

Thursday 15th August 2024

Extra Ordinary Meeting of Sproston Parish Council to discuss the Planning Appeal at the Fox & Hounds regarding the marquee.

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

Apologies were sent from Councillor Christy Illgmann (CI)

JT read out messages and emails received from members of the public and CI (see attached).

General discussion was then had regarding the appeal against the decision to refuse the marquee at the Fox & Hounds public house which is situated within the parish.

As a parish council we have not been asked to comment on this appeal by Cheshire West & Chester Council because the original application was submitted prior to the reforming of Sproston Parish Council. However, we have been approached by members of the public and the pub for a response in support of the planning appeal.

It is a difficult decision to make as we have two members of the public who have made complaints against the noise created by the marquee. One of which is against the planning and one who is for the planning but would like to see more noise mitigation measures in place. Four members of the SPC are for the planning to proceed.

As a parish council it was agreed that the delay in a decision on planning from CWACC was unacceptable and the noise complaints probably wouldn't have come about if a planning decision had been made earlier.

The general feeling of the wider community is that they want the pub to stay open, as to lose such a community asset would be sad and very unfortunate. This is not just as a venue for the local community to hold events, meetings, etc but as a local employer. There have been some complaints regarding noise from events that are held in the marquee. However, this planning appeal is in regard to the marquee itself and not the noise complaints.

The members of Sproston Parish Council who were present feel that there should be a workable solution to this and that it has been noted that the response from CWACC to the Fox & Hounds has been woefully lacking in detail with some requests or questions being ignored.

In conclusion, as a parish council we cannot make an outright decision as to whether or not we support this appeal. A total agreement could not be reached though the consensus of those present was that the majority were in favour of planning going ahead.

We would encourage anyone who wishes to comment on the appeal, whether for or against, to do so via The Planning Inspectorate. <https://theplanninginspectorate.gov.uk/> The appeal reference is 3345293.