

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 14 November 2013 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Johnson, Rice and Wakefield, and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell).

1. **Apologies for absence** . Cllrs Leach and Smith.
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item - none
3. **Public Open Forum** . not held, no public present
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 17 October 2013** . were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)** - none

6. Finance

The following payments were approved

100562 Fergusons, 12 grass cuts & March 2013 shrub pruning, £3330 (inc. £555 VAT)
100563 Endersby Awards, Engraved brass plaque for Golden Jubilee bench, £48.60
100564 A C Green, installation of Golden Jubilee bench on concrete base, £330.00

7. Planning

The following Local Planning Authority report was noted:

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 . Withdrawn.

The following Planning Applications were considered

1301401FUL, Installation of 1 x 500KW wind turbine with tip height of 74M and associated infrastructure, including crane pad and sub-station and other ancillary works, Land South of Little Catworth Farm, Church End, Little Catworth. As this would have no significant impact on Spaldwick it was decided not to submit any comment.

1301639FUL, Erection of 4 dwellings with associated access, parking and turning areas and landscaping, Land east of 5 to 17 Stow Road.

Following discussion it was resolved to respond to HDC as follows:

It is noted that para 4.8 of the Planning + Design & Access statement dismisses the Parish Council comments on the previous application 1202008FUL as follows : Whilst the Parish Council recommendation was one of APPROVAL of the earlier application, it did request clarification regarding matters such as access arrangements and drainage design. However, in light of the acceptance of these aspects by the relevant statutory consultees it was not felt necessary to amend these aspects and it is hoped this will satisfy the questions raised by the Parish Council.

Whilst the Parish Council accepts that the Local Highways Authority and the Internal Drainage Board have commented on the previous proposal their approval of the current proposal remains subject to reassurance regarding access from Stow Road and the Sustainable Drainage System. The other questions raised were not covered by any statutory consultees

The Parish Council, therefore, requests that the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that the following questions and concerns are addressed:

1. Is a financial contribution for Affordable Housing acceptable as proposed in the developer's Viability Appraisal?
2. Is the 4.5 m width of the internal access road adequate considering that it will be shared by vehicles and pedestrians (including children on foot or bicycles, and in buggies) and that occasional passing of vehicles will be inevitable?

3. Is the turning head adequate for HGVs including refuse collection vehicles to enter and leave in forward gear?
4. Does the access to and from the site meet the County Council requirement?
5. The D & A statement says a dedicated examination of the site was made to confirm the absence of bats or any other protected species. Should a report have been supplied?
6. Will the sustainable drainage system include water from the roofs and the surface of the kerbed internal access road which is described as tarmac with a rolled gravel finish?
7. Could the electricity sub-station site be a little further from the boundary of no.13 Stow Road to allow all-round access without entering the garden of no.13, and also to reduce the perceived health risk to the children playing in that garden.
8. Could the developer be advised that he should ensure that any legal agreements for maintenance of the access road should include the maintenance of the verges (including the trees)?

Subject to the LPA being satisfied that points 1 to 6 can be answered satisfactorily and that consideration is given to points 7 & 8, the Parish Council recommends **APPROVAL** of this application.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) . A letter from HDC was noted and discussed. This stated that a Town or Parish Council receiving a meaningful proportion (i.e. a minimum of 15%) of the CIL receipts from development that occurs in their area is required to:

- a) Use the receipts to support the development of the local council's area, or any part of that area, by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.
- b) Prepare a report, in accordance with the regulations, for any financial year in which it receives CIL receipts and publish the report on its website or that of the charging authority, namely HDC. A copy must also be sent to the charging authority.
- c) Use the CIL receipts to support the development of its area within 5 years of receipt or be required to repay the money to the charging authority to spend on infrastructure.

It was **resolved** to accept the legal responsibilities that the CIL meaningful proportion receipts brings (rather than leaving this responsibility with HDC) and that it would prefer receipts to be paid annually (rather than twice yearly).

8. Assets – Provision / Maintenance – progress reports

Bench at Belton's Hill . The concrete base was installed on 5 October. The bench was installed on 25 October thanks to Cllr Johnson and Chris Goddard.

War Memorial Refurbishment . The Clerk is continuing to investigate the possible steps which can be taken to improve the legibility of the engraving. In response to a question whether the memorial could be replaced, the Clerk will seek advice.

Seat on Green . Cllrs Leach & Plummer will repaint the metal and remove the varnish from the wood, after which it will be decided whether it should remain unvarnished.

Children's Play Area . Another contractor has recently examined the safety surface and will shortly submit his proposals for remedying the problems.

Archiving minute books and other documents . The Clerk reported that he has arranged to take the old minute books and subsequent loose leaf files to Shire Hall on 26 November with a view to arranging for them to be kept in the local archives. Arrangements for archiving other documents will also be discussed.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI . it was reported that someone had been in the village taking notes about the existing lights. The Clerk will speak to Balfour Beatty about this and ask when the Parish Council is to be consulted on the proposals for the lamps not already converted to white light.

Bury Close . The two footpaths have now been cut.

Long Lane . The Clerk reported that he is expecting County Highways to deliver some planings shortly - 3 to 5 cubic metres have been requested. Mick Ager will mark the area where the material has to go. He is hoping that they will tip and loosely roll, as they have done elsewhere. If not we may need to spread it ourselves by fork, rake and shovel, in which case we will need volunteers to help.

Following a proposal from the Chairman it was agreed to record the thanks of the Council to Mick Ager for all the work he has been doing recently with regard to the public footpaths.

Field south of Spaldwick School - The CCC ROW Officer has reported that the remaining stile in the corner of this field will shortly be removed and replaced with a pedestrian gate. A small wooden sleeper bridge will also be constructed immediately to the south and the blackthorn trimmed back to improve access.

Village Grass Cutting . The costs for adding further areas to the contract are still awaited.

Footway and Kerb refurbishment o/s 2 – 6 Stow Road . completed.

Extension of the kerbside drain grating o/s 17-19 Thrapston Road - completed

Other planned works by CCC – Investigation into surface water drainage problem in Stow Road between Royston Avenue and Thrapston Road.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative . It was noted that Parish Councils can seek up to a maximum of £10,000 from the County Council as a contribution to a scheme, which can include minor improvements for as little as £500. The PC is expected to provide a contribution towards each project of at least 10% of the scheme cost. The deadline for submission of applications is 9 December. As this is before the next meeting the Clerk was delegated to make an application taking into consideration the following suggestions: resurfacing of the footways in High Street (between No12 and Long Lane), Thrapston Road (outside nos. 1 to 7) and some parts of Ferriman Road; erection of speed indicating device(s)

Speedwatch . The Clerk reported that he had now taken custody of the equipment following a period of 6 months when the PCSOs were unable to find it and would take responsibility for allocating it to local parishes. He will discuss with the Spaldwick volunteers when they are able to carry out further sessions

- 10. Bus Service changes** . The Clerk reported that he had attended the first meeting of County, District and Parish representatives which was convened by the Cambs Future Transport team on Tuesday 12th November. This was also attended by five county councillors and representatives from the Alconburys and Stilton. It is intended to publicise the consultation and produce a questionnaire to obtain information regarding current and possible future usage.

11. Trees

PC land – Details of tree management courses being held at Shuttleworth College were circulated by email on 23 October 2013. Maps showing two areas of common land and village green at Belton Hill and Long Lane which are registered in the name of Spaldwick PC were attached, with a view to facilitating a discussion to consider what action, if any, to take with regard to survey and inspection of trees on these sites. However, as the images received were incomprehensible, replacements will be provided to councillors. It was noted that Bridget Halford the Tree Warden Co-ordinator has looked at the trees at Belton Hill, her opinion being that most are OK but those close to the road may soon need attention.

Parish Planting Scheme . The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Smith had looked around the village for possible sites which they discussed with Ms Halford, before choosing the area close to the bench at Belton Hill and at the north side of the gate at the Mt Pleasant end of Cockway Lane. Ms Halford has agreed to supply larger trees than normal in view of the difficulty in maintaining very young trees on these sites, subject to her obtaining consent from the landowner(s).

Village Green . Ms Halford did not comment on these trees but confirmed that the advice received from Brian Ogden still stands.

.12. Correspondence

Housing Related Support for Older People Project (HRSOP) . briefing emailed to members 22 October.

HDC Decision Digest - emailed to members 3 November

Huntingdonshire Parish Conference – Communities First, Tuesday 3 December, 1 pm to 4.30pm, Burgess Hall, St Ives . 3 representatives invited. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to attend.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group 111 service

It was noted that from 12 November 2013 the 111 telephone service has been established to take calls from GP practices who currently use UCC as their out of hours provider [these include Alconbury, Brampton and Kimbolton GP practices] and anyone dialling 111 for medical advice from a landline or a mobile in Cambridgeshire.

13. Any other business

Fallen fence between The George and the Manor Farm House . this was initially reported on 6 November. Mr William Brown has subsequently arranged a temporary repair.

Wasps adjacent to Playtimes building . The Chairman reported that he had looked at the trees on the public open space but could see nothing which would attract wasps.

Relocation of Out of School Club . Cllr Jackson-Rimmer said that they have not yet found a solution to the loss of the Playtimes building.

Remembrance Day Service . The Chairman reported that there had been 20-25 people in attendance at the war memorial but no children. The area around the memorial looked very good thanks to the Clerk and Cllr Johnson.

14. Next Meeting – Thursday 12 December 2013 at 8 pm

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.17 pm