

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 5 March 2009 at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **Apologies for absence** - none, all councillors were present
2. **Minutes of Meeting held 15 January 2009** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising**
 - Drain at end of Charity Field** - Cllr Brown reported that he had spoken to the Internal Drainage Board about the possibility of this short length of drain being adopted. He is trying to arrange a meeting to discuss it further.
 - Playtimes Playgroup** - confirmation of ownership of the fence is awaited from the Clerk. Meanwhile the question of repairs remains in abeyance.
 - Flood Protection Measures** - The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Keith Sullivan of Carillion WSP at Sandy, agents of the Highways Agency. Mr Sullivan has examined the flap valve adjacent to the Esso Service Area, but was unable to free it and is arranging to have it replaced.
4. **Finance**
 - Declaration of Financial and Other Interests** - Cllr Brown signed the form confirming his interests, thus completing the return to be made to HDC.
 - The Clerk's request for increase in allowance** of £1 per month for broadband, arising from £3 increase in monthly charge, was agreed.
 - The following payments were approved:-**
 - 100384 F D Stowell - Salary and excs Jan - Mar 2009 £520.32
 - 100385 R P Johnson Builders Ltd. - removal of Bus Shelter Base outside The George, and sowing grass seed. - £680.00
 - Internal Auditor** - it was resolved to appoint Mr J C Shears, who had agreed to accept a fee unchanged from last year.
 - Council Tax** -- It was noted that the Band D charge to cover the parish precept would be £41.59. This is based on 226 Band D equivalent properties, up by one since last year.
 - Clerk's Income Tax** - The clerk produced documentation that his salary is taken into account elsewhere, confirming that the Parish Council need not deduct income tax.
 - Spaldwick School** - Following its meeting on 28 January the Governor Premises Committee has suggested that the cost of maintaining the school playing field should be shared 50/50 between the School and the Parish Council. They have therefore asked the Parish Council to consider making a contribution of £3500. It was resolved to defer a decision until councillors had seen details of the agreement made at the time that the extension to the school playing field was provided. The clerk to supply copies to members.
5. **Traffic Survey** - The Clerk reported that he had circulated proposals to members as to how the results could be presented. Following receipt of comments from one member he had modified the proposed chart to show the number of vehicles in each of 3 speed bands on weekdays between 7am and

- 7pm in both directions at each location (presented as chart C). This was accepted by the meeting as a means of supporting a request to the police for enforcement action. In addition a chart will be produced showing the traffic flow in High Street in the morning and afternoon when children are most likely to be around, to support the proposal for a footway from Ivy Way into the village. These and relevant data will be passed to influential bodies as soon as possible.
6. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer reported that Bob Dearman has resigned from the steering group due to pressure of work. It was felt that it would be unwise to replace him, as they had now reached the stage of pulling the plan together, and any newcomer would have difficulty in catching up.
 7. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**

War memorial renovation - a quote of £900 for cleaning the memorial and refilling 256 letters has been received. A second quote is to be obtained.

Equipment formerly installed at the Old Village Hall Children's Play Area -
Seat - it was proposed that this be installed elsewhere in the village, but where?
Climbing Frame & Slide - as there appears to be no obvious use for this in the village, it was agreed to consider its disposal.
Swings (block of 2 and block of 3) - as it believed that it would cost too much to repair these, it was proposed that they be offered for sale.
The Clerk was asked to put this matter on the agenda of the next meeting.
 8. **Provision of Allotments**

Funding - Roger Haines has nothing to report.

Rabbit fencing - Cllr Johnson reported that had he obtained a quote of £5 / metre, supplied and fitted. He would pass this to Roger.
 9. **Planning**

To note HDC decisions :-

0803106LED - installation of chimney, 2-6 Thrapston Road - Certificate of Lawful Development refused.

0803330FUL - Erection of dwelling, Land at and including 11 Stow Road Referred to Development Control Panel on 16 March 2009 for decision.

0802547REM - Approval of siting, external appearance and landscaping for the erection of 4 dwellings, Land adjacent to 33 Thrapston Road - Details approved. The clerk reported that the owner of No.33 had sent a letter of concern to the Planning Authority, which had not been copied to the Parish Council. It was agreed that a copy of this and the Planning Authority's response be given to members for information.
 10. **Correspondence**

Circulated 19/1/09

Rural Services Network - invitation to become member free of charge, because it is supported by HDC, who is a member of SPARSE Rural Local Authority arm of RSN. This offer will not be taken up.

HDC - Local Development Framework, Gypsy and Traveller Sites Development Plan Document. Summary of issues consultation on principles and processes. No response considered necessary as it contains no reference to specific sites.

New Correspondence

CCC Countryside Issues

(1) Local Access Forum - Annual recruitment poster - on parish notice board.

(2) Waymarking for footpaths, bridleways and byways - CCC will supply posts and markers on request, and practical assistance if needed.

(3) Grasscutting - footpaths, bridleways and byways. These are cut in May and July (subject to weather conditions). CCC ask for feedback if not cut when expected.

Draft Huntingdonshire (Parishes) Order 2009 - This was circulated to Parish Councils by email on 19 February, with a note that DCLG's deadline for comments was 25 February. Copies of HDC & DCLG letters and the draft local map, which was in line with the Parish Council's proposal, have been circulated to parish councillors.

Report from County Councillor Keith Walters - stated that he would not be seeking re-election.

Ditches outside Nos 1 & 3 Mount Pleasant - one of the residents has asked if it would be possible for these ditches to be filled in to facilitate maintenance of the hedges and grass. The Clerk reported that he had referred this request to CCC Highways, owners of the verge, who advised that the residents should seek approval from the Environment Agency and, if there were no objection, arrange the works themselves. The Council has no objection, as long as the EA approve the proposal, the two sections of ditch no longer being connected to any drainage system. The Clerk to reply accordingly.

Current Enforcement Cases - The HDC quarterly report states no cases outstanding.

Dog fouling - a letter from a resident regarding dog fouling in Ferriman Road was tabled. This reflected the widely held view that this is a problem around the village which needs to be tackled. It was pointed out that there is very little the Parish Council can do - except to ensure that the appropriate signage is in place and that there are adequate receptacles in which to place the faeces. Currently there are four bins which can be used for this purpose - Royston Avenue, High Street near The George, The Village Green, The Green in Thrapston Road. HDC has been asked to consider placing another in Ferriman Road, near the pathway into the Public Open Space at the rear of Ferriman Road. HDC has been asked to renew any faded signage and to add more where necessary. HDC can bring cases of dog fouling anywhere within the village envelope to the attention of the Courts, but this requires witnesses who can produce evidence of an offence.

CCC (Public Footpath No.8 Spaldwick) Definitive Map Modification Order 2009 - A copy of this Order dated 2 February 2009, which corrects the definitive map by showing Footpath No.8 starting from Thrapston Road between Nos. 31 & 33 instead of the western boundary of No.33, has been received. Two errors in the detail (a map reference and a footpath number) have been pointed out to the Senior Map Development Officer.

11. Any Other Business

Village Sign - Cllr Johnson agreed to speak to Trevor Cooper as to whether it needs to be refurbished.

Gate from Public Open Space into Long Lane - the Clerk to obtain a quote.

12. Dates of future meetings

The following dates were agreed:-

Thursday 2 April 2009 8 pm

Thursday 30 April Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 14 May Annual Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 11 June

Wednesday 15 July Thursday 3 September

Thursday 1 October

Thursday 5 November

Thursday 10 December

In the absence of any other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.47 pm