

Sproston Parish Council
Meeting Tuesday 9th January 2024
Venue – The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston

Meeting opened at 19:33

Present: Councillor Peter Cunane (PC), Councillor Peter Gleave PG), Councillor John Lightfoot (JL),
Councillor James Townley (JT)

Also present was Chester & Cheshire West Councillor Mark Stocks (MS) and local PCSO Phil Hambleton.

10 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies

No apologies were given. MS may be 15 minutes late.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were stated. However there are later items on the agenda (No.7 Noise Pollution) whereby councillors CI & PC cannot participate.

3. Open Forum

PCSO Phil Hambleton spoke to the meeting with his report. No antisocial behaviour had been reported in December. There was the theft of two holly wreaths on Holmes Chapel Road. He had completed two speed enforcement checks and had come across two speeding offences. There were no parking issues reported in the area.

There had been a road traffic collision on Holmes Chapel Road on 29th December with 4/5 casualties. Two people had to be mechanically removed from their vehicles due to the impact.

Any questions were asked of the public.

MS gave us an update on the new recycling bins. These will be wheelie bins with a red and blue lid. The reason CW&C council have given is that due to the size of the bin wagons for collecting the new recycling bins they are too large for our area. This was disputed by members of the public. JT noted that you are no longer able to order the grey or green boxes that we currently have but you can still order the brown food waste bin.

4. Previous Minutes

These were approved by JT and PC 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. CW&C council have not approved the site. CEC have already approved their bit of the development.

There is no update on Dairy House Farm.

There is an outstanding planning application for the marquee at the Fox & Hounds. This was submitted during Covid. There are some conflicting issues with the marquee and live music – MS to confirm. A member of the public noted that if there has been a proposal for a more permanent structure then it would be hoped that the public and SPC would get behind this application and support the Fox & Hounds. SPC will be notified automatically if any changes take place with the application.

6. Roads & Highways Update

It was agreed that Brereton Lane should be a 40mph zone. It is used by pedestrians and quite a lot of farm machinery including milk tankers to the various farms. Presently any pedestrians walking to the bus stop have no pavement to walk along Brereton Lane, though it was agreed that it would be difficult to put a pavement in. The bus stop is only on the side of the Fox & Hounds but people use the driveway of PCs house as a bus stop. It was discussed that potentially SPC could purchase a strip of land to create a bus stop.

Gullies are still blocked. There is a map link to CW&C website any blocked gullies should be notified using the app. We are still waiting for the map for the gullies.

Phil Hambleton gave us an update on the laser boxes for speed control. These can be placed in situ for a week to monitor speeds and traffic volume. We can work together with Phil Hambleton to get one of these in place. When these are available they will monitor traffic 24/7 and will record traffic speed and vehicle type. Placement of these can be anywhere for the most effect. To get a speed reduction along any part of the road, either A54 or Brereton Lane, the road has to meet three criteria as set out by CW&C.

Pot holes are being reported now via the app. Some repairs have been carried out. SPC asked members of the public to please carry on reporting pot holes and blocked gullies via the app if possible. However it is possible to still email and council regarding those or to ring them. MS has noted that the roads are in a shocking state in the area due to flooding and blocked gullies. Please email MS regarding potholes if nothing is happening. There is a routine maintenance program but we are unsure of the frequency. MS to find out what the cycle is.

A works order has been raised for Broad Lane but no completion date has been set. The field drain is working but the gullies are blocked which seems to be primary cause to the road flooding.

The road that goes around Wren Avenue has sunk in places. CW&C have said that it is fit for purpose. MS to chase up CW&C and will challenge this decision.

It was noted that the lamp post by the Old Post Office is too close to the road. It will be reported to Highways at CW&C.

SPC still have the quote from Hardings to clear the pavements on the A54. However, it was discussed that SPC can contribute but they will be looking at other contributors to the overall cost. No timeframe has been set for this work to be carried out.

7. Noise Pollution Update

CW&C have been in touch with the Fox & Hounds and the complainants. Due to the planning issue with the marquee we have moved the meetings now to PGs barn. SP raised concerns that SPC will be brought into the issue however the complaints made about the noise were made by members of the public who live in the vicinity and not by SPC. As a note, no complaints were made at the time of the planning application.

8. Finance

Currently we have the two accounts with Barclays. Approximately £50k in one account and approximately £7.5k in the regular account. JT suggested that SPC move £4.5k to an interest bearing account. This was agreed by SPC.

9. Budget Preparation & Precept

As there has been no council (SPC) since 2021 it was agreed to keep the yearly precept at that level of £3900 for the coming financial year 2024/25. There are no extra ordinary costs expected in the coming year.

10. Any Other Business

MS has a members budget of £5k which can be used towards a contribution for the community/parish. It was suggested that we purchase a new notice board. Byley Parish Council have a similar one to the one we require. MS to get details.

There is a two year rotation for gulley clearing but we are unsure where we are on this rota, date wise. MS will check.

11. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 12th March at The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston.
Future dates are available on the website.

Meeting Closed 20:36

Minutes Agreed by.....

Seconded By.....

Date