

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 16 January 2014 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr G Smith (Sick)
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item . Cllr Rice declared an interest in item 6, being a recipient of a payment.
3. **Public Open Forum** . not held, no public present
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 12 December 2013** . were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)** - The A14 road closure due to have been removed on 20 December has been deferred until 17 January.
6. **Finance**
 1. **Quarterly Budget Review** - The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 31 December 2013 and the bank reconciliation at 31 December 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.
 2. **The following payments were approved:**
100572 Greg Rice, Annual hosting and maintenance of web-site and e-mail, £50.00
100573 CCC, Creation of 2 card wallets for minutes, £10.00
 3. **2014/15 Council Tax** . It was noted that due to an increase in the Tax Base (Band D equivalent properties) from 232 to 234 and the precept remaining at £10,000, the Council Tax attributable to the Parish Council will decrease very slightly in 2014/15.
7. **Planning**

The following Planning Application was considered
1301600FUL, Extension to rear of dwelling and erection of detached garage. Demolition of single storey outbuilding, 9-11 Thrapston Road.
Following discussion it was resolved to submit the following comments to HDC

 1. The parish council wishes to put on record its concern that demolition work was carried out without planning permission having been granted and that the original brick oven has been lost.
 2. The plans which formed part of Planning application 1100210FUL, granted permission in April 2011, showed block paving in the entrance area whereas the current plans show it as being gravel. A hard surface, such as block paving would eliminate the problem that would otherwise be caused by gravel being dragged out onto the adjacent footway.
 3. Subject to a condition that the driveway entrance has a hard surface, Spaldwick Parish Council recommends **approval**.

The following Local Planning Authority decision was noted
1301482TREE, Felling and removal of one Ash tree, 4 Pound Close . Consent granted.
8. **Assets – Provision / Maintenance**

War Memorial Refurbishment . the following response from War Memorial Trust was noted: %The Trust does not support the replacement of war memorials. War memorials are important historical structures. The community chose designs which they felt were appropriate for the commemoration of their lost loved ones and used these in place of graves. I also note that this memorial appears to be a listed structure. As such any proposals

would need Listed Building Consent and it is unlikely that this will be awarded for replacement. I recommend any proposals are discussed with the Conservation Officer at the Local Planning Authority who will be able to advise further.

With regards to the introduction of granite plaques, again this is not an approach supported by the Trust. The addition of an alternative harder material can increase the rate of erosion of the original stone as well as resulting in a significant visual change. Such a proposal is also likely to require Listed Building Consent.

From the images supplied the stone appears to be in good condition and the lettering can still be discerned. As such we would recommend the hand sharpening of the letters where required. This will then allow them to be painted and will improve the legibility.+

Louise Brown, HDC Conservation Officer, has confirmed that the memorial is not a listed building. She supports proposals to refurbish the existing memorial and agrees with the Trust that the introduction of granite plaques will likely result in the deterioration of the existing structure as the two materials are not compatible. Whilst the memorial is not a statutorily protected structure it is what is termed an undesignated heritage asset which she would encourage the parish to retain.

Following discussion the Clerk was asked to point out to the Trust and to the HDC Conservation Officer that the proposed plaques are not intended to be in contact with the memorial itself and hence compatibility should not be an issue. It was agreed to inform the Trust and HDC that the Parish Council favours this solution, and to seek further quotations for the production and installation of wedged shaped granite plaques with the engraving on a polished face.

Seat on Green . awaiting painting

Children's Play Area . Quotations for the repair of the safety surfaces were received:

Lifting of existing tiles and replacing with wet pour . 2 quotes: £4711 and £6523.

Infill gaps between existing tiles with wet pour . 3 quotes: £485, £520 and £911.

The meeting was minded to infill the gaps and to accept the quotation of £485, but decided to defer a decision until Cllrs Johnson and Leach had seen an example of similar work undertaken by the contractor who had submitted that quotation.

Parish Council website . the new hosting service has been introduced. In response to a suggestion from the Clerk, Cllr Rice agreed to add a table from which minutes of meetings for the last 2/3 years could be accessed.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI . nothing to report

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

Flooding in Stow Road . The problem with the non functioning gully opposite 21 Stow Road appears to have been solved with removal of a blockage caused by tree roots near the entrance to the Old Village Hall.

Speedwatch . It was resolved to purchase from and have installed by CCC, 3 Community Speedwatch notices at a unit cost of £69 + VAT on the 30 mph sign posts at the entries to the village in High Street, Stow Road and Thrapston Road.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative . details of the bid submitted were noted.

CCC Winter Gritting Route Review . The Clerk reported that he had been informed by CCC that each request for change was considered carefully and a site visit was made before being assessed against the County's route criteria. It appears that only one of the requests from across the County was found to meet the necessary criteria for primary status and this has been upgraded. Ferriman Road and Royston Avenue had been considered but it was decided that the route does not meet the criteria to be upgraded to a primary route and was confirmed as an existing secondary gritting route. The Clerk has subsequently pointed out that this route does have scheduled bus services in excess of the criteria, and for this reason should have been classified as a primary route. The Clerk said that he has also asked what happened to our request for the criteria on which routes are gritted to include steep hills, such as Belton Hill, and school bus routes. No reply has been received to date.

10. Bus Service changes . The Clerk reported that subsequent to the drop-in sessions being held by the Cambs Future Transport team the responses to the associated questionnaire will be analysed and presented for consideration to the local working group on 26 February at Huntingdon library. The deadline for the return of completed questionnaires (paper or online) has been extended to 31 January. The Clerk stated that he is a member of the working party and that any parish councillor who is able to attend would also be welcome. No member present came forward.

11. ShapeYourPlace

The clerk explained that ShapeYourPlace.org is a set of community websites run by Cambridgeshire County Council where local people can raise issues and have conversations with the Police, local councils, the Fire Service and other residents. Spaldwick has been covered by a website for West Hunts but due to the lower level of engagement on this site when compared to the other Huntingdonshire sites, CCC have discontinued the West Hunts site and have added Spaldwick and other local parishes to the Huntingdon site: <http://huntingdon.shapeyourplace.org/> .

In addition to Huntingdon, Godmanchester, Brampton and Alconbury & the Stukeleys, the Huntingdon site now covers, Barham & Woolley, Catworth, Easton, Ellington, Perry, Spaldwick and Stow Longa. It also includes links to the local village websites. The Parish Council confirmed that it accepts this arrangement.

12. Correspondence noted

COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT SUPPORT GRANT . the Chairman of NALC has written to parish councils informing them of his efforts to have the parish grant maintained.

CAPALC – Nomination to Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party 3rd June 2014 is looking for one nomination from each Parish Council. One name will then be selected randomly as the County nomination. A draw was taken to select a nomination. The first 3 drawn were Cllrs Johnson, Smith and Leach who will in turn decide whether they wish their name to go forward to CAPALC.

Great War Commemoration CCC letter including ref to <http://great-war.ccan.co.uk/>

Campaign to Save the Cromwell Museum . email requesting support . Clerk to add Spaldwick Parish Council to the list of supporters.

CPALC E-Bulletin Dec 2013 . forwarded by email 17/12

Hunts Parish Conference, communities first . report forwarded by email 9/1

News from CCC . forwarded by email 15/1

13. Any other business

Parish tree planting . The Chairman reported that sites at Beltonø Hill (4 adjacent to the new seat) and at Cockway Way (4 or 5 adjacent to the gate at the end of Mount Pleasant) had been chosen. The quantity and species have been agreed with Bridget Halford, HDC Tree Officer. Larger than normal trees will be supplied for Beltonø Hill. Cllr Johnson agreed to pick them up from Godmanchester. As these sites are adjacent to byways/highways the agreement of the CCC has been confirmed subject to written assurance that all future maintenance and any complaints arising from the siting of the trees will be dealt with and paid for by the Parish Council in perpetuity. It was agreed that the Clerk should give that assurance.

Long Lane . Whilst much of the Lane has been improved recently, the section close to High Street is currently very muddy. It was suggested Mick Ager be asked to look at the possibility of improving this section also.

14. Next Meeting . Thursday, 13 February 2013 at 8 pm

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm