

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

Present: Cllrs W Brown (Chairman), R Johnson, B Plummer, G Smith, R Wooddisse and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell). There were 7 members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence – Cllr J Pope

2. Public Forum

Mr Tom Shuker spoke of his concern that the recent influx of travellers' horses into Bury Close and neighbouring fields could be the first step in an attempt to create an "encampment" in Spaldwick. He understood from residents of nearby villages that the site at Brington started in this way.

In response the Chairman said that civil proceedings are being taken to have the horses removed, and that the deadline of 4 November has been extended by 7 days to allow the horse owners more time to arrange alternative accommodation for them. It was pointed out that the site at Brington is owned by the travellers and that they have planning permission to occupy the site for four years.

3. Minutes of Meeting held 1 October 2009 were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising

Speedwatch – David Henrick has not had much response to requests for volunteers. He attended training quite a while ago and will continue to seek people out. In the meantime the clerk has volunteered and is to be trained in the use of the equipment later this month.

Marley trucks and trailers - Williams report that the Marley vehicles meet up at Easton four nights a week and move loads between them. This operation needs a location which is secure and where goods can be moved around without danger to the public. These requirements can be met at Easton but not at publicly accessible locations such as Brampton Hut or motorway service areas. This explanation, and the consequential running of the vehicles through Spaldwick to access the A14 eastbound was accepted by the meeting.

Weight restriction signs – the recently erected 18t prohibition sign on the slip road from the westbound A14 has been removed as the weight restriction applies only from the foot of Stow Road.

Overhanging brambles outside Manor House – cleared.

Overhanging tree in Long Lane – obstruction cleared.

Fly tipping in Cockway Lane – Cllr Wooddisse reported that, on investigation after the last meeting, that the piles of tree branches had been removed. However, now that the leaves have fallen off the trees along the lane quite a lot of previously hidden litter is now visible. The Clerk agreed to have a look and take appropriate action.

5. Finance

Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank - change of mandate accepted.

Spaldwick School - A letter from Mr John Mellish, Chair of Governors, has confirmed acceptance of the offer of £350 towards the cost of maintenance of the school grounds.

Huntingdon Citizens Advice Bureau – in response to a request for financial support, it was decided not to make a contribution.

The following payments were approved:

100403 Steelway Fensecure - Spring for playground gate - £29.91 (inc £3.91 VAT)

100404 Just Digital – Printing of 275 copies of Parish Plan - £916.00 (£0.00 VAT)

100405 Spaldwick Community Primary School – contribution to school grounds maintenance - £350.00

Budget and Precept for 2010/11 – Following discussion, a budget as appended to the minutes, was agreed. It was resolved to set a precept of £9900.

6. Parish Plan

The Clerk handed out copies of two memos received late last night from Tom and Hilary Shuker “on behalf of the Parish Plan Steering Group” headed Playing Field (School) and Spaldwick Village Hall Charitable Trust. They were then tabled for discussion.

Playing Field (School)

The main question raised in this memo was who owns the land commonly referred to as the school playing field. In response, the clerk handed out copies of a report he had prepared earlier in the day, which confirmed that this land was given to the County Council by the then owner (Melville Homes Limited) in an agreement made on 3rd December 1998 under S.106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, for educational use and for community purposes including small scale commercial activities connected with the running of Spaldwick County Primary School and the County Council’s function as education authority.

In answer to a further question, the clerk stated that the agreement between the school governors and the Parish Council for joint use of the school playing field is contained in the minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 18 November 1997, an extract of which follows: “In order to obtain the necessary security of pupils and staff, and a satisfactory standard of maintenance for school use, he (David Baker, Chairman of Governors) is of the opinion that ownership and control of the area within the school grounds should be with the school / LEA. The governors recognise the need for a playing field in the village and would therefore encourage use of the school playing field for organised activities by young people and adults outside school hours, but feel there is no need for any legal agreement to be entered into with the Parish Council in this respect. Following discussion, it was resolved to accept.....Mr Baker’s proposals for control and joint use of the school playing field.”

Spaldwick Village Hall Charitable Trust

This memo draws attention to the management committee not having held an AGM for some time, which is not in compliance with its constitution, and that a public meeting is being called to determine how the trust should move forward, establish the current trustees’ interest and whether they should stand down and new trustees be elected at the meeting. It said that when the “Spaldwick Action Plan & Parish Survey report 2009” is distributed to all households, it is intended that it should be accompanied by a supporting letter that will include notification of the meeting.

In response, Cllr Plummer accepted the criticism. He said that he proposed to arrange to hold an Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Village Hall Trust on 2nd December as the school hall is known to be available on that date. The agenda will include an update on where we are now and the election of a new management committee. In addition to the notification being sent out with the Parish Plan, formal notices will be issued at least 14 days prior to the meeting. Council supported this course of action.

There was a small interruption during this discussion, after which several members of the public left the meeting.

Action Plan

Cllr Plummer reported that as the Parish Plan is now printed and ready for distribution, the Steering Group has virtually reached the end of its mandate.

The Action Plan, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting, now needs to be adopted by the Parish Council so that it can be presented by ACRE to the other stakeholders who will be involved in its implementation. Following discussion, during which members expressed satisfaction at its contents, it was **resolved** that the Action Plan be adopted.

Groups of volunteers are being formed to focus on particular areas of concern, initially these being youth facilities, speeding through the village and the Village Hall.. There will also need to be a co-ordinating committee with representatives from the groups and reporting to the Parish Council.

7. **Bus Shelter** – Cllr Smith reported that he and Cllr Leach had been to look at the possible sites in Royston Avenue. Cllr Leach had taken photographs of the proposed site which would be brought to the next meeting.

8. **Equipment formerly installed at the Old Village Hall Children's Play Area**

The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Johnson had examined the equipment. Following discussion of their recommendations it was agreed that: (1) the seat should be kept for future use; (2) the swings (block of 2 and block of 3) should be offered for sale in the Spaldwick News to private buyers at their risk; and that a report should be obtained from Wicksteed as to the suitability of the Climbing Frame & Slide for re-installation, with an estimate of the costs involved.

9. **Maintenance of Assets**

Village Sign – Cllr Johnson reported that Trevor Cooper will look at refurbishing it in the spring. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay the cost of materials.

War Memorial renovation – A quotation has been received from Ivan Quinton to clean the memorial, cut the lettering as necessary and re-black the lettering at £1800 + VAT. This price is based on re-cutting the majority of the letters. Should this not be the case after cleaning, the cost will be reduced. N.B. The first quote from P Hibble for re-blackening the lettering was £900 + VAT. Rattee & Kett quoted £250 + VAT to carry out survey and provide spec. before quoting for the work. They would be prepared to quote against a spec. provided by a third party.

It was agreed that the clerk should discuss with Ivan Quinton the possibility of treating the cleaning as a separate contract. We could then obtain new quotes for re-cutting and painting as appropriate from all three competitors.

10. **Planning**

HDC Planning Enforcement Cases – none in Spaldwick during the last quarter

11. **Correspondence**

To R Johnson 3/10/09 – HDC e-mail and attachments re Parish Planting Scheme – Cllr Johnson asked that such items should be sent to the Clerk so that they could be circulated for comment.

Circulated 9/10/09

Letter from HDC re co-option of independent members to Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Circulated 9/10/09

Consultation re GP out of hours (+ 2 spare copies of questionnaire)

Copied to all councillors (enclosed with minutes of last meeting)

HDC letter re Small Scale Environmental Improvement Schemes 2010-11. No scheme proposed.

CPALC AGM - Saturday 21 November at Bluntisham Village Hall - 10.00 to 12.30

Clerk has examined proposed revised constitution and submitted comments. No member present is able to attend. The absentee members will be contacted.

Parish Electoral Review in Huntingdonshire - HDC Central Services Manager has issued a briefing note confirming that the boundary change between Spaldwick and Ellington, bringing Beltons Hill and Coton Farm into Spaldwick Parish, will take effect from 1 April 2010.

Huntingdonshire Flood Forum – Thursday 10 December 7pm -9pm – maximum of one representative per council – the following will be present: HDC, CCC (Highways & Civil Protection), AW, EA. Questions invited by 1 December. It was agreed not to be represented on the understanding that minutes of the meeting would be provided.

12. **Any Other Business**

Broadband – The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Jonathan Djanogly MP asking for information on the speed and effectiveness of broadband in the area. Councillors are asked to speak to members of the public and report their findings at the next meeting.

13. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 10 December 2009

In the absence of any other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.

SPALDWICK PARISH COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET 2010/2011	
EXPENDITURE	£
Grass cutting Village	1730
Grass cutting Churchyard	500
Insurance	500
Audit fees	200
CPALC/ACRE/SLCC/NALC	170
Donations	300
Rent of meeting room	200
Clerk – Salary	1900
Clerk – Expenses	400
Training – Councillors and Clerk	200
Contribution to minor improvement scheme	450
Maintenance of play area & POS (inc. Inspection)	1300
Maintenance of other assets (inc war memorial & lighting)	2000
Contribution to School (playing field maintenance.)	350
Implementation of Parish Plan recommendations	400
Misc / contingencies	2000
Total Expenditure	12600
INCOME	£
Precept (increase 5.32%)	9900
CCC Grass cutting	640
Interest on deposit accounts	60
Total income	10600
Balance brought forward 1/4/2010	53600
Plus income	10600
Minus Expenditure	12600
Balance to carry forward 31/3/2011	51600
Projected reserves at 31/3/2011	
Grounds maintenance	18350
Village Hall & Playing Field	25000
Operating reserve	8250
Total reserves	51600