

SPURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 8pm on 26th September 2018

www.spurstow-pc.gov.uk clerk@spurstow-pc.gov.uk

Peckforton & Beeston Village Room

Present: Sean Augustin ((SA) Chair), Louise Hare (LH), Reynold Finney (RF), Chris Warriner (CW) David Cox (DC), Stuart Lea (SL), Jonathan Middlemiss (JM),

In Attendance: John Catherall (JC)

1. Apologies received:

Katherine Hutchinson (KH)

2. Declaration of Interests & Councillors Code of Conduct:

There were no declarations of Councillor Interests declared, from Councillors present.

3. Matters Arising & approval of previous minutes

Minutes approved from 9th May 2018 were approved. All Councillors agreed that these are a true record.

4. Open Forum:

No members of the public wished to raise any issues in the open forum session.

5. Planning Applications

Since the last meeting a number of planning applications have been completed including The Ménage of Spurstow Hall and an Orangery at Talbarn, Long Lane. The Clerk reported that there are new applications to be discussed at this meeting with the only outstanding planning application at the present time being for The Gables, Peckforton Hall Lane. The Councillors also discussed their concerns about activity at The Butlands The Paddocks on the A49. They asked if the Clerk could get in contact with the planning Department to ask them about the progress these applications.

Action: The Clerk to contact planning to check progress of these applications

6. Clerks Report

The Clerk Reported that all the annual accounts had now been submitted.

She explained that at the last meeting she was unsure if she would be able to carry on in post due to other work commitments, However, her circumstances have now changed mean that she has now got more time to commit to continuing in this role.

The Clerk reported that she had been investigating into the impact of GDPR on our parish meeting and explained that CHALC has produced some GDPR documents that can be customized by parish councils to help them respond to GDPR. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate these documents to the Councillors.

Action: LH to circulate GDPR template documents

7. Update from Alternative Ways to Manage Speed Group

JM has now met on two occasions with the other members of this Alternative Ways to Manage Speed Group to discuss proposals to make changes make Spurstow roads safer. The group agreed to concentrate their efforts on two roads in Spurstow- Peckforton Hall Lane and Nursery Lane.

They have met up with Simon Wallace Cheshire East and discussed their proposals that included moving the 30mph signs away from the A49 junction with Peckforton Hall Lane so that they are more visible.

A report was drafted by Simon Wallace to include all the proposals and presented at the Area Highways Group meeting, but unfortunately the proposals failed to be approved.

JM will continue to chase up Simon Wallace and Stan Davies for a copy of the report and an explanation to the reasons that was not approved.

Action: JM to follow this up and report back to the next meeting.

8. Operation Shield

The Chair reported that despite a willingness on behalf of the Parish Council to proceed with this initiative he had struggled to communicate with Ged Gigg to take this project forward.

Action: BB speak to Sharon Davies to see if she can move the project forward.

9.Highways Issues

BB reported that the junction between Back Lane and Nursery Lane has now been completed, but raised concerns about some recent patching work that had been completed on A49 on the northbound carriageway in the Tarporley direction. The patching that has taken place is of very poor quality and has created an uneven road surface, causing poor driving conditions.

Action: BB to photograph the problem area and send to the Clerk to raise with Highways.

10. Damage to the Verges in Peckforton Hall Lane re Tough Mudder

CW reported that a Tanker from Ellison Constructions has been collecting water from the United Utilities stand pipe outside Sketh Cottage in the three weeks running up to the Tough Mudder event at Cholmondley Castle on the 8th and 9th September. CW raised two issues with this. Firstly, that these regular trips (approximately 60) have been causing significant disruption to the local residents and road users using this narrow lane, with times of collections as early as 3.00am and as late as 10.30pm.

The second issue of concern is the damage to the verges that has occurred as a result of the water tankers visits. Not only is there damaged created by the water tanker itself but there has also been significant

damage as a result of other passing vehicles having to mount the opposite verge to safely pass the water containers whilst it was parked up.

All Councillors agreed that this was not the most appropriate location for collection water for this event, (especially in light of a recent water mains burst on 18th September potentially brought on by Tough Mudder collections) and agreed to the following action points to help resolve this issue both in the short term to reinstate the verges and the longer term seeking an appropriate alternative to the water collection point for next year's Tough Mudder event.

Action:

1. CW continue to follow up on this issue and agreed to work with LH make sure the United Utilities follow through on their promises to repair the verges. CW to hand over correspondence of his discussions with United Utilities and other contractors. LH to contact United Utilities on behalf of the Parish to add weight to need for United Utilities to reinstate the verges and repair the damage as a result of the water tanker's visits.

2. LH to contact United Utilities to ask them to complete a Freedom of Information Request to provide the Parish Council with a copy of the report that outlined the different options for their choice of water collection points for the Tough Mudder event. It is hoped that the Parish Council can then review this document and put forward a case for a more suitable alternative ahead of next year's event.

11. Lighting in Southcroft

The issue of restoring the lighting in Southcroft is becoming more important now that the winter lights are drawing in. Despite being in contact with Cheshire East we have yet to resolve this issue. It is the Parish Council's intention to contribute to new LED lighting but Cheshire East needs to understand the work involved before they can give us an accurate quote.

Action: RF to complete an audit of the existing lights and forward this through to LH. The Chair will then raise this issue with Stan Davies to request that Cheshire East complete a site visit and identify timescales for completion and handover of the lighting into local authority ownership.

12. Noticeboard

The Council discussed the poor condition of the Parishes existing noticeboard and whether to replace it. Given that there is still a statutory obligation it was decided that we should research different options for replacing it, options including a low maintenance materials and double-sided boards were discussed.

Action: SL agreed to work alongside LH to come up with list of possible options and prices to bring to the next meeting.

13. Payment of Accounts

The current balance for the Parish Council Accounts stands at £11,714.72. There are three payments pending payment to be made these are as follows.

Lengthsman	£535.60
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Village Hall Hire £50.00 (for payment up until the end of March 2019)

Clerk Salary £334.86

Total = £920.46

After these payments are made that will leave the Council with a balance of £10,794.26.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 28th November 2018, St Boniface Church

15. Another Other Business

BB raised the issue of Neighbourhood Plans with the Council. He asked if we should re-assess their potential importance and discuss if they need to complete one for the parish.

Action: LH to research and circulate the salient points of what a plan would include and the potential benefits of completing a plan of this nature.

The meeting closed at 21.30.

Signed.....Chair

.....Date