

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 15 January 2009 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present : Cllrs K Armer (in the Chair), W Brown, R Johnson, B Plummer, J Pope, R Wooddisse, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and eight members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** - none, all councillors were present
2. **Minutes of Meeting held 4 December 2008** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising** - none.
4. **Co-option of Councillor to fill vacancy**
The Clerk reported that he had received no notifications of interest in response to the advertisement posted on the notice boards. A proposal by the Chairman that Mr Graham Smith of Spen House, 3 Stow Road be co-opted was put to the Council, who resolved unanimously that Mr Smith be co-opted to the Council with immediate effect. Mr Smith signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and joined the Council for the remainder of the meeting.
5. **Public Forum** - at this point the Chairman invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern. No matters were raised.
6. **Finance**
Spaldwick School - The Clerk reported that the Governor Premises Committee is meeting on January 26th, and will be considering the level of financial contribution to be requested from the Parish Council.
Councillor Johnson declared a prejudicial interest in the following matter and left the meeting.
Consideration of quotations for removal of bus shelter base and replacement with grass.
Three quotations were tabled:- £1324, £1175, and £680. It was resolved that the lowest of these, from R P Johnson Builders Ltd be accepted.
Councillor Johnson then returned to the meeting
The following payments were approved :-

100382 Spaldwick School, room hire, caretaker + admin	£46.00
100383 Cambs ACRE - renewal of annual membership	£25.00

(it was agreed not to extend this to include membership of Cambridgeshire Playing Fields Association Network)
7. **Traffic Survey** - Following the recommendation of the working party held 8 January, It was decided to write to the local MP, Chief Constable, District and County Councils and the Highways Agency with a view to obtaining their help in introducing measures to reduce the risk of accidents arising from excessive speed. A summary of the results will also be made available to members of the public.
The Clerk is to submit proposals regarding presentation of the results to all members for agreement prior to its distribution.
8. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer reported that the Steering Group had produced a first draft of the Action Plan.
9. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**
Street Light in Church Lane - it was noted that the light became operational shortly after the last meeting.
War memorial renovation -The Clerk reported that he is still awaiting an estimate.

- 10. Provision of Allotments** - Advice has been received regarding an appropriate rent for the Charity field. This will be discussed at agenda item 15.
Cllr Brown agreed to speak to the Internal Drainage Board about the possibility of the short length of ditch at the west end of the field being adopted by them, and maintained along with the adjoining adopted watercourse no.22. This runs in a northerly direction along the west side of Stow Road from opposite the entrance to Upthorpe Lodge to the point where it turns west alongside the charity field. It continues past the end of the charity field for a further 60 metres and then turns northwards, eventually crossing under Cockway Lane, and continuing northwards to join the Ellington Brook.
- 11. Planning**
- 0803330FUL - Erection of dwelling, Land at and including 11 Stow Road**
Shortly after the last meeting, at which approval of this application was recommended, the Clerk received a copy of a letter of objection raised by the owners of the adjacent bungalow. Following discussion with the Chairman, an extension of the period for comment until 16 January was requested so that a fuller discussion and review of the original comment could take place. This was granted. The letter of objection and the response of the applicants' architect were tabled. At the invitation of the Chairman, the objectors (Mr & Mrs Foster) explained their objection to the changed location of the proposed new dwelling and the applicants (Mr & Mrs Hanks) responded that they had asked their architect to investigate the matters raised by the objectors, and their report indicated that the effect on the neighbouring property would be well within Building Research Establishment guidelines.
Following discussion it was resolved to send the following comment to HDC Planning:-
The Parish Council is unable to recommend either approval or refusal, as it does not possess the skills necessary to make a judgement on the case presented by Parsons & Whittlely on behalf of the applicant against the objections of the neighbour, Mr S. P. Foster. The Council has, however, no objection to any other part of the proposal.
- 0802547REM - Approval of siting, external appearance and landscaping for the erection of 4 dwellings, Land adjacent to 33 Thrapston Road.**
Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated details of an exchange of e-mails between himself and the applicant, which addressed the issues raised by the Parish Council at the meeting held on 26 September 2008. In the light of the positive replies received, the Clerk recommended the Parish Council to withdraw its previous recommendation that the application be refused pending clarification of the issues raised.
Following discussion it was resolved to send the following comment to HDC Planning:-
In the light of responses from the applicant in respect of the issues raised by Spaldwick Parish Council, approval of this application is now recommended. The Council trusts that the Planning Authority will make every effort to facilitate the proposals made by the applicant.
The Council confirms that it would have no objection to inclusion of the following conditions :
Conditions 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Planning Permission 0102817OUT, plus an amended condition 10 referring to the plans etc. received by the LPA on 2 September 2008; and Conditions 2 and 3 of Planning Permission 0502252S73.
- 12. Correspondence**
- Playtimes Playgroup** - The Playtimes committee has asked the Parish Council to consider repairing / replacing two concrete posts which form part of the fence between the Public Open Space in Ferriman Road and the Playtimes building, which they believe to be the PC's property. It was agreed that Cllrs Armer and Johnson would see what is involved and the Clerk would confirm that the fence is not owned by the Parish Council. The Chairman suggested that the Council could consider a one off contribution to the cost. The matter was deferred pending receipt of the reports.
- Flood Protection Measures in Spaldwick** - It was noted that District Councillor Mike Baker had written to all residents of Spaldwick regarding progress that had been made since he wrote of his concerns about flood risk in Spaldwick a year ago.
In commenting on this the Chairman pointed out that he had informed the Clerk in November that the flap valve near the petrol station was jammed in the open position. The Clerk then tried to identify the owner. After contacting the Internal Drainage Board on 11th December he eventually

received a reply stating that it was a Highways Agency matter and that, after a follow up from the Clerk, the HA contractor had been advised of the problem on 5th January. The Clerk will continue to follow this up until the valve is functional again.

The problem of repeated flash floods in Thrapston Road due to inadequacy of the drains was dealt with by the County Council following pressure from the residents and a request from the local Highways Engineer for funding to be allocated.

The Parish Council welcomes the intention of the Internal Drainage Board (of which Cllr Baker is a member) to adopt the short length of watercourse downstream on the A14, east of the village referred to in Cllr Baker's letter.

13. Any Other Business

Playtimes Notice Board - For some time an A frame notice board has been chained to the tree at the junction of Royston Avenue and Stow Road. As several residents have complained that it seems to be becoming permanent, the Clerk was instructed to ask the playgroup to remove it should it remain there any longer.

14. Dates of future meetings

Thursday, 26 February 2009 8 pm

Thursday, 9 April 2009 8 pm

In the absence of any other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Following the Parish Council meeting, the Council met as Trustee of the Spaldwick Town and Poors Charity

Members of the public were excluded due to the confidential nature of matters to be discussed.