

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 11 June 2009 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present : Cllrs W Brown (Chairman), B Plummer (part time), J Pope, R Wooddisse, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from R Johnson, G Smith and B Plummer. In the event, Cllr Plummer arrived during item 7.
2. **Public Forum** - no matters were raised.
3. **Minutes of Annual Meeting held 14 May 2009** were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising** - any matters discussed at this point are included under the relevant heading below.
5. **Co-option of councillor to fill vacancy**
Two applications had been received - Grahame Leach, 8 High Street; Greg Rice, 14 Ivy Way. In view of the fact that only three councillors were present it was resolved that this item be deferred until the next meeting
6. **Finance**
The following payments were approved:-
100388 Hilary Shuker - Parish Plan Steering Group for copying £31.43 + £4.72 VAT = £36.15
100389 F D Stowell - Clerk's Salary & Exs April, May, June £575.27
100390 J C Shears - Internal Audit fee - £50.00
Internal Auditor's Report for 2008/09 (sent to members with the agenda).
The following recommendations were noted and actions agreed in response.:
(a) Reviews of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations undertaken by the Council should be minuted. Action: These documents will be presented annually to the January meeting for review. The review will be minuted.
(b) Payment Vouchers. Voucher 364 to be investigated. Action: The claimant has confirmed that two items were received despite the conflicting evidence of the supporting receipt. It was agreed to accept this explanation.
(c) Review of minutes. All pages of the minute book should be signed.
Action: Pages 383 to 385 have now been signed by the Chairman as agreed at the subsequent meeting. No change of procedure is required as this was an isolated error.
(d) Insurance. Members should satisfy themselves that the level of cover (in particular the Fidelity Guarantee) remains adequate. Action: When the insurance is renewed in October, Council will consider increasing the level of FG cover nearer to the recommended level of balances plus half the precept.
(e) Asset Controls. Consideration to be given to including photographs and location of assets. Action: It was resolved to produce a map showing location of assets including the community land, and to take photos from time to time to record their condition. It was also resolved that the two notice boards should be added to the register when the insurance policy is renewed.

7. **Parish Plan** - Cllr J Pope invited comments on the Draft Parish Survey Report 2009, which had been passed to members prior to the meeting. In response, the Chairman made the following comments:
 p.10 Is it possible to show how many people work in Spaldwick?
 p.29 Suggest that the reference to a specific property at item 12 be deleted.
 p.29 Some 70 people had said they were prepared to help "cleaning ponds". What ponds does this refer to?
 There are in the draft a number of cases where the commentary regarding a chart appears on the previous page. Can this be corrected before publication?
 It was also pointed out that the page numbers on the contents page were incorrect. The Clerk agreed to provide information on the traffic survey.
 Subject to the above points being considered by the Steering Group and any appropriate amendments made, it was resolved that the document be approved by the Parish Council.
8. **Allotments**
 Following discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should inform Mr David Edwards that there is still a chance that the allotments project will proceed, in which event the Charity field is still the preferred site. It was noted that the Chairman had passed this information verbally to Mr Edwards, who advised that he would need a year's notice to vacate the field.
 The decision to retain the Charity field as the preferred site was made despite previously expressed concerns regarding flooding, it being considered that there would be sufficient room in the field to avoid the flooding areas having to be used for allotments.
9. **Equipment formerly installed at the Old Village Hall Children's Play Area**
 Relocation or disposal of the Seat, Climbing Frame & Slide and Swings (block of 2 and block of 3) currently in store.
 In considering this matter it was noted that Mrs Fiona Armstrong had sent an e-mail to the Clerk suggesting that the equipment should be located in the public open space to the rear of Ferriman Road.
 Cllr Wooddisse reported that the climbing frame looked rusty and was probably not reusable. He confirmed that the safety matting, the slide and the seat are apparently in good condition. The Chairman agreed to have a look and give his opinion. It was resolved that the swings, being no longer suitable for public use, should be offered for sale to private buyers. A decision regarding a new location for the seat was deferred pending a decision regarding the possibility of reusing the climbing frame.
10. **Request for signs in Littlecotes Close to ask motorists to take care**
 It was resolved that no action be taken on the grounds that most motorists using the Close are regulars who should be aware of children being present. It is felt that signs indicating their presence will not reduce the risk of an accident occurring.
11. **Maintenance of Assets**
Village Sign At the PC meeting held 2/4/09 Cllr Johnson reported that he had spoken to Trevor Cooper, who had agreed to look at the sign later in the year and to advise a rough cost of repainting. An update of the position is awaited.
War Memorial renovation - a second quote is awaited.

12. Planning

The following HDC decision was noted:

Application 0900236FUL, Erection of flue, 2-6 Thrapston Road

The applicant was requested to amend the plan submitted in accordance with advice from Environmental Health that the flue should be moved as far away from the east gable as possible but located on the north facing slope. Whilst a greater distance between the flue and the east gable would be desirable, it was considered that to locate it 3m from the east gable would alleviate the concerns regarding neighbour amenity, whilst being sympathetic to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Permission was granted subject to the flue being painted matt black.

13. Correspondence

CCC (Public Footpath No8 Spaldwick) Definitive Map Modification Order 2009 - This order, which corrects the location of FP8 from Thrapston Road to the churchyard to run along the alley-way between Nos 31 and 33 Thrapston Road, has now been confirmed by CCC as an unopposed order. Two errors in the unconfirmed order published in February 2009, which were reported by the Clerk on 19/2/09, have not been corrected because, in the opinion of the footpath maps officer, they do not affect the clarity of the order.

Spaldwick School

The contents of a letter from the Chair of Governors dated 7 June 2009 expressing "extreme disappointment at the Parish Council's totally negative response towards the school and the request for a contribution towards the cost of upkeep of the grounds and play equipment" was noted. The Clerk is to reply seeking clarification of the facilities available and what use is made of them out of school hours, and to point out that the option to stop all usage by the community would be in contravention of the agreement reached in November 1997. It is the opinion of the Parish Council that children from other villages also use the area out of hours and that the other parish councils in the catchment area should be approached for a contribution.

18 Tonne weight limit

A letter has been received via the Parish Plan Steering Group from Eddie Hughes of Ivy Way regarding the apparent contravention of the 18 tonne weight limit through the village. The Clerk said that he had left a message on Mr Hughes voicemail pointing out that High Street and Thrapston Road are not in the weight limit zone which starts at the bottom of Stow Road. The signs at the east and west end of the village were erected in error by the Highways Agency and should have been removed. In particular Mr Hughes complained of the use of the route taken through Spaldwick by Williams of Easton, suggesting that they should cross over the A14 at junction 16 where there is no weight restriction. The meeting asked the Clerk to say, when replying to the letter, that the PC had no objection to Williams using the Spaldwick route which they adopted after being advised against crossing the central reservation to travel east from their depot.

The following items are being circulated to members

- (a) Details of allowances received by HDC councillors in 2008/09
- (b) Cambs Together, Draft Local Area Agreement monitoring indicators.
- (c) Local Development Framework - information regarding assessment of new housing and employment sites in Huntingdonshire.

Street naming and numbering - HDC has advised that the new property on the land at 11 Stow Road, will be known as 9 Stow Road.

14. Any Other Business

Grass cutting - Cllr Pope reported that the grass in the children's play area in Ferriman Road has not been cut recently and is very long. The Clerk stated that he had asked the contractor to rectify the matter. The Chairman said he would follow this up.

Proposed Wind Farm at Kimbolton Airfield - It has come to light that Broadview Energy Limited is considering the development of a small wind farm near the Bicton Industrial Estate. The Clerk said that Broadview is intending to stage an exhibition in Kimbolton shortly to display details of the layout etc. The turbines they currently propose to use are 100m high, similar to those at Burton Latimer in the triangle between the A6, A14 and A510. The most likely affect on Spaldwick will be during the construction period if the vehicles delivering materials to the site are routed through Spaldwick and Stow Longa. The Clerk agreed to ensure that the Parish Council is kept informed of developments and that it is consulted by HDC should a planning application be submitted.

Village Fete - Cllr Plummer reminded members that the fete is being held on 11th July.

15. Forthcoming meeting dates

As both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will not be able to attend the meeting planned for 15th July, it was agreed to change the date to Thursday 23 July 2009 at a venue to be arranged by the Clerk.

The meeting following this is scheduled for Thursday 3 September 2009.

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm