

Sproston Parish Council
Meeting Tuesday 6th May 2025
Venue – The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston

Meeting opened at 19:37

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

8 members of the public were present.

JT opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the AGM.

1. Election of Chairman for the year 2025-26
JT nominated by JL and seconded by PG.
2. Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2025-26
JL nominated by JT and seconded by PC.
3. JT read through his Chairman's report for the previous year.
4. No other matters were arising from the AGM and the minutes from last year were agreed.

Sproston Parish Council meeting commencing at 19:55

1. Apologies
Mark Stocks unfortunately could not attend.
2. Declarations of Interest
No Declarations of Interest were stated.
3. Previous Minutes
These were approved by JT 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.
4. Planning Applications
A planning contravention notice has been issued for Dairy House Farm. No further updates are available at the moment. It will be progressed as CWAC feel is the right direction to go in. Question from the public – what will they be doing with the site in the future? Unfortunately none of us know as we don't know what the outcome of the enforcement will bring.

The Fox & Hounds marquee appeal is ongoing. They were visited by the appeals person but no further updates are available at this time. Some background to this is that planning permission was applied for in 2019/2020 for a marquee for dining during Covid. CWAC have never granted full permission and the application is still

open. There have been two complainants regarding noise from the marquee. This has now gone to appeal. There have been a lot of representations from members of the public and SPC is in the majority in support for the marquee to be allowed and full planning permission given. MOP felt it was wrong to complain and also felt that CWAC were influenced in taking the action that they did as it was disproportionate to the issue at DHF. It was acknowledged that communication from CWAC was very poor however they do take a strong stance against noise pollution.

There is an appeal in for the barn on Broad Lane, where it joins Poolford Lane. It was discussed previously at the EOM in April and all agreed that they supported the application. Clerk did note that the application form the stables and menage had been withdrawn.

Kinderton Park Homes have appealed against the condition restricting the number of Park homes on the site. They want to increase the number by 5. SPC were not in support of the appeal as the drainage on site is insufficient and needs to be improved before we could support any increase in the number of homes. The land where they want to situate the additional park homes was originally designated as recreational land for the residents.

As a note, the appeals office is based in Bristol. SPC do not have any power in the appeals we can only put consultee comments.

5. Roads & Highways Update

The A54 is finally being repaired. Quite a few concerns have been raised as to the road closures. Jerry Gibbs at Highways CWAC is the co-ordinator. All households should have received a leaflet with the road closures on it. There has already been a water leak. This has been reported to United Utilities. It needs to be repaired before they resurface as once the resurfacing has been done there is a two year period where the road cannot be dug up again. Any blocked gullies will be completed before the resurfacing is done. Likewise with siding out. CWAC are carrying out a full carriageway resurfacing. No indication from CWAC however that the pavements will be done in the future.

Brereton Lane junction. There used to be double white lines either side of the junction but they have worn away. Hopefully they will be reinstated when the road surfacing is done. We have been in touch with Highways regarding Stats19 data but we really need it to include the last six months. That data will be available early next year or possibly towards the end of this year. We have to pay for the data so want it to include as much as possible regarding accidents etc. There also used to be a mirror at this junction but it didn't last long due to the close proximity of passing traffic. SPC think that it was a private placement as we have no record of it.

At this date, we haven't been informed of any progress on Broad Lane and the drainage issues. It was suggested that if we don't receive any notifications of works then we could possibly initiate the works ourselves and bill CWAC.

6. Local Policing Update

Phil Hambleton attended the meeting and talked us through the policing reports for March and April. There had been a theft of cooking oil from the Fox & Hounds in March. The van had come from South Yorkshire and was tracked by ANPR and caught. Prior to the meeting Phil had revised our Speed Watch training. We have also applied for two additional sites where we can Speed Watch from. Phil tries to get out as much as possible to do Speed Management, he did catch someone doing 84 mph and that person has subsequently been banned.

7. Finance

We currently have £14,995 in the current account and £43,497 in the savings account. The AGAR has been approved and is currently being audited. Once returned this will be sent to PKF Littlejohn and uploaded on the website. We have received a £1000 contribution from Mark Stocks' fund to put towards a new noticeboard to be located at the end of Wren Avenue facing Brereton Lane. The old one is wooden and rotting.

8. Public Speaking

There is a proposed extension to the gas plant at Byley. Questions were raised as to how it would affect us. SPC are not sure at present but feel that it could come very close to our parish.

SPC would like to thank Michael Igoe for the road surface works on Brereton Lane and the service road to the sewage works.

Personnel from Dairy House Farm are using the field from Brereton Lane that goes round the back of Wren Avenue as a thoroughfare, sometimes late at night. United Utilities are in progress with putting new gates on and securing that access.

9. Any Other Business

JT has reported the sign at the end of Brereton Lane as someone has hit it. Hopefully we will receive a new sign shortly.

It was suggested that SPC look at all land owned by CWAC in our parish and investigate the costs of bringing that land under the ownership of SPC. We are in the process of bringing Wren Avenue land under our charge, which will result in cost savings for the parish as we will manage the site.

Finally, we still have a vacancy for a parish councillor so if anyone is interested please let Alyson know.

10. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 8th July at The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 20:47

Minutes Agreed by.....

Seconded By.....

Date

DRAFT