

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence** . Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer, Leach
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 14 November 2013** . were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)** - none

6. Finance

Parochial Church Council request for help towards cost of churchyard maintenance

A letter from John Blatch asking for help with the cost of upkeep of the churchyard this year was noted. This year the churchyard cost £900 for grass cutting and £131.38 for gravel on the path, and the income (interest from a legacy held by Ely Diocese) was £45.41 i.e. a net cost of £985.97. The Garden Fund which is intended to cover the costs started the year with a balance of +£231.47. After payment of the above, the balance was -£754.50. After discussion, it was resolved to make a grant of £754.50. The Clerk is to advise the PCC that any future payments will again be subject to review at the time a request for a contribution to the cost is made.

The following payments were approved:

100565 F D Stowell, Salary and expenses, Oct . Dec, £414.23 (inc. £3.58 VAT)
 100566 HMRC, PAYE, £92.60
 100567 Spaldwick Primary School, Hire of Community Room, Sep . Dec, £54.00
 100568 SLCC, half membership fee, £43.50 (Shared with Stow Longa PC)
 100569 CAPALC, Local Councils Explained Publication, £49.99
 100570 Cash for Town & Poors Charity, Christmas gifts £120.00
 100571 Spaldwick PCC, Maintenance of churchyard, £754.50

2014/15 Budget and Precept . Following a detailed discussion of a draft prepared by the Clerk, it was resolved to adopt the proposed budget and to set a precept of £10,000 (unchanged from last year).

7. Planning

New Planning Application(s) - none

It was noted that the following planning applications in neighbouring parishes have been withdrawn

1301401FUL, Wind turbine with tip height 74m, South of Little Catworth farm.
 1200688FUL, 20KW Wind turbine, 20m to hub, East Lodge Farm, Leighton Bromswold.

The following County Planning decision was noted:

H/05005/13/CW, Extension to range of waste storage, treatment and recycling operations; concrete batching plant; aggregate and soil storage etc., Woodhatch Farm, off A14 west of Brampton Hut.- **Approved**. N.B. Ellington Parish Council's request that HCVs use the Catworth junction to access the eastbound carriageway of the A14 was rejected as it was not considered environmentally acceptable or reasonable to require eastbound HCVs to use the Catworth junction.

8. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

War Memorial Refurbishment . The War Memorial Trust have been asked to comment on the proposal for granite plaques to be placed on the north and south sides of the memorial giving all the detail engraved on 3 sides of the original memorial; and to comment on the possibility of replacing the memorial with a new one. This has been passed to an expert for reply.

Seat on Green . awaiting painting

Children's Play Area . A local contractor who has done similar work for Brampton PC is preparing a quote for sticking down loose tiles and filling the gaps with wet pour. It was noted that another contractor who has seen the site recommends removal of the rubber tiles and replacement with Wet Pour Safety Surfacing at £4711.00.

Archiving minute books and other documents . The three Minute Books for the period April 1959 to November 2003 have been passed into the care of Cambridgeshire Archives for retention at Huntingdon Library. The Archivist suggests that 2 file wallets should be created for the loose leaf files covering the period January 2004 to December 2012 at a cost of £5 each before these are passed to Huntingdon Library for retention

The AmeyCespa Cambridgeshire Community Challenge . It was noted that the Parish Council is invited to apply for a grant for playgrounds/insulating community facilities from The Challenge . which is open until 10 January 2014 to fund either the creation or enhancement of a community playground, or to improve the insulation/heating of a community facility, such as a village or community hall. (E-mail to councillors 04/12/2013 refers). No action proposed.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI . The clerk reported that surveyors have been taking photos and checking the supply of all the columns in each road which are due to be replaced or upgraded. The columns which will be put forward as proposed removals are now being selected. Local County/District Councillors and the Parish Council will be invited to view the plans. Amendments can be made due to local knowledge which Balfour Beatty is unaware of. The total number of removals will be required to remain the same and as long as the removals fall in line with the selection criteria then these can normally be changed.

Long Lane . Planings have been spread over the area mostly affected by mud.

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

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

Speedwatch . it is anticipated that the kit will be available to Spaldwick around mid Jan.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative . As neither the footway repairs o/s 5 to 7 Thrapston Road nor the kerbing by the High Street post box relate to traffic management they are unlikely to receive high marks. The Clerk therefore added a third application . for 30 mph road surface roundels at the 3 main entrances to the village at a total estimated cost of £300 (with 10% to be paid by the PC).

10. Bus Service changes . The Cambs Future Transport team has arranged drop- in sessions at several venues, including Spaldwick Community Room, Thursday 16 January, 3-5 pm where views on the project can be shared. Members of the public are invited to complete a questionnaire which is available on the Spaldwick website. Each parish councillor also has a few paper copies for those who cannot or do not wish to use the Internet.

Request for Bus Shelter . It was noted that a letter from a local resident to HDC requesting a bus shelter in Royston Avenue has been forwarded to the Parish Council for consideration when the bus service changes have been finalised as HDC have no funds available.

11. Correspondence

COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT SUPPORT GRANT . the Chairman of NALC has written to parish councils explaining his efforts to get District Councils, such as HDC, to reverse their decision not to give a grant in 2014/15 to mitigate the effect of the change in Tax Base caused by the localisation of Council Tax Benefit. He is asking Government Ministers to make Charging

Authorities continue this grant and also to protect Parish Councils from being subject to capping and the holding of referenda if precepts in excess of yet to be specified limits is proposed.

Constitution for Cambridgeshire County Council . draft circulated for comment 22 Nov.

. no comments have been received from members.

CCC December Key Issue Update - copy received via Cllr Bywater circulated to members by email 12/12 with request to notify Clerk if they do not require future issues.

12. Any other business

Huntingdonshire Parish Conference - Communities First, on 3rd December at Burgess Hall, St Ives . Cllr Plummer reported that much was made by CCC and HDC of the current heavy financial pressures affecting their services and that local self help is becoming an important factor. A dozen organisations which provide funding for community projects were represented. He will provide details to interested local groups.

Closure of the A14 westbound from Brampton Hut to Thrapston on 20th December 2013 from 10pm until the work is completed (by 5am at the latest) was noted. The Clerk reported that this is due to the narrow lane traffic management between the two Spaldwick junctions being removed. Local traffic to Ellington, Easton and Spaldwick will have access to the A14 westbound at Brampton Hut. This has been publicised on the Spaldwick website and on Facebook.

Cycle Legacy Small Grants available for community activities and events

It was noted that small grants are now available and will be awarded to local groups and organisations to support activities or events linked to and inspired by cycling or the Tour de France. Each grant will be up to a maximum of £500 and additional funding or support in kind will be expected. The Clerk will pass full details to Cllr Rice.

WREN is a not-for-profit business which provides grants of up to £75,000 for community projects within 10 miles of a land fill site. The Clerk gave a summary of their schemes, and has contact details for enquiries about eligibility and advice on how to apply.

13. Future Meetings

It was resolved to adopt the following programme of meetings in 2014:

January 16, February 13, March 20, April 24, May 8 (APM), May 15 (APCM), June 19, July 17, September 11, October 16, November 13, December 11.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.22 pm