

Sproston Parish Council
Meeting Tuesday 9th September 2025
Venue – The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston

Meeting opened at 19:30

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

15 members of the public were present.

1. Apologies

Apologies given from Cheshire West & Chester councillor Mark Stocks and Parish councillor Stephen Percival.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were stated.

3. Dairy House Farm

There is another appeal with the Planning Inspectorate. This one is against the refusal of planning permission for the slurry lagoon. The planning reference is 22/04071/FUL. The Planning Inspectorate reference is APP/A0665/W/25/3369818.

The previous two appeals have now gone past their representation dates. Sproston Parish Council have put a representation in for both. The third appeal submission date is 24th September and SPC will be putting in a representation. We do encourage everyone to make representations to the Planning Inspectorate.

The inquiry dates for the first two appeals are 18th to 21st November which will be heard at Wyvern House, Winsford. This is at the request of the appellant. They have also requested that all three appeals be heard together but we haven't received confirmation of this yet. If you wish to make a representation then you have to do so via the Planning Inspectorate portal. The more the merrier as numbers do count. Members of the public can attend the hearing and speak to the panel but they can be cross examined.

We would also encourage as many people as possible to report to the Environment Agency regarding the site and specifically regarding dust, noise, operating hours etc. The EA have DHF down as a site of interest and the more people that ring and report the better.

4. Public Speaking

A member of the public asked how long it will take to clear the site at Dairy House Farm should the council be successful at the appeal. That is a difficult question to answer as the site is still continuing to take in loads and can do so until the appeal date.

Flytipping was mentioned by a member of the public and what can we do about it? JT asked if you have evidence of flytipping then report it to Cheshire West and Chester Council via their app. It can be reported anonymously but any photos that you can take and upload would be useful. The illegal dumping of waste is a bane for all councils. Cannabis growing equipment was dumped on Broad Lane and has now been cleared up. JT will talk to Phil Hambleton our local PCSO about patrolling the back roads when he is on duty.

Question regarding the Middlewich bypass – funding has been approved by government for £43m. Cheshire East are reviewing costs in November 2025 and also at the stability of the

land at the Tetton Lane end. However we all agreed that it will do nothing to alleviate traffic in our parish.

Devolution was raised. Cheshire West, Cheshire East and Warrington will come together as one. A bit like the old Cheshire County Council.

5. Previous Minutes

John Lightfoot signed and Peter Cunane seconded.

6. Planning Applications

We have received a PIP (Planning in Principal) application for land on the corner of Wren Avenue. No objections were made but there was a comment regarding the access off Brereton Lane and visibility. It was felt that the access would be better from Wren Avenue. The previous application we had for Richardsons off Broad Lane, which was subsequently withdrawn, has gone ahead and built the stables and menage. Mark Stocks is trying to find out more about this.

The Fox & Hounds appeal will be on 1st October at Wyvern House, Winsford. Please go along if you can and support the pub.

7. Roads & Highways

Following the resurfacing of the A54 we have noticed that patches and potholes are already appearing. JT to email Jerry Gibbs in Highways to ask when, if any, remedial works will be done. He will also enquire about the footpath along the A54 as the surface is now very bad and broken up in places. The resurfacing on the A54 was only treatment works and is intended to increase the life of the road surface by 3 to 5 years. If you see a pothole or water holding patch anywhere please report it through the Cheshire West portal.

With rainy season fast approaching there was more concern regarding Broad Lane and flooding. Claire Priestly of Fisher German has been contacted to ascertain where the drains lie and who is responsible for them. The hedge line is the true boundary but the drains could fall either side of this.. She will also be able to check whether the drains have been adopted and if they are on council land or on the landowners. Hardings and Willis's have both been requested to quote for remedial work but they need surveying first. We are hoping that whoever quotes for the work can also survey the drains.

Speeding is still an issue on the A54 and we discussed more signage. The police view is that more signage encourages people to speed more! However as a parish council, we feel that additional signage will make the public aware that it is a 40mph zone through the village.

8. Policing Report

Unfortunately Phil Hambleton was not available for the meeting but sent across the monthly crime reports. Phil has been out doing speed watch from the layby on the A54 and has caught a few speeders. We are still waiting for the new locations to be approved so that we can have more points to do our own speedwatch. No crimes have been reported in the parish in July and August.

9. Finance

No expenses for the preceding two months. The only income was from interest.

Balances – Current Account - £4,759 & Savings Account - £53,837.

10. Any Other Business

We have requested again that the speed limit be reduced on Brereton Lane as it is currently the national speed limit for that class of road, which is 60 mph. We would like to see it reduced ideally to 40 mph. Pedestrians use the road, it has poor visibility and there is no pavement. We are considering a Village Gateway, similar to Church Minshall, which would act as a traffic calming device. However statistics are not on our side and the police are not keen to reduce the speed limit as we do not meet all the criteria. It was suggested that we get a Pedestrian sign. Clerk to investigate how we go about obtaining one.

And finally, we have a new parish councillor to replace Christy Illgmann. We would like to welcome Mike Anderson to the council. He lives locally at Kinderton Park with Hazel. He currently works at Jodrell Bank as a Site Technical Manager.

11. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 11th November at The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 20:22

Minutes Agreed by.....

Seconded By.....

Date