providing a good service and improving the safety at this corner, that for the time being should be left there until there are better provisions in place that make it unnecessary. It was agreed to provide a solar option for it at about £200. The Clerk suggested that Mr and Mrs Stansfield might be willing to maintain the S I D, and change its batteries as needed, the Council agreed that this would be acceptable, and asked the Clerk to follow the matter up
- 11. Any Other Business.** The Local Police Forum seems to be up and running again. Cllr. Bell has been invited to the next meeting in mid-April, and is hoping to attend

**The meeting closed at 20:55 there being no further business.**