

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Annual Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 23 May 2013 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Leach, Rice, Smith, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and County Councillor Simon Bywater.

Prior to the start of the meeting Simon Bywater, the newly elected County Councillor for the Sawtry and Ellington Division introduced himself to members and offered his help when required.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllrs Johnson and Wakefield
2. **Election of Chairman and declaration of acceptance of office** - There being only one nomination, Cllr B F Plummer was elected unanimously. A declaration of acceptance to the office of Chairman of the Council was made and delivered by Cllr Plummer and witnessed by the Clerk.
3. **Registrations of financial and other interests or declarations of no change** - The five members present confirmed that their details in the Register of Interests held by the District Council remain unchanged. The Clerk will raise the question of any changes to their registrations with the absent Councillors outside the meeting.
4. **Other elections, appointments, responsibilities**  
**Vice Chairman** . G Rice was elected unanimously.  
**The following responsibilities were confirmed:** Playground Inspection . Cllr Rice;  
 Finance monitoring . Cllr Smith: Tree Warden . Cllr Johnson: Parish Paths Co-ordinator .  
 Mick Ager
5. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item. - None
6. **Public Open Forum** . Not used.
7. **Minutes of Meeting held 25 April 2013** were approved as a correct record and signed.
8. **Matters arising from minutes** - None
9. **Finance**  
**Grass cutting** . It was noted that the CCC is being increased by 5% this year to £498.13  
**Payments** . there were no payments due.
10. **Planning**  
**Draft Local Plan (Stage 3)** . it was noted that a Consultation is due to start 31 May 2013.  
**New Planning Application**  
**1300512FUL**, Bicton Wind Farm . New application with number of turbines reduced from 4 to 3 and relocated further away from valley ridge. Council resolved to make no comment as the proposal would have no direct impact on Spaldwick village.  
**Appeal against non-determination of Application 1200967FUL**, Erection of six wind turbines, South West of RAF Molesworth . It was noted that there is to be a Public Inquiry.  
**Yes2RushdenLakes** . A letter asking the Parish Council to consider supporting the proposal for development on the A45 opposite Waitrose, which is to be determined at a Planning Appeal, was noted. Council resolved not to take a view for or against the proposal but to leave individuals to respond if they so wished.

**Town /Parish Council Planning Forum**, Wednesday 3 July 6 . 8 pm, Pathfinder House, 2 representatives invited. Councillors are to inform the Clerk by 7 June if they wish to attend.

**Local Infrastructure Needs** . HDC requires Parish Councils to produce a prioritised list of infrastructure needed in the coming years related to planned growth in their locality. The Clerk reported that, unless radically changed in the latest draft of the Local Plan, development will be confined to extensions, infilling, or sites of up to 5 dwellings and is likely to average around 2 per year. It is therefore doubtful whether any additional infrastructure would be required specifically to deal with this low level of development, hence HDC has suggested that the list includes all current and foreseeable needs.

Following discussion the following list, in order of priority, was agreed:

1. Village Hall
2. Playing Field and / or Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
3. Improvements to Long Lane and Cockway Lane

- 11. Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee** . The Clerk reported that he has passed copies of the Land Registry details to Mr William Brown and sought his help in identifying the present owner in order to obtain consent to the bench being installed at Belton Hill. Design of the commemorative plaque to be fixed to the seat is proceeding.

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

**War Memorial** . The Clerk is to present a costed proposal for the cleaning and refurbishment to the next meeting.

**Street Lighting PFI** . Balfour Beatty has confirmed that the 7 lights in Littlecotes Close, which do not appear on the CCC map, have been adopted by CCC and will be dealt with on the PFI contract. A quote to change the lantern on the PC light in Church Lane to bring it into line with other lights in the village is awaited from BB. Stage 1, to replace the lanterns on 7 lights in Burton Way, Fuller Close and Mount Pleasant is due to start shortly.

**Planting** . Cllr Leach reported that he would be asking members of the Gardening Club for advice on new planting. It was agreed that he could spend around £40 to buy plants

- 13. Litter / Dog Bins** – the Clerk is to ask HDC to provide an additional bin on the North side of High Street if no suitable site can be found in Ferriman Road, East of Royston Avenue.

**14. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.**

**CAPALC, Allotments Training Course, Sutton**, Friday 28 June 9.30 am to 3 pm - details circulated 10 May . members to notify the Clerk if they wish to attend.

**Long Lane** . Mick Ager has reported that, although this is an adopted road rather than a public right of way, the site has been viewed by the ROW Officer and possible solutions to the mud and drainage issues (about 100 metres into the lane) are now being considered by Brian Murdoch, CCC Highways and Simeon Carroll, ROW Officer. The question of how the work can be funded will need to be resolved. No work or improvement is likely to be started until the end of the bird nesting season (end of September).

**Footpath 12** in the field opposite the petrol station has now been marked by the farmer.

**Footpath 15** - The new footbridge over the brook has been installed, thus opening up the path from the concrete road on the North side of the A14 which now connects with paths to Barham Road (North of the entrance to Glebe Farm) and to Woolley

**Protected Road Verge** . As Warden for the PRV on the Easton / Stonely Road, Cllr Leach reported that he would be visiting the site shortly.

- 15. Bus Service changes** . The Chairman reported that the main concerns of residents are:  
**HACT Ring & Ride** . there is only one bus a month to Huntingdon but four a week to St Neots and one a week to Morrison's at Cambourne. More to Huntingdon would be helpful.

**Whippet** . the absence of a bus from Huntingdon mid afternoon, Mondays to Fridays.

The Clerk stated that the CCC Community Future Transport Team expects to start reviewing the subsidised services currently provided by Whippet in June, beginning with initial briefing meetings with County, District and Parish councillors ahead of forming a working group for the area, comprised of residents, parish representatives and bus users. The County Council says it is committed to maintain all bus services that are under review as they currently operate until a consensus on alternative solutions is reached.

The Chairman said he would like to see the review of services include HACT services.

## 16. Correspondence

**Cambs Bobby Scheme** - Bobby Security Advisors visit burglary victims who are over 60 years old and fit security devices such as door chains, window alarms, locks etc., as well as offering advice to give them confidence and reassurance and help reduce their fear of crime. The service to victims is free of charge. The scheme also visits older and vulnerable people to reduce the chance of them becoming burglary victims, reduce their fear of crime and provide peace of mind. For these visits a small donation to the scheme is requested. Key safes can be fitted, allowing carers to gain access to residents who wish to stay in their own homes and live independently.

Council noted the contents of this letter and commented as follows: the police will notify the Security Advisors of burglary victims, no action required by PC; the PC will publicise the service provided to other older and vulnerable persons via the local media and the Welcome Club. It is not felt appropriate for the PC to contribute financially to the Bobby Scheme funds.

## 17. Any other business

**Winter salting** . The Chairman raised the question of Barham and Woolley hills being excluded from the Precautionary Gritting Schedule, which is of great concern to the Council, and asked Cllr Bywater whether he could exert some influence to get them included in the schedule. The Clerk agreed to send Cllr Bywater a copy of the PC's request that the criteria for determining the routes should be amended to include steep hills and school bus routes.

**Support for wildlife** . Cllr Leach suggested the Parish Council might take the initiative in supporting wildlife. He agreed to bring a proposal regarding this to the next meeting.

**Cycle path alongside A14 from High Street to Easton** - Cllr Rice reported that there are some pot holes and the surface is quite patchy in places making cycling difficult. It often gets overgrown. The Clerk will raise these matters with the Highways Agency and / or their agents Carillion WSP.

**Condition of Spaldwick to Barham Road** . It was noted that the road edge on the hill going up to Barham has fallen away leaving a jagged edge to the tarmac which is a hazard to cyclists. The Clerk will report the problem through the CCC system.

## 18. Next Meeting

As at least 2 members are unable to be present on the next scheduled date (20 June), it was agreed to change the date to Thursday 27 June 2013, 8 pm in the Community Room.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.18 pm