

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 2 April 2009 at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **Apologies for absence** - Cllr W Brown
2. **Minutes of Meeting held 5 March 2009**
3. **Matters arising**
 - Playtimes Playgroup** - No documentary proof of ownership of the fence has been found, but as it formed the boundary of the school when the school grounds were extended, it was agreed that the Playgroup should be informed that the Parish Council is unable to accept responsibility for repairing the fence.
 - Flood Protection Measures** - Replacement by the Environment Agency of the flap valve adjacent to the Esso Service Area remains to be carried out.
 - Traffic Survey** - the clerk expects to contact the external influential bodies during the coming week.
4. **Finance**
 - The following payments were approved :-**
 - 100386 Spaldwick School - hire of room for 4 meetings £46.00
 - 100387 CPALC - Annual membership fee £154.67
 - Annual Accounts for 2008/09** were received and approved.
 - Annual Return for 2008/09** was completed.
 - Spaldwick School** - In response to the request for a contribution to the cost of maintaining the school playing field, it was resolved to inform the Governing Body that
 - (a) having accepted a proposal that the school playing field be extended more than originally planned in order to accommodate the school's needs, and
 - (b) in the light of the proposals for control and joint use of the extended school playing field made by Mr David Baker (the then Chairman of the Governors) at the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 November 1997, the Parish Council does not feel that it has any further obligation to contribute to maintenance of the field.
5. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer reported that the Action Plan is now being drawn together.
6. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**
 - War memorial renovation** - awaiting further quotes
 - Church Lane** - to note hedge has been cut back.
 - Removal of Can Bank** - HDC have decided to stop collecting cans at the mini-recycling centres. A note regarding this has been passed to Mr Blatch for inclusion in the Spaldwick News.
 - Equipment formerly installed at the Old Village Hall Children's Play Area**
 - It was agreed to defer until the next meeting the question of relocation or disposal of the Seat, Climbing Frame & Slide and Swings (block of 2 and block of 3) currently in store.

Playground Inspections

Cllr Armer reported that he had carried out an inspection on 2 April 2009, and would continue to carry out monthly inspections until such time as another councillor takes over this responsibility. The only matter highlighted concerned scratches on the nursery swing, large swing, and the multi-play unit, which need painting.

Village Sign - Cllr Johnson reported that he had spoken to Trevor Cooper, who has agreed to look at the sign later in the year and to advise a rough cost of repainting. This matter to be placed on agenda of June meeting.

7. **Provision of Allotments** - nothing to report

8. **Planning**

Declaration of Interest - Cllr G Smith declared an interest in the following item as family members own properties facing the site, and took no part in the discussion.

New planning application 0900236FUL - Chimney at 2-6 Thrapston Road, located on opposite side of roof to existing chimney for which a Certificate of Lawful Development was refused.

It was resolved to "recommend approval of this application, subject to the external finish of the flue being darkened in keeping with the surroundings. This would be consistent with the Conservation Officer's requirement that a new lighting column in Church Lane should be painted black."

It was further resolved to add the following note :-

"The Parish Council, being aware of the deep concerns of the neighbours at 1 High Street that the flue, even in its new location, will result in smoke and fumes descending into their house, yard and garden, recommends that investigation by Environmental Health into any such problems should be funded by the District Council, and under no circumstances be charged to the neighbours."

The following developments regarding proposal for bungalow adjacent to 11 Stow Road were noted :-

On 6th March the Planning Officer informed the Clerk that she did not consider the objections by the Fosters to be valid reasons for refusing permission, and that a Senior Planning Officer and the Conservation Officer had visited the site and had concluded that the proposal did not impact adversely on the street scene or the adjacent Conservation Area. She asked the Clerk to confirm that the Parish Council's statement meant that it could now be interpreted as approval.

The Clerk responded:- "On the understanding that the matters raised by Mr and Mrs Foster are not considered by the Local Planning Authority to be so significant as to cause the proposal to be amended or refused, I confirm that the Parish Council recommends approval."

A formal decision has not yet been issued by the planning authority.

It was noted that minor changes to application 0800344FUL, extension and alterations 4 High Street have been accepted by the planning authority.

9. Correspondence

Circulated 16/3/09

Community Action (ACRE) Spring 2009; Clerks & Councils Direct March 2009

The Clerk March 2009

Peterborough Sustainable Communities Act Public Meeting, Thursday 2 April 7 pm Great Northern Hotel, Peterborough.

HDC Evidence of the impact of the economic downturn on Huntingdonshire's Communities, Businesses and Services. Ian Bates March 2009

Circulated 26/3/09

Speedwatch procedure document

Circulated 27/3/09

Change from Development Control to Development Management, and matters concerning relations between Parish Councils and the Planning Authority.

Compost Giveaway - This is being run again during the two week period commencing 11th May. Deliveries will only be made in pallets of 50 bags (last year Spaldwick received 220). It was agreed to request 5 pallets to be delivered to:- 11 Ivy Way; verge at corner of Royston Avenue / Stow Road; green at Littlecotes Close / Thrapston Road junction; verge outside children's play area, Ferriman Road; Mount Pleasant northside (near Stow Road).

The Clerk was asked to advertise the event in the Spaldwick News, and to advise householders that members of the Parish Council have volunteered to deliver bags to anyone who requires help in collecting their bag. The Clerk to collect details of those requesting assistance.

Speedwatch scheme - Inspector Sue Taylor reports that throughout the sector only 6 persons have come forward as volunteers to work on the scheme. She asks Parish Councils to encourage people to volunteer. The sector has one set of equipment hence there will be no cost to Parish Councils in the foreseeable future. It was agreed that the scheme be publicised at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Crime Figures : The Police website, showed 12 reported crimes in 2008 and 3 in 2009 up to 23 March

SLCC Course on Common Land, Village Greens , Rights of Way and Open Spaces - To be held Monday 27 April at Dunston Hall, Norwich @ £65 per person. Specifically designed for Parish Clerks and Chairman, but is open to members of the public. It was agreed not to send a representative.

Cambridgeshire Transport Commission public hearing Dolphin Hotel, St Ives Monday 6 April at 6 pm

10. Any Other Business - none

11. Dates of future meetings

Thursday 30 April Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 14 May Annual Parish Council Meeting

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.38 pm