

# Spurstow Parish Council

## Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at St Boniface Church, Bunbury on Thursday 22<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 20:00.

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

Present- Cllr. Katherine Hutchinson (Chair), Cllr. Jonathan Midlemis (Vice Chair), Cllr. Reynold Finney, Cllr. Barry Bell, Cllr. Stuart Lea

In attendance- Chris Jones (Clerk), Nell Jones, Chris Crompton, Yvonne Fairclough, Les Catherall,

The meeting was informally broadcast to Gordon Whitehead, who took no part in the meeting.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** – Apologies were received from Councillor Stan Davies
- 2. Declaration of interests** – Members were asked to declare any interests under the following categories:  
- Pecuniary interests, Outside body interests, Family, friend or close associate interests. There were none declared.
- 3. Approve the minutes of last meeting** – Cllr. Middlemiss proposed that that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record of that meeting, Cllr. Bell seconded his proposal, which was approved unanimously.
- 4. Open Forum (15 minutes).** Ms Fairclough raised the topic of flooding on Long Lane, which was covered under item 6 below. Mr Catherall asked about the impact of the Vyrnwy, which we talked about both in the open forum and under item 12 below, it was agreed to minute this under item 12.
- 5. Constitution of the Council.** Following the recent exercise calling for possible Councillors, we have received the letter below from Cheshire East, therefore the following resolution will be proposed:

A resolution to invite Nell Jones, Chris Crompton and Gordon Whitehead to join Spurstow Parish Council with immediate effect was proposed by Cllr. Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr. Middlemiss and approved unanimously. Cllr. welcomed all three new Councillors very warmly to the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to make the necessary arrangements to inform Cheshire East Council and to ask them to sign the relevant forms.

Please see below for the note received from Cheshire East Council confirming that new Councillors may be appointed.

### *CASUAL VACANCY – SPURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL*

*I refer to the Notice of Vacancy dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022*

*As I have not received a claim by ten electors in writing for Spurstow Parish within the requisite period for an election to be held to fill your casual vacancy, I confirm that you are therefore free to fill this vacancy by co-option at the next meeting of your Parish Council.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Electoral Services Officer*

- 6. Flooding in the parish.** Cllrs. Midlemis and Finney provided an 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. Cllr, Middlemiss was pleased to report that several gulleys and drains had been jetted at a cost of about £162.00. The recent rain may show whether the jetting has been successful or not.  
Cllr. Finney has met Roy Cooke (Cheshire East Highways) on site in Spurstow, they have examined 6 gulleys between the A49 and Talbarn, Roy Cooke has said that the necessary repairs to Cheshire East

Council's system will need traffic lights due to the width of the road and density of traffic. Mr Cooke was pleased to note that Cllr, Finney had found a gully near to Talbarn, which Cllr. Finney and his gardener have cleared out, but said that Cheshire East Council were unable to assist with the pipe, as it was not on Council Land – it appears that the original pipe was fitted by Cheshire County Council in about 1899. It is hoped that 5 pipes will be jetted through and one gully replaced between the A49 and Talbarn soon. It was noted that Talbarn and Nursery Cottage were particularly badly affected last year, and that the dry summer had allowed the land to dry a lot, but that the water has been running from White Cottage towards Green Butts Farm. The speed limit in that area was discussed at some length.

The Council's view is that if the problem remains, then the most likely issue will be around the area of the drive of Green Butts. Derek Pegg may have a photograph of a culvert near Green Butts.

The bend on Capper's Lane has been successfully dealt with.

7. There was some discussion of the caravan that has recently been seen at the junction of Badcocks Lane and Long Lane. Philip Posnett has written to Spurstow Parish Council and Cheshire East Council to say that he believes that the caravan is actually on Council Land. Cllr. Crompton said he would enquire of Alan Wright, a local landowner about the ownership of the land on which the caravan is parked.
8. **Access to Tattenhall Recycling Centre.** The Clerk has spoken to both Cheshire East and Cheshire \West and Chester Councils twice, and both say that their policy is firmly to restrict use of the Recycling Centres to residents of the respective Councils. It was agreed that the Clerk should enquire of Cllr. Stan Davies for his advice.
9. **Climate Emergency.** After reviewing Appendix 2 (NALC's project to raise consciousness of Climate Emergency issues within local Councils and the wider Community.) It was unanimously agreed that Spurstow Parish Council should declare a Climate Emergency – it was agreed that Councillors would bring an idea each to the next meeting, and strongly hope to bring the best of those to fruition by October 2023. It was resolved to enquire of Sarah Pochin about the eco-credentials of travelling to Crewe for access to recycling facilities.
10. **Planning applications, current, and outstanding.**  
The only item to hand were two planning notifications concerning a discharge of conditions at Spurstow Hall showing how the new windows comply with previous permission granted. There were no material comments on the matter.
11. **Highways Issues and Alternative Ways to Manage Speed.**
  - a) Speed Indicating Device - The Clerk apologised that he'd not put the SID in place over the summer. It was agreed that the device would be put on the A49 near Panama Hatty's facing Whitchurch at the earliest opportunity, set at 40 mph. and then on Long Lane between the A49 and Talbarn for a week in both directions, then by Laurel Farm on the side of the road traveling towards Bunbury. It was noted that Long Lane has been improved. The Councillors will consider whether the speed limit on the access road to the Park Homes is reasonable.
  - b) Speeds on the A49 - See above.
12. The impact of the Vyrnwy Aqueduct Modernisation Program (VAMP) was discussed. Whilst the project does not directly affect Spurstow, it is likely that traffic on Peckforton Hall Lane and the A49 will affect residents of Spurstow. The local impact of the project itself will be in the neighbouring parishes of Peckforton and Beeston. Please see Appendix 1 for an extract from Peckforton Parish Meeting's website. There will be a link to Peckforton's Website on the Spurstow website.  
  
Les Catherall, expressed great concern about UU's estimate of "up to 40 vehicles per day", perhaps along Peckforton Hall Lane. He is particularly concerned about the planning permissions requested just outside Spurstow.
  - It was agreed that we should talk to a Parish Council who have already had the VAMPs project pass through their Parish – perhaps Higher and Lower Wych and Oldchurch and ask the following questions to ascertain the actual level of disruption caused.

- How many days? what times of day? how big were the vehicles? was it noisy, and if so, when?
- Also, it was agreed to ask UU what the scale will be of traffic through Peckforton Hall Lane from the A49, and whether they will reinstate the access points back to as they are now?
- Ask John Doyle of Peckforton Parish Meeting if a representative of Spurstow can join Peckforton Parish Meeting when UU are there.

**13. Correspondence.** There was no correspondence received that had not already been discussed at the meeting.

**14. Finance Update and payments.** It was noted that invoice for jetting the drains near The Yew Tree has been paid, and it was agreed to pay the recent invoice for £ 540.00 for litter picking in the Parish and the fee to Bunbury PCC for use of the church. The bank balance at 14<sup>th</sup> September was £ 7,320.69, having received £ 1,825.00 from Cheshire East on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The Clerk was asked to request better details of where litter had been picked from Peter Wilson. A defibrillator was briefly discussed and Clerk was asked to put notices on the notice board pointing out where the nearest defibrillators are.

There being no further business meeting closed at 21:30

Next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November at St Boniface Church, Bunbury.

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## Appendix 1 - Vyrnwy Aqueduct Maintenance Program Update

### **Good afternoon,**

John Doyle and Mike Harrison (Chairs of Peckforton Parish Meeting and Beeston Parish Council) have recently met Harry Caton, United Utilities' Assistant Project Coordinator for the VAMP.

Harry has sent the attached document and notes below, which John asked me to share with you.

[https://www.peckfortonparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/UU\\_Vyrnwy\\_Boards-Malpas-to-Tarporley-uploaded.pdf](https://www.peckfortonparish.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/UU_Vyrnwy_Boards-Malpas-to-Tarporley-uploaded.pdf)

Thank you both for your time on Tuesday, we hope the session was insightful and that we were able to provide an update on our progress to date, in addition to the immediate/long term actions as we progress into the future. As promised, I have collated the key actions from the meeting below, along with an overarching summary of what was discussed.

#### Summary:

UU provided an update on the project, construction techniques and potential impacts.

UU shared the programme and the key interfaces with Area 03 (Beeston/ Peckforton)

Enabling works due to commence from October 2022, however works within Area 03 is likely to be later in 2022/Early 2023.

Main works due to commence from March 2023 (At Malpas) – Works within Area 03 to be later in 2023.

Beeston/Peckforton provided information on various communications channels within the Parish: Social media, 'My Village News', other forums.

Beeston/Peckforton raised the point of UU adopting key landmarks within the Parish on any communications to make the comms 'relevant' to the area.

#### Actions:

Following on from the comments on Project personnel accessing private land without consent, this was escalated and raised internally immediately.

UU to provide update functionality to the UU Hub website and provide a particular notice board specific to updates on Area 03.

UU confirmed next round of communication to Parish/Residents (6 week look ahead)

Update in September to provide an update on the Planning Applications

Update in September and coming months to provide information on the accepted programme

UU raised with Beeston/Peckforton the ability to attend monthly Parish meetings to update on our proposals, work, timeline and impacts.

Ongoing and tailored communication with local residents throughout September/October.

UU to have website URL displayed within the Area 03 board.

UU to share information on the reinstatement spec and provide information on the general level of removal and reinstatement including:

Hedges, trees.

UU to identify historic working areas and provide information/photos of land that was occupied in previous schemes and the time lapse comparison to today to help reassure the Parish Council.

UU to confirm the programme associated to 'sliplining' within Area 03 and share the areas that may require sheet piling as part of the temporary works.

Thank you again for your time, it was a really useful session for ourselves and I'm sure this will be the first of many as we progress.

## **Appendix 2 – Extract from the website of National Association of Local Councils**

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/climate-change>

The rise in the public consciousness of climate change in 2019 was evidenced by the Collins word of the year, Climate Strike. Figures such as Greta Thunberg and India Logan-Riley have familiarised climate change amongst young people worldwide and drawn attention to the action needed to combat climate change both locally and nationally.

NALC responded to this appeal by organising a climate change panel session and declaring a climate emergency at its Annual Conference in October 2019. NALC is proud that many local (parish and town) councils are declaring a climate emergency and are working to encourage others to do the same.

NALC believes that, collectively, across 10,000 local councils, we can tackle climate change locally and create more climate-friendly communities.

### **WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?**

Climate change refers to the long term shift in the Earth's weather patterns and average temperatures. For the past 250 years, humans have contributed to the increased release of carbon dioxide, alongside other greenhouse gases, which causes an increase in global temperatures.

Burning fossil fuels, such as coal, produces energy while releasing greenhouse gases. The long-term challenge is addressing this build-up of greenhouse gases and ensuring a clean future for future generations. For example, according to the MET Office, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere rose by 40% during the 20th and 21st centuries and is now over 400ppm (parts per million). This level of carbon dioxide is higher than at any time in the past 800,000 years.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT 2021**

The report aimed to paint an accurate picture of how climate change is being tackled by local councils and identify their challenges. In doing so, NALC can better understand how to support local councils in creating more sustainable communities.

NALC is committed to guiding and supporting local councils in accessing funding, expertise and power to influence to tackle climate change within their communities.

Data was collected from local councils across England over four months through an online survey of 211 respondents. The survey explored what sustainable actions local councils are implementing, including climate emergency declarations, neighbourhood plans, carbon-reducing measures and climate working groups.

### **WHAT CAN YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL DO?**

- Declare a climate emergency
- Create a task force to establish a green agenda that includes developing a resilience policy and engaging in flood defence measures
- Develop and promote green transport plans, including safe routes to school
- Ensure that all council buildings are as energy-efficient as possible and that energy is not wasted through unnecessary heating and lighting
- Use green energy sources and environmentally friendly products
- Plan for a green community in a neighbourhood plan
- Limit the use of plastics, especially single-use plastics, in your council
- Reduce waste and recycle as much as possible
- Protect important open spaces and carbon sinks and consider creating a community orchard and/or wildflower meadow and/or allotments
- Look at the existing powers of councils regarding climate change