

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

Meeting opened at 19:31

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 Cheshire West & Cheshire councillor Mark Stocks.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were stated.

3. Public Speaking

No issues were raised that wouldn't be covered in the following agenda items.

4. Previous Minutes

These were approved by JL and PC 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

a) The Fox & Hounds Planning Enforcement Appeal

We have been asked to comment as a Parish Council regarding the Enforcement Appeal. There have been two complainants. One is ok with the marquee but not the noise and the other is against the noise and the marquee itself. From the previous meeting we held as a Parish Council, we were not able to unanimously support the appeal for the marquee but it was noted that the majority were in favour of the marquee staying. JT asked for comments from the room. A member of the public raised the point that does the council have to be unanimous to support the appeal as that would be unlikely. Mitigation sound proofing has been put in place at the Fox & Hounds marquee but no readings have been taken since this was put in place. Another member of the public asked if there were specific noise levels for events? Measurements have been undertaken by the pub and they were all reading below what is required. Despite many requests there are limited information or readings available from CWACC. JT asked people present to respond to the appeal online, whether in support or not. Personal details can be redacted if requested as the responses are available in the public domain.

b) Dairy House Farm

Unfortunately there are no further updates on the situation at Dairy House Farm. CWACC were supposed to be actioning an enforcement but this is still with their legal team. MS is not happy with the length of time this is taking and will chase up. Comments were made that there is a huge disparity between this and other planning applications in the area. The period of time for responses is too long.

There has also been a planning application for the land off Broad Lane (the old Duttons field) for an equestrian manage and stables. There were no objections to this.

6. Roads & Highways Update

As always potholes are brought to the attention of the Parish Council. Whilst we ourselves do not have the power to do anything about these, we do encourage all to report these on the CWACC app or via email. The more people that report them, then the more likely they are to get done. The same goes for blocked drains and gulleys.

Phil Hambleton is our local PCSO, unfortunately he is running late tonight as he is at Lach Dennis meeting. We are awaiting the results of the black box survey. As residents of the parish, those of us that front the A54 Holmes Chapel Road have noticed a significant increase in what sounds like speeding vehicles at night and during the evenings, specifically after dark. We will request that a traffic survey is carried out on the outer limits of the 40mph zone and up towards the M6 motorway.

There has also been an increase in the amount of accidents recently on the A54. We would like to know if the mud coming from Dairy House Farm is a contributory factor to these or are these more to do with speed in excess of the 40mph permitted.

7. Recycling Bins

This issue was originally brought up by Jane Norbury who pointed out that the less young of the parish were struggling with the bins and asked why we haven't received the new wheelie recycling bins with the red and blue lids. Two of our parish councillors have tried to order them via the CWACC website, one has been successful and one not. The reason we have been given is that certain addresses haven't been added due to accessibility issues. However the operators are in favour of the new wheelie bins as they don't blow around in the wind or lose their lids etc. The reason for CWACC to review this is for cost savings.

8. Wren Avenue

We are still awaiting a decision from CWACC as to when they will 'gift' us the green of Wren Avenue. It will significantly save them and us money. Collectively in Sproston parish the maintenance of the green costs in the region of £2,200. There are two ageing swings which are now in need of replacement. SPC has obtained quotes from a few suppliers but all are in excess of what we would like to pay. We have received quotes from Hardings which works out to £80 plus VAT per mow 6 times per annum. The annual inspection of the equipment would be £93.60 and we are able to carry out the monthly ones ourselves. These are a significant saving on the current charges from CWACC. The additional cost of insurance would be approximately £20 per annum. When we take on the cost of Wren Avenue green we would effectively lose the Special Expense from our CWACC council tax. However, there would be a slight increase in the precept.

9. Finance

Balances – Current account £10,615 & Community Fund £43,182. The Zurich Insurance renewal is due next week and the cost will be £279.17.

10. 2025 Meeting Dates

We currently meet the second Tuesday of every other month. This seems to clash with other parish councils in the area so we are asking Mark Stocks and Phil Hambleton what day/week would suit them better. All councillors seem happy to keep bi-monthly meetings.

11. Any Other Business

JL would like to thank a benevolent resident for putting in a new drive to the treatment works off Brereton Lane. Very much appreciated.

HGVs are using Cledford Lane and are accessing it over the 4 ton weight limit bridge. There is no room to turn round and they should be using the bridge anyway. Unfortunately this falls in Cheshire East but there council have since actioned this.

If you wish to report anything with regard to potholes or grids plus do it via the app. On Cheshire West it is ReportIt and Cheshire East is FixMyStreet.

12. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 14th January 2025 at The Barn, Parkside Farm, Brereton Lane, Sproston at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 20:15

Minutes Agreed by.....

Seconded By.....

Date