

Spurstow Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2024

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

XXth November 2024

A meeting of the Council was held at St Boniface Church at 19:00 on Wednesday 27th November 2024. The Council welcomed attendance by members of the public.

In attendance – Katherine Hutchinson, Nell Jones, Barry Bell, Reynold Finney, Stuart Lee, Jonathan Middlemiss, Ian Jones - also attending - Cheshire East Councillor James Pearson, Chris Jones (Clerk) , Diana Williams, Yvonne Fairclough.

Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Alex Clifford .
- 2. Declaration of interests. Members to declare any interests under the following categories: - Pecuniary interests, outside body interests, family, friend or close associate interests.** None
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting.** Agreed.
4. Diana Williams of Springfield Cottage, Long lane introduced herself to all present, having been invited by Cllr. Finney to attend the meeting – she was warmly welcomed to the meeting.
5. Councillor James Pearson of Cheshire East Council then joined the meeting and was introduced to all present.

It was agreed to pause the original agenda, in order not to delay Cllr. Pearson unnecessarily.

He said that he was pleased to report that Elle Jones of Cheshire East Council Highways had met with him recently to discuss flooding in various villages that fall within his constituency. He was very pleased to report that Cheshire East Council Highways are proactively arranging to clear drains that are seen as high-risk, rather than waiting for floods to happen.

The discussion then turned to the floods in Ms Fairclough's and neighbouring gardens, about which Ms Fairclough has complained to Cheshire East Council about (Their ref. 27753621). Ms Fairclough said that she understood that Cheshire East Council Highways have or are about to send an official notice to a third party, which is consistent with the email sent recently to the Chair of Spurstow Parish Council from Elle Jones - an extract of which says :

" I am pleased to say we have begun the 4 day's work CCTV and jetting to the highway drainage system from Cappers Lane to the A49. Today and tomorrow, they are strongly focusing on the section outside Dolphin Cottage to investigate the current state of the system, to ensure this is running as it should.

It is important to note these works will not cross into third party land, but we hope that once we have confirmed that our section is within working order, or programme any further works we require, this will then push landowners to take the steps they require. Once we are faced with all the information, we can look to service any notices we may require with the help of our Flood Risk team. "

Cllr Pearson has also discussed with Haughton Parish Meeting that he hopes that the road markings will be renewed on the corner by the old school on Long Lane, near to the boarder with Haughton. He has spoken to all the relevant departments and encouraged them to work together to ensure a swift resolution to this issue.

There will be a new safety camera installed at the request of Cheshire Police, a little south of the current one, which might be just outside the parish.

Cllr. Pearson has had no further concrete information about the caravan on Long lane, but understands that Cheshire East Council have agreed that they are the owners of the land, and that the Traveller support team and another team have visited the site, he looks forward to an action plan on this now that everything has been set in motion.

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He told the meeting that it is not Cheshire East Council policy to adopt street lamps, but that he has discussed the Spurstow street lamps with officers at Cheshire East Council, in the light of the long running discussion and asked them to resolve this in a pragmatic manner. It is believed that Spurstow is the only Parish Council whose street lights have not been adopted by Cheshire East Council.

It was noted that the patch repair carried out recently near to the A49 end of Long Lane has failed, and is once again always wet. The Clerk is to contact United Utilities about this.

The Council thanked Cllr. Pearson very much for his attendance and help on all the matters above.

6. **To discuss any items raised by members of the public.** The Council offered their condolences to Ms Fairclough Yvonne on the passing of her husband earlier in the year, and noted with sadness that Malcolm Hill of Peckforton Hall Lane had passed away earlier in the week.
7. **To discuss hedge trimming and overgrown footpaths in the parish.** Ms Williams mentioned that the footbridge behind Springfield Cottage had failed – she will note it on Cheshire East’s “Fixmystreet” site, and it was noted that the hedge near the corner of Nursery Lane has been trimmed satisfactorily.
8. **To receive the Clerk’s Report, any planning items which come to hand after issue of this agenda and an update on previous planning items. Please see below for an update on the planning application for a development on land at Oakville.** No further comments.
9. **To consider the budget for the remainder of 2024-2025, an outline budget for 2025-2026, and the level of Precept to be requested for 2025-2026.** – Proposed Cllr Middlemiss , Seconded Cllr Ian Jones It was agreed. After discussion of the budget document presented to the meeting to ask for an increase in the precept of 25% and to purchase a new laptop to replace the Council’s existing laptop (bought in 2016) with a new laptop for up to £ 500.
10. **To discuss flooding on Long Lane.** This had already been discussed, Clerk and Chair will monitor this closely.
11. **To discuss the caravan on Long Lane.** This had already been discussed, Clerk and Chair will monitor this closely.
12. **To discuss waste collection on Nursery Lane/Back Lane.** This was discussed with Cllr. Pearson, who suggested that any residents whose waste has not been collected from Back Lane/Nursery Lane.

Cllrs. Middlemiss and Ian Jones both commented that their refuse had not been collected following an unexpected road closure – Cllr Pearson suggested that any residents with waste collection issues should register their issues with Cheshire East via their website.
13. **Speed Indicating Device.** This is still on Long Lane since the last meeting. Cllr Middlemiss asked the Clerk to investigate with the suppliers whether it was possible to get the unit to say “Slow Down” at over 20mph and nothing otherwise.
14. **Any other business raised by Councillors.** Cllr Ian Jones has been asked by an elector about the situation at Jasper’s Meadow – it’s believed that there may be someone on residence. It was agreed that the Clerk would make some informal enquiries.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 21:00.