

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 27 June 2013 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Rice, and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** . G Leach (due to engagement arranged prior to change of date), G Smith and S Jackson-Rimmer.
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item - none
3. **Public Open Forum**
Mr David Mead spoke regarding planning application 1300797FUL and explained how the design took account of the issues raised by the Planning Inspector who dismissed the appeal against refusal of the previous application for a dwelling on this site. He and Mr Steve Daniels offered to answer any questions raised by councillors when considering this matter at agenda item 7.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 23 May 2013** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**
Street Lighting PFI . The first stage in Burton Way, Fuller Close and Mount Pleasant has not yet started and nothing further has been heard regarding proposals for the remaining lights to be changed. A quotation of £456.82 has been received for conversion of the light in Church Lane to conform to the PFI specification. Information regarding possible annual savings on running costs will be obtained before a decision is made on whether to convert it.
Dog/Litter Bin in High Street and/or Ferriman Road - Awaiting action by Clerk.
Winter Salting . County Cllr Bywater has spoken to the relevant people at CCC who report that no decision has yet been made regarding the SPC request for changes to the criteria for determining the precautionary salting routes.
Cambs Bobby Scheme . Awaiting action by Clerk to publicise the information.
Declarations of Interests . Cllr Wakefield to update her declaration.
6. **Finance**
The following payments were approved:
100547 F D Stowell, Salary and expenses Apr . Jun, £405.52 (inc £3.48 VAT)
100548 HMRC, PAYE, £91.60
100549 J C Shears, Internal Audit fee, £50.00
100550 E G Leach, compost and plants, £41.00
The following receipt was noted: CCC, grass cutting grant, £498.13
Internal Audit . The report for 2012/13 having been circulated to members with the agenda, it was resolved to note the three recommendations and take the following actions to comply:
A) Review Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & other procedures annually in January.
B) Reclaim VAT in early March to ensure receipt before 31 March.
C) Ensure **all** pages of the Minute Book are initialled or signed when accepted by Council
7. **Planning**
Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 . Following the start of the Stage 3 Consultation (May 31 to July 26) the Clerk supplied members with a paper outlining its effect on Spaldwick. Parish Council comments, if any, will be considered at the next meeting.
The following new Planning Applications were considered:
1300580FUL, Erection of two storey rear extension, and minor alterations, 11 Stow Road
It was resolved to advise HDC that the Parish Council has **no objection** to this application.

1300797FUL, Erection of dwelling, Land to the rear of 33 Thrapston Road.

In considering this application Council took into account that the main issue raised by the Inspector in considering the appeal related to the previous application for a dwelling on this site was that the proposed dwelling, given its height, form and position, would partially obscure the important views of the Church from Thrapston Road. Note was also taken of the content of three letters of objection sent to HDC by neighbours.

Council noted that the proposal addresses the main issue in the following ways: It is for a single storey building with a ridge height 2.5 metres lower than the previous application; it has a smaller floor area which decreases in width as it gets nearer the Church and hence maximises the angle of view of the Church from Thrapston Road. It was also noted that the number of windows facing nos. 29 and 33 had been reduced thus virtually eliminating any overlooking of these properties. Although not finalised, as they would be subject to approval by the LPA prior to commencement of the development, the external materials envisaged by the applicant reflect those of other buildings in the village. In response to a query, Mr Daniels confirmed that he would erect a sign showing the street name as Chandlers.

Council considered that the proposal resolves the issues raised in connection with the previous application and is in other respects acceptable, and resolved to recommend **APPROVAL**.

8. **Bench at Belton's Hill** . The Clerk reported that he had been unable to ascertain the current ownership of the land adjoining the byway, but as the bench would not have any detrimental effect on the land he suggested that the bench should be installed without formal consent of the land owner. Following discussion, it was resolved to proceed with its installation and to place an order with Smallwork Services of Alconbury Weston to lay the concrete base and secure the bench to it at a cost of £330.00.

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

War Memorial . It was resolved to accept the Clerk's recommendation to proceed in stages

- (a) Place order on IMI to clean the memorial at £1175, and carry out lime pointing at £60.
- (b) Review clarity of the letters after cleaning and determine those which need to be re-cut, and whether paint infill is required . it is not normal on this type of stone.
- (c) Place order with IMI to cut letters . cost £75 for travel + £10.50 per letter (Preliminary estimate is 30). Consider including the following additional options: Paint infill of 270 letters at £0.80 each = £216. Micro crystalline hard wax covering at £100 (The Clerk to ascertain the anticipated life of the covering). Paint fence at £250.

Ferriman Road Play Area - The Inspection carried out by Cllr Rice on 25 June reported no problems with the equipment but drew attention to the rubber tiles around several of the equipments being loose and lifting, and that there are trip hazards on a couple of the areas. It was also mentioned that the Green paint on the monkey bars is coming off. It was agreed to ask Wicksteed to carry out the annual inspection as soon as possible to identify any other matters which need action, and to agree a repair plan as soon as possible thereafter.

10. **Milestone** . A letter dated 21 June from English Heritage was tabled. This stated that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has decided to remove the milestone now located in Thrapston Road from the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest on the grounds that it would only be of historic interest had it been located on its original site. Louise Brown, Head of HDC Conservation, has advised that the most important factor is the ownership of the milestone i.e. whether it is owned by County Highways or the Parish Council. If the former and the structure is delisted then the County will not put any resources into its maintenance and they would be under no obligation to retain it in the highway. It could therefore be vulnerable to removal. She suggested that the Parish Council could claim ownership to protect it from removal at no significant cost.

Following discussion it was resolved not to request a review of the Secretary of State's decision, and to inform CCC that the Parish Council wishes to assume ownership.

11. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Repairs to A14 barrier damaged in December 2012 . In response to a query from the Clerk, the Highways Agency have reported that repairs are expected to be carried out in October / December. In the meantime, the 50 mph limit will remain in place.

Footpath 15 . The CCC ROW Officer has advised that, following completion of the new bridge over the Ellington Brook, work is taking place to the north of the bridge. Contractors will be clearing a gap in the trees and installing a ramp up a bank between the fields.

Mount Pleasant / Cockway Lane . Early on 14 June some workmen cleared the growth of shrubs and other vegetation around the gate at the entrance to Cockway Lane from Mount Pleasant, and installed a wooden post. On investigating the reason, the Clerk ascertained that the CCC ROW Officer had noticed that one wooden post was loose and could be lifted out of the ground allowing vehicles to bypass the locked gate. He asked the local ROW contractor to make sure that the post was secure and also to cut back the vegetation to improve the access when the gate is closed. The Clerk is to ask CCC to ensure that the gaps between the posts are sufficiently narrow to prevent passage of prohibited vehicles when the gate is locked.

HGV traffic before 7 am - HDC has confirmed it is not able to carry out monitoring of the road noise/vibration affecting the residents in High Street and Thrapston Road and suggests we approach CCC to see if there is the possibility of them carrying out some monitoring. The Clerk has ascertained that several Parish Councils have used a private company to carry out similar tests to support proposals for traffic restrictions in their villages. He understands, however, that there is some reluctance by complainants in Spaldwick to obtain such evidence as it could affect the saleability of their property. Pending the outcome of CCC Highways approach to Williams Bros for a voluntary restriction on early morning traffic no action will be taken.

Bury Close . in response to a request, the Clerk is looking into the possibility of having the grass/weeds cut.

12. **Bus Service changes** . a date for the consultation on proposals is awaited from CCC.

13. Correspondence

The Good Councillor's Guide - an electronic copy of the 4th edition has been received via NALC and forwarded where possible as an email attachment to Councillors. Hard copies are expected be available in due course.

14. Any other business

Litter Bin at former mini recycling site . two days ago Chris Wheeler informed the Clerk that this bin had been filled with old food, and consequently loose litter put on top was blowing around. HDC were informed and the bin was emptied the following day and the loose litter removed. The Clerk said that he had first contacted HDC in April regarding the dumping of out of date food packets in this bin. The Policy & Enforcement Officer (Environmental Crime) at HDC has been informed of this latest incident.

Mr & Mrs Wheeler said they are very annoyed with the mess that is created with this bin and the litter which blows along the road, into the ditches and the adjacent field and would like to see the bin removed elsewhere.

15. Next Meeting

Thursday 18 July 2013 at 8 pm

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.23 pm