

Sproston Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held 4th December 2017

Present : Cllr.J. McKechnie, Cllr. J Norbury, Cllr.C Sherwin Cllr. A. Ramshall
Alan Hartopp (Clerk)

Apologies : Cllr J. Sheldon

Minutes of previous meeting held on the 23rd October 2017 were agreed and signed.

Cllr.McKechnie opened the meeting by stating he would like to alter the protocol at future meetings by having all questions and opinions gaining permission to speak through the Chair, thus allowing only one person to speak at a time.

He then went on to inform the meeting he had received a letter of resignation from Cllr S. Percival, He had accepted the resignation and all necessary procedures were in place to find a replacement councillor, a possible election may be necessary. Councillors wish to thank Cllr.S. Percival for his input to meetings during his time with the council.

Cllr. McKechnie also stated our present meeting room would be no longer available and a new meeting venue had to be sort. Action A.H.

Web design : it was felt by all councillors that after the presentations and information gained over the past weeks our present web designer Adam Keppel-Green offered the best value for money, A.H to inform Adam of councillors decisions.

Spacial Planning : Draft Local Plan (Part 2) would be published on the 11th December2017 and end 29th January 2018. It was agreed two councillors would take time out and gain access to these documents to ascertain if any of the proposals are going to affect Sproston.

It was also agreed to ask Cllr. Mark Stocks to attend a meeting in mid January, (date of his choice) to discuss this and other issues affecting the village of Sproston.

Clerks Forum : A.H informed the meeting he had sent a letter to Jackie Weaver of CHALC regarding our high reserves of cash as this seemed to be a problem with our last External Auditor. The following is her reply.

I wonder what exactly the External Auditor was concerned about /

If the fund is a community fund designed to fight undesirable developments and the threat of those although having lessened has not gone then I see no issue with keeping the monies in such a fund for the future. Try to make sure you get a bit of interest if possible.

I do not see this as council reserves and therefore any policy on reserves does not apply.

This statement made by email 30th November 2017

A.H then went on to explain he had contacted SAAA, (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments) regarding “opting out” of having to appoint an External Auditor as our total expenditure is less than £25,000. A letter will be sent with the 2018 audit forms and the necessary documentation to opt out.

Planning : Only one planning issue, Cllr. Sherwin explained a change in materials on the garage development in Holmes Chapel Road , councillors could see no reason for any objections.

Councillors Reports.: Cllr Sherwin asked the meeting if a second defibrillator would be a good idea this placed on the side of a building in Broad Lane, councillors would consider this and report back at next meeting.

Cllr. J. Norbury stated there is a meeting room in the Methodist Church in Holmes Chapel Also the library would be a suitable venue.

A.H. Stated he would look into these and other possible meeting places then report back.

Meeting closed 20.30hrs

Next meeting 12th February 2018

Signed : _____

Date; _____

Seconded : _____