

Sproston Parish Council
Meeting Tuesday 5TH December 2023
Venue – The Fox & Hounds, Sproston

Meeting opened at 19:33

Present: Councillor Peter Cunane (PC), Councillor Peter Gleave (PG), Councillor Christy Ilgmann (CI) ,
Councillor John Lightfoot (JL), Councillor Stephen Percival (SP), Councillor James Townley (JT)

Also present was Chester & Cheshire West Councillor Mark Stocks (MS)

3 members of the public were present

1. Apologies

No apologies. All councillors attended.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were stated.

3. Open Forum & Public Speaking

Any questions were asked of the public. No additional questions were submitted at this time.

There was an update on the recycling bins from MS. CW&C council have clarified that we don't have the new bins yet but no update as to when we will receive them.

The road around Wren Avenue is CW&C council owned and any issues need to be reported to Highways, preferably via the App.

The waste bin in the layby on the A54 is still not on the App.

4. Previous Minutes

These were approved by JT and JL seconded. The minutes were available if anyone would like to see them. These will be loaded onto the website as soon as available.

5. Planning Applications

No new applications had been received by the Parish Council.

MS commented on the planning application for Centurion Way which partly falls into SPC. In October 2023 Cheshire East Council requested that the developer remove the CW&C land from the plan. No further news on this application.

Though the Higher Farm, Byley does not directly impact Sproston, it has been noticed that they have lighting which shines down the valley to the River Dane and can be seen from the A54. MS has suggested the anyone who is impacted by the lighting pollution that they contact planning regarding this and Higher Farm.

6. Roads & Highways

Broad Lane pot holes. MS has said that £1.2m additional funding for 2024/5 has been allocated for pot hole repairs. The Broad Lane ones have been raised on the App. CW&C have assessed but there is no current timeframe for their repairs. Though they are causing flooding. The council have received claims for vehicle damage from pot holes. All pot holes

and road issues should be reported on the CW&C App. It was noted that Broad Lane should really be resurfaced as it is so bad.

JT asked if there was one place to go to (digitally) to see what is outstanding in road repairs and how long they have been raised. CW&C are implementing a new BI (Business Information) system and hopefully this will be able to be accessed in the new year.

The gulleys still haven't been cleared. Two that have previously been reported outside of Dairy House Farm are still full. CW&C have been out to assess and they have agreed that they are blocked but cannot give a timeframe when the work will be done. These gullies in particular are causing standing water on the A54, which is impacting the condition of the road and the pavements. After inspection, the gullies go onto the schedule for emptying however no timeframe is given.

Phil Hambleton, the local PCSO, has been invited to a future meeting to discuss the speeding on the A54. He potentially has access to the new black box for speed and traffic assessment. It was agreed that should he be successful in acquiring this for a period of time, that it should not be placed between the Fox & Hounds and Brereton Lane as this will give a false reading for speeds due to the slowing of traffic to turn into either.

MS suggested that we have an additional flashing sign telling motorists to reduce their speed to 40mph. Possible locations were discussed, one by the layby and the other as you enter the 40mph zone by Lyndhurst. Cuddington Parish Council have done something similar and Lach Dennis purchased their own signs and posts and then agreed the locations with the Highways and Police. This is something that SPC could look into.

7. Noise Pollution

A couple of households close to the Fox & Hounds have raised noise pollution issues as a result of the music events held in the marquee of the pub. There is a planning application for the marquee but nothing has been approved. This is a temporary construction from Covid. CW&C have not responded to the complaints as yet. MS to check on planning progress.

8. Wren Avenue

The transfer of ownership of the green space on Wren Avenue is still in discussion. A quote has been received for grass cutting at £96.00 per mow. The value of the swings is still awaited. Once this is received we can get a full insurance quote. MS to ask someone from CW&C to come to a meeting to discuss the transfer of ownership.

9. Finance

No change to the bank account. The business review is now complete with Barclays. The only expenditure since the last meeting is £10.39 for a new key safe for the defibrillator.

10. Budget Preparation

SPC need to produce draft budget next month to send to CW&C for the precept in 2024/25 financial year. There has been no significant expenditure for the last two financial years due to there being no parish council. It has been proposed that there will be no increase in the precept compared to what was in place in the previous year when the SPC was active.

11. Any Other Business

No update on Dairy House Farm though there is a new planning officer. MS to request that our local MP, Esther McVey, chase up any permit applications.

MS suggested that we replace the local notice board which is located on the green area at Wren Avenue. This had already been raised and it was agreed. MS can contribute from his funds in the new financial year. Costings to be prepared.

12. Meeting Dates

SPC currently hold monthly meetings. This was agreed amongst the councillors as it is a new parish council. After the financial year it was agreed that SPC would move to bi-monthly meetings. Location will be advised shortly.

13. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date will be Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 19:30. Location to be advised.

Meeting Closed 20:14

Minutes Agreed by.....

Seconded By.....

Date