

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 12 September 2013 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Johnson, Leach, Rice, Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), County Councillor Bywater and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence . none

2. Declarations of Interest as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item . none.

3. Public Open Forum

On behalf of Escape Youth Group, Kit Lee spoke about their wish for a MUGA (Multi use games area) and outlined plans for moving the project forward. He introduced Nick Thompson and Paul Gibson who had agreed to take the lead in producing the proposal and in finding funding. Mr Lee raised the question of whether some of the money from the sale of the Old Village Hall could be used for this project. In response the Chairman explained that this money is held by the Village Hall Trust and can only be used by the Trust towards the cost of a new Hall. There followed some discussion regarding location and ownership issues which the project leaders will take into account in producing a detailed proposal.

4. Minutes of Meeting held 18 July 2013 were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising from minutes . none.

6. Finance

Quarterly Budget Review - The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 June 2013 and the bank reconciliation at 30 June which had been checked by Cllr Smith prior to the meeting. After discussion of the statement it was resolved that it be accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.

Clerk's Salary - It was resolved to accept the joint recommendation of NALC and SLCC that the Clerk's salary be increased by 1% from 1st April 2013 thus increasing the current hourly rate of £10.198 as paid from 1st April 2009, to £10.300.

Review of insurance cover . It was agreed to make no change to the core sections of the policy nor to the overall value of the property insured which is now £36405 (index linked). The Clerk will update the asset register to ensure all property is listed with an appropriate insured value.

The following payments were approved:

100552 F D Stowell, Salary and expenses, July . Sept, £404.84 (inc. £4.32 VAT)

100553 HMRC, PAYE, £93.80

100554 SLCC, inserts for 2013 Clerk's Manual, £35.50

100555 Broker Network, Insurance Renewal Premium, £415.56

199556 Parish Online, Annual fee, £12.00 (inc. £2.00 VAT)

100557 IMI, War Memorial - steam clean, hard wax covering and pointing, £1,602.00 (inc. £267.00 VAT)

7. Planning

New Planning Applications - none

Recent activity regarding application awaiting determination by HDC

1300797FUL, House to rear of 33 Thrapston Road . scaffolding was erected on site to simulate proposed dwelling; Vicky McDougall sent e-mail to HDC with photos of views from Thrapston Road; HDC Officer's report recommending refusal has been issued.

Following discussion it was resolved to send the following message to HDC:
 On reconsideration of this application in the light of the erection of scaffolding intended to simulate the proposed dwelling, the Parish Council now wishes to register its concerns that the view of the church from Thrapston Road will be adversely affected by the proposal and that the proposed dwelling is too close to the boundary of the existing property (no.33 Thrapston Road).

The Parish Council therefore wishes to change its recommendation to **REFUSAL**.

1202008FUL, Development east of 5 to 17 Stow Road . HDC have written to the developer confirming informal agreement to reduce the number of houses from 5 to 4, and confirming that the delivery of affordable housing at this site is required to meet the 40% target.

The following movement regarding planning permission already granted was noted:

1100210FUL, Change of use and alterations to rear buildings etc., 9 - 11 Thrapston Road. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions has been made to HDC.

The following County Planning decision was noted:

H/05007/13/CC, Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission H/05004/11/CC to allow retention of mobile classroom until end of August 2014, Spaldwick Primary School .
 Permission granted.

8. Assets – Provision / Maintenance – progress reports

Bench at Belton's Hill . installation of the base is planned for 21 September. It was agreed to purchase for £48.80 the engraved plaque the details of which had been agreed with the Chairman at a cost £48.80. It will be fitted to the seat before it is moved to the site.

War Memorial Refurbishment . A report issued by IMI referred to the following two possible solutions to the fading lettering, the second being preferred as it would have the least impact on the stone structure and if constructed of a suitable material would require very little future maintenance:-

- reface the stone and re-engrave the lettering
- install new ground plaques on the base surround, one located at the front with the lettering from the front face and one located at the rear with lettering from the side and rear face.

Following discussion it was agreed to proceed with the second option by (a) asking the War Memorial Trust for their comments and (b) obtaining quotations for the manufacture and installation of the proposed plaques.

Seat on Green . Cllrs Leach and Plummer agreed to paint the seat which was cleaned along with the War Memorial.

Children's Play Area . The annual inspection will be carried out by Wicksteed this month.

A neighbour's complaints regarding the hedge adjoining their property and the bramble shoots protruding through the fence into the play area were noted. The shoots growing through the fence at child height, thus presenting a hazard to children have now been cut back. The Clerk will ask Fergusons to trim the shrubs including the aforementioned hedge.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI . The first stage in Burton Way, Fuller Close and Mount Pleasant is now complete. Nothing further has been heard regarding changes to the remaining lights.

Street Light, Church Lane . Taking into account that the annual energy cost would be reduced by only around £8 with no change in cost of maintenance and that converting the lamp to white light would cost £456.32, it was resolved not to proceed with its conversion.

Bury Close . The tenant farmer has agreed to cut the grass/weeds after he has finished the harvest. In the coming year the question of maintaining the footpaths will be agreed with the CCC Rights of Way Officer.

Long Lane . Mick Ager has received a message from the Rights of Way Officer stating that, as Long Lane is an adopted highway, responsibility for its maintenance rests with the Local Highways Officer. It was the latter who recently arranged for the scrub to be cleared, but he does not have any funds available to improve the drainage or add some road planings. The

ROW Officer has some money to carry out similar works on Cockway Lane this year. If there is any under spend on this job he may be able to do something to Long Lane at the same time.

Village Grass Cutting . Following a discussion on how to deal with existing and potential problem areas not currently in the contract e.g. outside Beech House and outside The Leys, Mount Pleasant (as the owner is finding this too difficult) it was agreed to obtain an estimate of the cost of adding them to the contract.

Hedges overgrowing footways . Several have been reported including The Limes, High Street and Manor Farmhouse, which will be cut by the new owner and Cllr Smith respectively. It was agreed that the clerk would ask the residents of 23A Stow Road (adjacent to the phone box) and 25 Stow Road to cut back their overgrowing hedges.

Wasps invading Playtimes area

Cllr Jackson-Rimmer reported that there had been a problem due to wasps in the area which appeared to be feeding on the sap of trees in the adjacent Public Open Space.. Cllr Plummer agreed to investigate the problem.

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme - an Informal Consultation will take place at Huntingdon Racecourse on Tuesday 17 September 13:00 . 20:00 hrs, Wednesday 18 September 11:00 . 20:00 hrs. This relates to a proposed new dual carriageway southern bypass around Huntingdon, extending from the A14 at Ellington to a new junction at Swavesey Tolls are being proposed for this section of road. They would apply to all vehicles travelling on any part of the route between Ellington and Swavesey.

- 10. Bus Service changes** . The Clerk reported that the process is now likely to start in October with a briefing pack being sent to all County Councillors, District Councillors and Parish Councils. This will include an invitation to representatives to attend an initial meeting where details of the process will be discussed. The next step will be to invite representatives to form a working group and also to propose other people who are not part of the initial invitation who should be invited to form part of the working groups. The working group will then meet at regular intervals to work towards a future transport service for the area. It was agreed that in the first instance the Clerk would represent the Parish Council. He would also seek a representative from regular users of the current services.

11. Correspondence

Cambridgeshire ACRE, Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24 September 2013, 5.00pm . 8.15pm (with registration from 4.45pm)

Cambridge Golf and Conference Centre, Hemingford Abbots. There being no member able to attend the Clerk will do so..

LIVING SPORT . Workshops are is taking place on Tuesday 17th September 2013 at Cambridge United Football Club from 6.45pm to 9.00pm and on Wednesday 25th September 2013 at Peterborough Embankment Athletics Track from 7.00pm to 9.15pm.

(Full details including booking are in email circulated 2 September).

Cambridgeshire County Council Briefings . August and September briefings received from County Cllr Bywater have been circulated by email

Huntingdonshire Local Compact . this had been circulated to members, but in the absence of any comments it was agreed not to respond.

Huntingdonshire Town & Parish Charter . It was agreed that the Clerk should submit the comments which he had previously circulated to members by e-mail.

Huntingdonshire District Council Plans, Proposed Savings . letter from the HDC Council Leader was circulated by email on 23 July re proposal to discontinue the grant given this year (£284) to mitigate the impact of the central government changes to housing benefit. He has written again today saying that the Government's subsequent Comprehensive Spending Review means that HDC will have to find an additional £3.2 million savings on top of the £2.6million referred to in that letter. As a result of this he will be recommending that the discretionary one-off grant made this year cannot continue

Woolley Hill Wind Farm CLG . Next meeting at Ellington, 7 pm Monday 16 September

12. Any other business

Application for funding . A letter has been received from Escape advising that to secure a grant of £900 from the Hinchingsbrooke Trust to fund a youth worker, matching funding is required; and that the Youth Group therefore asks the Parish Council to consider providing up to or all of £900 to meet this requirement or the grant will be lost. After a brief discussion it was resolved to refer this to the next Parish Council meeting.

Support for an application by the Church for a grant to repair the roof . At the request of the Chairman, Council approved a note he had prepared to accompany an application by the Church to a funding body stating that the Parish Council has no hesitation in supporting their application for a grant.

Dangerous condition of Manor Farmhouse - Cllr Leach showed the meeting part of a tile which had recently fallen onto the path in front of the house, pointing out that action is urgently required to prevent serious injury by other tiles falling off from the roof which is in a very poor condition. He stated that he had reported the dangerous state of the roof to HDC. At his request it was agreed that a request for action would be sent to HDC by the Clerk.

13. Next Meeting – Thursday 17 October 2013 at 8 pm