

Sproston Parish Council
Meeting Tuesday 12th March 2024
Venue – The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston

Meeting opened at 19:30

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

17 members of the public were present.

As we had quite a lot of new people attending the meeting JT gave an update as to how SPC was reformed. All members of the council then introduced themselves to the room.

1. Apologies

Apologies from Christy Illgmann and Mark Stocks.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were stated.

3. Open Forum & Public Speaking

A resident of Kinderton Park Homes asked if the Middlewich Bypass was going ahead. There has been a lot of hedge cutting going on in the area. There have been no updates from Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWCC). However as the bypass falls into Cheshire East (CEC) then it is not always easy to get information.

JT informed the group about the Facebook and WhatsApp groups for the local community. It is a good way to keep in contact with everyone and to let people know what is happening in the area.

The condition of the road along Cledford Lane was raised. There appear to be a number of blocked drains by the railway bridge near Abbey Tankers. There is constantly a run off onto the road. Also the road by Briar Pool Farm is blocked on the corner. This has been reported to CEC by Clerk and JT. There appears to be a general issue with blocked drains and gullies. The soakaway by Bradwall Lane is also blocked with the ditches filled with stagnant water.

There is an ongoing issue with drainage on Kinderton Park Homes (KPH). JT suggested that a couple of representatives of SPC go to inspect.

Clerk will endeavour to get a boundary map of KPH as the site falls into both CWCC and CEC.

The hedges on Brereton Lane junction where it meets the A54 need cutting back. JT pointed out that it is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain. The condition of the pavements was raised. A lot of wash-off from Dairy House Farm is polluting the pavements and though they have been cleaned by the farmer, with the recent inclement weather, they have become very muddy again.

JT gave an update on DHF as in there isn't really anything new. He ran through the history of the situation. Many agencies are involved but they don't appear to be talking to each other to find a resolution.

The current speed limit on Brereton Lane is 60mph as it is an unclassified road. Criteria shows that it should be 40 or 50mph. It has a lot of farm traffic travelling along it and more traffic uses it when the M6 is closed due to an accident or similar. There are plans to appeal to CWCC/Cheshire Police to get the speed limit reduced.

More lighting was suggested at the roundabout on J18. This would be the responsibility of National Highways. The A54 into Middlewich is in the top 20 for volume of traffic in Cheshire and is a very busy road. Clerk to ask National Highways the question about additional lighting with regard to safety.

The Centurion Way planning application was discussed. CEC are going to approve their part but CWCC have asked the developers for clarification on certain aspects of the development.

SPC are still waiting for CWCC to make a decision on the play equipment on Wren Avenue. JT explained to the room about the special charge on the council tax and what this covers (play equipment maintenance on Wren Avenue).

4. Previous Minutes

These were approved by PC 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.

6. Roads & Highways Update

Broad Lane holes have been filled in and the grid tarmaced over. It is still flooding and now ruining the new tarmac. The grids were jetted about 12 months ago but are all blocked again.

Gullies in the SPC 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.

An incident of fly-tipping has been reported on Poolford Lane. Please report any incidences on the app for CWCC. It was suggested that a new sign 'No Tipping – Fine £100' be erected in the two laybys on Poolford Lane.

7. Kinderton Park Homes

The residents of KPH that attended this meeting have many concerns regarding the site. Planning permission has recently been refused for more homes but there are issues with the unused land. Previously there has been a contingent of residents that have lobbied the Secretary of State regarding the planning. It is not clear why the planning has restrictions as to the number of homes allowed on the site. There are lots of issues with electricity supply and power cuts. Drainage is also an issue on the site. SPC is waiting on a contact for CWCC to assist the residents.

One of the issues with the site is that it is split between CWCC and CEC. The site is meant to be a purely residential site but there appears to be some holiday homes on it. JT asked that the residents comment on the planning appeal. If they are intimidated they can ask the planning to redact their names and addresses from the appeal comments.

There have been multiple drainage issues due to tarmac over the soakaways. There has also been recent disputes regarding service charges and landscaping.

8. Local Policing Update

Unfortunately our local PCSO Phil Hambleton was unable to attend the meeting. He has reported no issues. He has attended a speed watch on A54. No vehicles were over the 40mph. He has dropped off two reports for January and February and these will be uploaded to the website.

9. Finance

We have submitted the precept to CWCC. There is £50,343 in the bank over the two accounts. JL has paid the outstanding invoice for Adam Keppler.

10. Litter Picking

CWCC have refused an additional bin to be located in the layby on Brereton Lane. Apparently we do not meet the criteria. It has been suggested that we part fund it. Clerk to contact CWCC and find out how we go about this. JL asked for volunteers to litter pick the area. We can get the equipment from CWCC on loan however if successful, we will purchase our own. Sandbach Clean Team regularly litter pick Brereton Lane.

11. Any Other Business

We are awaiting some updates on previous matters discussed in meetings but we will update hopefully by the next meeting.

12. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 7th May at The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston at 7.30pm.
This will be our AGM.

Meeting Closed 21:10

Minutes Agreed by.....

Seconded By.....

Date