

Spurstow Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at St Boniface Church at 19:00 on Wednesday 25th September 2024

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

21st October 2024

1. **Apologies for absence.** In attendance – Katherine Hutchinson, Ian Jones, Jonathan Midlemiss, Barry Bell, Reynold Finney, Nell Jones. Apologies received, 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. Cllr. Bell asked it to be noted that he lives very near to Oakville.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting.** To be agreed. Agreed.
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 receive the Clerk's Report,** covering finance, the new electricity contract, any planning items which come to hand after issue of this agenda and an update on previous planning items.

The balance at the bank is £ 5,254, (compared to an expected £ 5,175) having received £ 2,125 as the second precept payment for 2024-25. There is a new electricity contract with Tomato Electricity, via Chalc's suggested broker – this is expected to save about £100 per year. It was noted that at the last meeting, a deficit of some £ 2,000 was predicted for 2024-2025 (2024 - £ 2,628), and it was agreed that the Council would review the projections for 2024-2025 and consider any necessary adjustments to expenditure and precept for 2025-2026 at the next meeting.

6. **To receive a report from Cllr. Nell Jones about the recent Bunbury Cluster Meeting with Cheshire Police.**

Cllr. Nell Jones reported on a very interesting meeting at the new ALPRAHAM VILLAGE HALL With Sharon and a police officer and about 7 other representatives of local Councils – there was much discussion about the use of drones – the police officer in attendance was very impressive. Cllr Jones will ask that Spurstow Parish Council is kept informed of items in Wrenbury, but it was agreed that Spurstow Parish Council wished to remain in the Bunbury Cluster.

7. **To discuss planning request 24/3263N "LAND ADJACENT TO, Oakville, BACK LANE, SPURSTOW"** A similar application in 2019 received very few or no objections. Cheshire East had rejected the previous application. It was noted that the projection features a pitched roof. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Cheshire East Council to say that the Council would not object to a sympathetic restoration of an existing "substantial, permanent building that could be easily converted into a house" building, but do not see that the practicalities of this particular building would fall under part Q.

8. **To discuss hedge trimming and overgrown footpaths in the parish.**

Cllr. Bell has had a couple of discussions with electors, Cllr. Nell Jones agreed to have a word with Nr Gaskell of The Gables about the hedges belonging to the fields adjacent to "The Gables" if these were not cut before she gets a chance. She has been struggling to get the farmer to cut her hedge, which has just recently been cut so does appreciate the difficulties landowners can have getting their hedges cut- as well as appreciating the need to cut them back well for good access.

9. **To discuss flooding on long lane.**

Please see appendix 1 below for the Chair's report on this matter. The Council wished to extend its thanks to Elle of Cheshire East Council for the most impressive job that has been carried out. The Council have removed a tree and re-piped the drain under the site of the tree, as well as written to Alan Harding to ask him to restore the ditch, which Cheshire East Council will monitor, - it was noted that Cheshire East Council have the right to re-dig the ditch themselves and charge the landowner for

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doing so. Cllr. Middlemiss noted that the farmer has dug a new drain above the fields and gardens of Gorrان Haven and Dolphin Cottage which is intended to take water East away from the main area of flooding around Long Lane so this may help by diverting some of the water that seems to have caused many of the issues on Long Lane.

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10. To discuss the caravan on Long Lane

From Kelly Rochell

Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team

Housing Strategy and Commissioning Team

Cheshire West and Chester Council

“We can now confirm that the caravan is sited on land owned by Cheshire East Council. We have had an internal meeting with Cheshire East's community safety manager and are now in the progress of exploring what is the best outcome for this individual and situation.”

The Council was pleased to see that Cheshire West are taking action on this and hope for a satisfactory outcome for the resident of the Caravan, especially as the winter approaches.

11. Speed Indicating Device. This is still on Long Lane since the last meeting. It was agreed to leave it where it is and to thank Mr and Mrs Stansfield for maintaining it.

12. Any other business raised by Councillors.

The Chair has varnished and painted the noticeboard, the Clerk was asked to return the padlock, which has now been lubricated.

Cllr. Ian Jones has been asked to bring the matter of an overhanging tree on the A49 beyond the Park Homes (towards Whitchurch). He was asked to forward the details to the Clerk.

Following the closure of the Nantwich bus service through Bunbury, which has been replaced by the Go Too bus service. Cllr. Middlemiss commented that the new service is really good, and the staff on the buses really helpful but had found that the App is not easy to operate – Cllrs Ian Jones and Middlemiss have both struggled to book a trip, however It is free for anybody over 65, but seems to only be accessible via the internet. Cllr. Nell Jones volunteered to investigate and report back to the Council.

Cllr. Finney asked Clerk to write to United Utilities and perhaps Cheshire East Council about the worsening leak on Long Lane near to the A49.