

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

Meeting opened at 19:34

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

7 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies

Apologies from Councillor Christy Illgman and Cheshire West & Cheshire councillor Mark Stocks.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were stated.

3. Public Speaking

Members of the public who reside to Kinderton Park Homes asked about the speed limit on Cledford Lane. JT said that a proposal for the reduction of speed on both Cledford Lane and Brereton Lane has been submitted to the Police and our PCSO. There have been recent changes in the management of the Community Speed Watch. It used to be managed by Cheshire West & Chester Council and was successfully used in the parish by the SPC members. However it is now run by the Police and seems to be in a bit of a mess, as no-one seems to be co-ordinating it anymore. Responses from the Police are slow at best and they have a habit of turning things (as in information) around to suit their remit rather than the community. It was also requested that part of Cledford Lane that falls into Cheshire West be salted in winter as it is not currently done. We will contact highways to see if we can get it added to the schedule. It was also noted that due to construction going on on Cledford Lane there were a lot of cars parked along the road, presumably from the site workers, and these were causing an obstruction and restricting access. Unfortunately where these are located is in Cheshire East but clerk will email Middlewich Town Council to draw their attention to the matter. There should be a temporary speed restriction while construction is in progress. The junction of Brereton Lane onto the A54 was mentioned again. The visibility has not improved. The farmer needs to cut back the hedges but this will only be of small assistance as there is street furniture (telegraph pole and lamppost) that obscure the line of sight. It was asked if a mirror would assist the visibility? Concerns were mentioned that due to the narrowness of the A54 in places, including at this junction, that the mirror probably wouldn't last very long.

Cars are parking on the pavement near to the Fox & Hounds which doesn't help with visibility either. SPC to chase Phil Hambleton PCSO to see if he can assist.

A member of the public asked about the status of the Middlewich bypass as it is currently on hold due to the cancellation of HS2. We have been informed that a new business case is now required by the government re the viability of the bypass. It was commented that everyone knows its in the wrong place as it will do nothing to alleviate the traffic going into Middlewich and onward to Winsford Industrial estate, as that is where most of the traffic appears to go.

4. 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.

5. Planning Applications

The council has one new planning application (24/01647/FUL) change of use to equestrian use on Broad Lane. No objections.

6. Roads & Highways Update

The gully map is now active but not fully functioning. It includes the maintenance schedule for emptying the gullies. The full gully opposite the Fox & Hounds has been reported. Any blocked gullies will be added to the schedule. None appear to cause flooding. Potholes should be reported on the app on CWACC website.

The road surface on the A54 is deteriorating more rapidly. Could be due to ineffective drainage and no ongoing maintenance. The edge deterioration of the carriageway has been reported where it is bulging and looks to be falling away in places. The level of maintenance, or rather the lack of it, is amazing that the A54 has held up considering the huge volume of traffic that uses it daily. Noise levels have increased considerably due to the road surface. The A54 was due to be resurfaced prior to Covid but no further updates.

Broad Lane is still not resolved.

There appears to be an increase in the number of Morrisons trucks using the A54.

Reportedly they are supposed to use J19/M6 not J18. Holmes Chapel has similar issues with overweight vehicles using the road past Mandevilles.

It was reported that the ANSA site vehicles are using the Cledford Lane bridge instead of the longer route via Clive Lane. Clerk to liaise with the ANSA community group.

7. Local Policing Update

Phil Hambleton is our local PCSO. He has supplied us with a local policing report which has been uploaded to the website. In brief, he has been on a local speedwatch on the A54 and there were two speeding enforcements with one incident of drug driving.

No update on the new black boxes.

8. Finance

Balances – Current account £10,796 & Community Fund £43,021.

9. Any Other Business

There is no further update on Dairy House Farm. There is unlikely to be any progress over the summer holidays due to the election and being summer. It was raised that the site had grown considerably and there was more grading being carried out on site. There is also more debris being dropped on the road (A54) with trucks leaving the site. Large slabs and rocks have been seen on the road. No accidents have occurred recently.

Esther McVey has kept her seat in the recent General Election.

The litter picking team have not been out recently as we tend to be fairweather pickers! JL is still doing a pick along Brereton Lane when walking the dog. We still have the litter pickers on loan from CWACC if anyone wants to join our small team. No takers! Fly tipping is still an issue, particularly on Poolford Lane. A sign was suggested but not sure how effective that will be without CCTV.

10. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 10th September at The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 20:30

Minutes Agreed by.....

Seconded By.....

Date

DRAFT