

SPURSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 8pm on 14th March 2018

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

Peckforton & Beeston Village Room

Present: Sean Augustin ((**SA**) Chair), Louise Hare (**The Clerk**), Ged Gigg – Cheshire Police, (**GG**) Sharon Jones-Cheshire Police (**SJ**), Nicky Berry -Cheshire Police(**NB**), Reynold Finney (**RF**), Chris Warriner (**CW**) David Cox (**DC**) Cllr Stan Davis (**SD**), Katherine Hutchinson (**KH**), Stuart Lea (**SL**), Johnathan Middlemiss (**JM**)

In Attendance: Jacky and Martin Griffiths, Les Catherall

1. Apologies received:

Barry Bell

2. Declaration of Interests & Councillors Code of Conduct:

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

3. Matters Arising & approval of previous minutes

Minutes approved from 29th November 2018 were approved CW proposed and RF seconded. All Councillors agreed that these are a true record.

4. Open Forum:

Mrs Griffith raised her concerns that the parish council were not representing the views of the local community. She felt that the parish council should have supported local residents when they presented their speeding petition to Cheshire East Council. She felt unsupported by the parish council by the decision to decline the installation of a new vulnerable road users sign and raised the need for the telephone kiosk sign on Peckforton Hall Lane.

Her overall personal message was one expressing her belief of the need the parish council to better engage with local residents.

The Chair clarified that the speeding petition was lodged with Cheshire East Council prior to Spurstow Parish Council Meeting. Spurstow Parish Council did not seek to not represent residents but to deliver an alternative informed perspective. In addition, alternative speed reduction initiatives were being discussed by the Spurstow Parish Council as set out of the agenda for this meeting.

Mrs Griffith accepted that not all the signatories on the petition were residents.

With regard to road signage the collective council stated that they had no knowledge of any additional sign requests or disputes to such signs. The chair stated that if Mrs Griffith emailed the Clerk this matter would be looked into.

Mrs Griffith also raised the issue of the poor condition of the bank/kerb outside her house. Spurstow had no knowledge of this but asked for Mrs Griffiths to pass on the documentation so that it can be reviewed by the Council.

Les Catherall raised concerns about the inclusion of hearsay regarding future planning applications to be received from Jonathan Gaskell being reported on parish council minutes. The chair agreed that this report was unsubstantiated report but the his knowledge not malicious in its intent.

5. Introducing the New Clerk

SA introduced LH as the new clerk of the parish. LH asked for the support of the Councilors to help her transition into the new role.

6. Operation Shield -Ged Gigg

SA introduced GG from Cheshire Police to talk about Operation Shield. Operation Shield is a unique coding system for residents to use to help them mark their valuable items. Rolling out Operation Shield acts as a deterrent to thieves and as a way of tracking lost or stolen items. The cost if the scheme is £10 per kit and £12.50 per sign. Mr Griffith suggested that residents might like to make a £5 contribution to the cost of the kits. The Chair hoped that Spurstow Parish Councils precept increase would help finance the initiative, but any decision on this matter would be subject to review. SA proposed that Councilors conduct their own research into Operation Shield and report back their thoughts to the Clerk in the next two weeks. **Action 1: ALL**

Action 2: RF to ascertain suitable locations for signage.

7. Chair/Vice Chair Tenure

SA informed the meeting that both he and BB intended to continue in the role of Chair and Vice-Chair for 1 more year but after that point will be stepping down from their roles in May 2019 but would offer to retain their positions as serving Councilors.

8. Planning applications:

Submitted

18/0539N The Gables, Peckforton Hall Lane – concerned submitted

18/0854N Radily Wood Farm – no comments required

Decided

17/5336N The Butlands Whitchurch Road -refused

17/6177C Former Repeater Station, Whitchurch Road -approved with conditions

17/5474N Radley Wood Farm Whitchurch Road -approved with conditions

17/4104N Green Butts Farm -approved with conditions

17/4105N Green Butts Farm -approved with conditions

9. Finance Report

LH to follow up with Barclays re: changing signatories for the bank account.

Since the last meeting we have had outgoings for the following items

Website training	£60
CHALC audit training	£75
Annual Website management	£300
CHALC VAT training	£75
Cluster meeting	£10

We have also received a grant for support maintaining our website of £1600.

10. Alternative Ways to Manage Speed

SA acknowledged outgoing resident's concerns re the speed of traffic asked the Councillors support to form a sub-committee to investigate alternative ways to manage speed given the challenging nature of our parishes road network. SA highlighted some of the challenges to include the A49, a problematic and risky stretch of road, and Peckforton Hall Lane that is currently risk assessment approved for government bodies to conduct in person hand held speed monitoring equipment. SA proposed that the groups remit should focus on 4 key areas.

- 1.Strategy for the Parish
2. Sharing Resources
3. Technology
4. Partnerships

SA asked for volunteers to contact the Clerk to register their interest in forming this sub-committee.

Action: All to consider forming a speed management sub-committee.

12. Highways Issues

SA acknowledged the poor road surfaced but explained that roads are re-surfaced based on a hierarchy of needs across the county. If you see a pot-hole in the road surface please report it on the Cheshire East's website http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/report-a-pothole.aspx

Street Lighting

Street Lighting remains problematic with defects at South Croft after the completion of Scottish Power maintenance work. SPC remains committed to working with Cheshire East to finance replacement lighting.

13. Website Updates

LH asked for any updates that the Councillors thought would be valuable to add to the website. It was agreed to add a Parish map, to check all external links are working correctly and investigate the website hit counter. **All: LH to follow up.**

14. Payment of Accounts

No cheques could be signed at the meeting due to BB absence. LH to send over the invoices that require payment to BB to make outstanding payments.

Clerk salary -TBC

Lengthman fees £335.40

MS Office Software £8.00

15. Date for Nov/Dec meeting

It was decided that date of this meeting should be Wednesday 21st November to be held at St Boniface Church, Bunbury.

12. AOB:

DC asked if the lengthsman’s grant was likely to continue.

Meeting closed 21.50pm

Signed.....Chair.....
.....Date