

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 17 January 2013 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Leach, Rice, Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 7 members of the public.

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr Jackson-Rimmer
2. **Declarations of Interest** in relation to any agenda item . Cllrs Leach and Smith verbally declared interests in planning application 1202008FUL (agenda item 7), as the site is adjacent to their properties.
3. **Public Open Forum** . The Chairman, noting that no member of the public wished to speak on any matter other than Planning Application 1202008FUL, agreed that they would be invited to speak when this matter was discussed.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 13 December 2012** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**
Flooding . Cllr Mike Baker has confirmed that he will arrange a walk around the village shortly to assess whether any action is required to reduce the risk of flooding
6. **Finance**
Quarterly Budget Review and bank reconciliation - The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 31 December 2012 and the bank reconciliation at that date. After discussion of the statement, which had been inspected and approved by Cllr Smith prior to the meeting, it was resolved that it be accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.
Payments . none due
Parish element of the 2013/14 tax arising from the proposed precept.
 The Clerk reported that an increase in the occupancy level of properties would have increased the Tax Base (number of band D equivalent properties) from 235 to 238 but the introduction of the locally administered Council Tax Support will reduce this to 232. These figures and a proposed grant of £284.00 to the Parish Council to mitigate the effect of the reduced tax base are expected to be approved by the District Council's Cabinet on 24 January.
 It was noted that with a £10,000 Precept and Tax base 232, the parish element of band D tax will be £43.10 (This compares with £43.83 in 2012/13 on a Precept of £10,300)).
Confirmation of the budget and precept for 2013/14
 It was resolved to make no change to the budget agreed at the last meeting and that, subject to notification being received by the Clerk that Cabinet approved the scheme for calculating the parish element of Council Tax at its meeting on 24 January, the Clerk should immediately notify HDC that the Precept for 2013/14 is £10,000. In the event that the scheme is modified HDC will be advised that the Precept is subject to revision at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
7. **Planning**
New Planning Applications
1202008FUL, Erection of five dwellings with associated access, parking and turning areas and hard and soft landscaping, Land east of 5 To 17 Stow Road. Due to the documents only having been received by the Clerk on Monday 14 January, several councillors had not been able to view them before the meeting. It was therefore resolved to defer this item to a special meeting to be convened on Thursday 22 January or as soon as possible thereafter.

1300045NMA, Woolley Hill Wind Farm. Additional temporary construction areas added. Redesign of bridge crossing Ellington Brook. Redesign of substation compound and control building layout. These minor amendments were noted . no action required.

Local Planning Authority decisions / reports as below, were noted

1201882NMA, new obscure glazed window, 8 Ferriman Road not acceptable as a non-material amendment since condition 3 of planning permission 1200876FUL specifically stated that no additional windows can be constructed.

1201858FUL, Two storey rear extension and front and side porch, 8 Thrapston Road - Permission granted

Planning Application referred to Development Management Panel

1201357FUL, Erection of a detached dwelling, Land at 19 Littlecotes Close

It was noted that a Parish Councillor may address the panel meeting on 21 January. No one present wished to attend as the written comments were considered adequate. The Clerk is to enquire whether the absent councillor wishes to do so.

8. **Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012** . Confirmation that the adjacent landowner(s) have no objection to the location of the seat and tree on the byway at Belton Hill is still to be sought.

9. **Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets**

Children's Play Area, Ferriman Road – Cllr Rice's report dated 6 January stated that there were no matters of concern.

Trees on Village Green . Cllr Plummer is awaiting response regarding safety issues.

Trees / shrubs pruning, Ferriman Road public open space . pile of branches to be removed . Cllr Johnson to arrange.

War Memorial refurbishment . Clerk to obtain quote from Independent Memorial Inspection

Village sign refurbishment . Trevor Cooper will complete the work in the Spring.

Tree pruning, Stow Road verge . awaiting action by Cllrs Johnson & Smith.

Notice board on Village Green . Clerk will try to overcome sticking door problem.

Brick building in Church Lane . Roof repairs are expected to be carried out shortly.

Refurbished Notice Board . to be stored in brick building when repairs completed, pending decision on permanent location.

Play Equipment from Old Village Hall . It was agreed that, due to its age, it would be unwise to make this available for re-use. It was therefore agreed that Cllr Plummer would discuss its disposal with Mr Wooddisse in whose barn it is stored.

10. **Highways, footpaths, byways etc.**

Condition of Long Lane & Cockway Lane - No reply has been received from CCC regarding maintenance. This was last followed up by email to Cllr V McGuire on 3 January.

HGV Traffic through Spaldwick . it was noted that complainant has written to Williams Transport suggesting that they should not route HGVs through Spaldwick before 7 am.

Complaint from resident re condition of Spaldwick to Stow Longa Road . Over the last 6 months it has deteriorated considerably. The edge of the road has collapsed and fallen away quite substantially and deep holes have appeared which in most cases you cannot miss when traffic is oncoming. The Clerk said he had since carried out a survey and had reported to County Highways two large potholes which require urgent attention in the carriageway near Beam End. In addition, Stow Longa Parish Council has asked County Highways to investigate whether the gullies down the hill from Stow Longa village towards Spaldwick can be re-engineered to minimise the bumps which motorists try to avoid and also to reduce the amount of water that bypasses them. As in the case of many of the local roads there is a growing amount of erosion of the verges and this will be examined when the weather improves and any particularly bad areas identified for remedial action.

Problems being dealt with by County Highways . The Clerk reported as follows:

Surface water Stow Road (between Royston Ave and Thrapston Rd) . under investigation
 Surface water on footway outside 2 Stow Road . kerb is to be raised to reduce the problem.
 Faulty kerbside gully at bottom of Stow Road (incoming water from road runs out of the adjoining footway gully . will be investigated.

Standing water outside 17-19 Thrapston Road . work to mitigate this problem is on order.

Gritting of Ferriman Road / Stow Road - in response to a query from Cllr Jackson-Rimmer, the Clerk obtained confirmation from County Highways that this is a P3 route as it is a scheduled bus route with more than 5 timetabled journeys (27) a week. These are treated when the forecast for the next 5 days is for freezing weather with treatment ongoing until the forecast prediction changes, as long as salt supplies permit.

Precautionary Gritting Scheme Criteria . the recommendation proposed at November's meeting that the County Council be asked to review the criteria to take account of school buses and steep hills was at the request of the Highways Engineer passed to Cllr V McGuire on 4 January.

11. Correspondence

Training at Hemingford Abbots - Confirmation has been received of the following dates:

Wednesday 20th February Session 1: Meetings, Meeting Procedures & Code of Conduct

Wednesday 20th March Session 2: Budgets, Precepts, Statutory Powers & Standing Orders

Wednesday 22nd May Session 3: Planning, Section 106 Agreements, & Risk Management

It was agreed to book Cllr Rice a place at all three at £35 per session.

CAPALC courses elsewhere . details were circulated to members.

12. Any other business

Oil leak reported by resident . The Clerk stated that when he spoke to Environmental Health he discovered that they had been made aware of an oil spillage at a house in Mount Pleasant on 21 December and had sent an Environmental Protection Officer to investigate. Subsequently he and an Environment Agency Officer visited the area several times and ascertained that no neighbours have suffered health problems from the fumes and that the watercourses are not at risk. The last visit was made on 16 January and they intend to visit again in a month's time to review the situation.

Gardening Club . The Chairman said he had been asked by the Gardening Club whether the Parish Council had any land which could be used for a children's garden. It was agreed to inform the Club that the Council has no land suitable for this purpose.

13. Future Meetings and consideration of starting times

Special Planning Meeting . probably Thursday 24 January at 8 pm . to be confirmed.

Next ordinary Meeting - Thursday 21 February 2013 at 7 pm

It was resolved that the meetings in March and April would also start at 7 pm after which the starting times for future meetings would be reviewed.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.