

Sproston Parish Council  
Meeting Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Venue – The Fox & Hounds, Sproston

Meeting opened at 19:30

Present: Councillor Peter Cunane (PC), Councillor Peter Gleave (PG), Councillor Christy Ilgman (CI),  
Councillor Stephen Percival (SP), Councillor James Townley (JT)

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

11 members of the public were present

1. Apologies

Councillor John Lightfoot was unable to attend and sent apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were stated.

3. Open Forum

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

General comment from a lady who lives on Wren Avenue that it was good to see Mark Stocks & she was pleased that he had got voted back in.

Q: What was happening with the pavement along the A54 as it is in a dreadful state and cannot be walked along safely?

A: JT has spoken to the Chester West & Cheshire Council contractors. The council Highways department are ultimately responsible. The contractor (Hardings) have sent in a quote and it is being discussed by SPC as it was a lot higher than thought. MS commented that the drains/gulleys are full in most locations along the A54 and they had been reported, however because there is little or no flood risk they do not need doing (CW&C).

If we go ahead with the work from Hardings there is a possibility that the SPC could be reimbursed in part towards the cost.

Q: Cheshire West & Chester Council were supposed to be replacing the recycling bins with red and blue topped wheelie bins. This was two years ago but we are still waiting.

A: MS will chase this up with CW&CC.

Q: The grid/gulley by the bungalow and the bus stop are full. Can we get them cleared?

A: Both of these are not on the digital map supplied by CW&CC online. Apparently there is a map that the council use to locate all grids and gullies. MS will request a copy of this digital map so that SPC can update it. The CW&CC use What3Words to locate any grids etc. MS will request a maintenance schedule for when grids & gullies are expected to be emptied.

Q: What is happening with the plans and soil at Dairy House Farm?

A: There has been a request from Planning for the outstanding supporting claims and paperwork be submitted by Mr Sherwin by mid October. MS will update at the next

meeting. The importing of soil is under an Environment Agency permit and is not planning. Officers have now been on site and have seen that the land level has been raised significantly. CW&CC do not have the resources to pursue legal avenues.

Q: MS gave an update on the cancellation of HS2.

A: HS2 has now been cancelled and we will no longer get the disruption. Land that was purchased through Compulsory Purchase Orders will probably be sold off. MS is also hoping that now that the CW&C do not have to spend on HS2 infrastructure, that it can now be redirected to more local issues with certain highways.

#### 4. Previous Minutes

These were approved by PC and SP 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. They has resubmitted the application but there is not a timeframe for response. MS noted that SPC could object and also ask that if the development were to go ahead then some highway improvements could be requested.

Not technically planning but the junction with the A54 from Brereton Lane was raised. JT said that a Speed Watch would be running shortly however we are unable to use it at night due to Health & Safety.

#### 6. Finance

There is still an issue accessing Barclays online due to an error with them. However between the issues SPC have managed to pay a few outstanding invoices.

#### 7. Website

The website is now back up and running. Emails work. The information still needs updating and it has been suggested that the new councillors add a short bio for the website.

#### 8. Oil Syndicate

Councillor PC proposed an Oil Syndicate for whoever is on oil in the parish. If we can get a bulk delivery then we can hopefully get a better price. He has approached North West Fuels and Certas. Further info at next meeting.

#### 9. Road Signage

Cattle crossing signs have been requested at certain points on Brereton Lane. Council will create a map showing the points where these are required and this will be submitted to Highways for action.

#### 10. Insurance

SPC have received the renewal. SPC need to discuss further as to whether street furniture is covered.

#### 11. Any Other Business

Green litter bags have been left at the top of Poolford Lane but SPC suspect these are from Cheshire East Council as we have not instructed CW&CC that we are doing a litter pick to collect. However CW&CC can give us the equipment including hi-viz vests should we wish to litter pick. Anyone who wishes to do so please contact one of the councillors and we will arrange it.

MS discussed the play area on Wren Avenue. The CW&CC would be interested in transferring the ownership of the green area in the middle of Wren Avenue to SPC. Currently CW&CC charge each household £28.00 per annum for maintaining the area. This equates to £3080 contribution towards the parish. SPC will consider this and look at the insurance implications and maintenance costs.

12. Next Meeting Dates:

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 7.30pm

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 7.30pm

Meeting Closed 20:30

Minutes Agreed by.....

Seconded By.....

Date .....