

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 10 December 2009 at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs W Brown (Chairman), R Johnson, B Plummer, J Pope, G Smith, R Wooddisse and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell). There were no members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for absence** - none

2. **Minutes of Meeting held 5 November 2009** were approved and signed.

3. **Matters arising**

**Litter in Cockway Lane** – Clerk has not yet been to look at the problem but will do so shortly.

**Surplus playground equipment** – advert for the sale of the swings was placed in the December issue of Spaldwick News. Inspection of climbing frame and slide by Wicksteed is still to be arranged.

4. **Finance**

**Churchyard maintenance**

Due to the reduced interest received from Miss Mash's legacy, there is a shortfall this year of £605 between income and expenditure in the churchyard maintenance account, as compared with £230 last year, despite a decrease of £65 in expenditure. Mr Blatch has expressed hope that the Parish Council can help make good this shortfall. Following discussion it was resolved to donate £605.00 to Spaldwick PCC to cover the shortfall.

**The following payments were approved**

100406 SLCC, half share of Clerk's annual subscription £41.00

100407 F D Stowell, Clerk's salary & expenses, Oct - Dec, £495.26

100408 Cash (Town & Poors Charity), for distribution at Christmas, £120.00

100409 Alan Summerfield, Grass cutting 2009, £2104.50 (inc. £274.50 VAT)

100410 Spaldwick PCC for churchyard maintenance - £605.00

100411 John Blatch, contribution to publication of Spaldwick News, £100.00 (added by item 6 below)

5. **Village Hall Management Committee**

**(1) Appointment of representative to VHMC in place of Cllr G Smith who no longer wishes to remain the Parish Council representative.** It was resolved to appoint Cllr G Leach. N.B. paragraph amended at meeting held 14 January 2010.

**(2) Ferriman Road, Public Open Space** – Mark Heath, a member of the VHMC, has emailed the Clerk asking whether “it would be possible for this land, which is supposedly within Village Environmental Limits, to be used for a village hall and whether there are any specific issues associated with it being designated as Public Open Space”.

The Clerk has responded to the effect that (a) VELs are being replaced by “Built-up area”, and that the LPA has indicated that it would probably allow a Village Hall outside this area; and (b) that to his knowledge the Parish Council did not commit itself to keeping this as open space forever. Nevertheless if the site were considered to be suitable for the village hall, it would probably be advisable to consider whether another similar sized site elsewhere in the village should be allocated in exchange. Subsequently, the Clerk has referred this question to the LPA for advice. It was agreed that, pending receipt of this advice, the Clerk's response be endorsed.

6. **Communications**

**Broadband** – The following download speeds were reported:

Ivy Way & east end of High Street – 2 to 3 Mbps

West end of High Street, Thrapston Road & lower Stow Road – 500 to 1000 kbps

As Mark Heath had indicated by email to the Clerk that he is willing to respond to the letter from Jonathan Djanogly MP, it was resolved to accept this offer and to pass the letter to him.

#### **Website**

Following discussion led by Cllr Plummer, it was resolved that the website [www.spaldwick.com](http://www.spaldwick.com) developed by Mark Heath be acknowledged and adopted as the official website for publication of Parish Council matters. It will include a list for those wishing to receive information from the Parish Council by email. It was also agreed to provide Mark with a group photo of councillors for publication on the website.

#### **Newsletter**

Following a report by Cllr Plummer regarding the Spaldwick News, currently edited and produced by John Blatch, it was **resolved** to recognise it as the official village newsletter. It was noted that a 100 Club is being created to help cover the running costs, but it is expected to provide only about 50% of the requirement. John is looking for someone to take over production or to assist with obtaining advertising revenue. It was further **resolved** to donate £100.00 to John Blatch as a contribution to the cost of producing Spaldwick News pending the outcome of the proposed 100 Club and other measures being taken to give it a sustainable future as the official village publication; and to add this payment to the list at item 4 above.

7. **Parish Plan Actions** - update on the first three initiatives.
  - Village Hall** - the newly elected management committee, which will drive this project, will have its first formal meeting in January.
  - Youth Facilities Group** - those wishing to participate have been invited to contact [spaldwickyouth@btinternet.com](mailto:spaldwickyouth@btinternet.com) . The current response is not known.
  - Speeding Reduction Group** - interested persons have been invited to contact [stopspeeding@TheFileCrypt.com](mailto:stopspeeding@TheFileCrypt.com) Cllr Pope, the convenor, said that he had received very few replies and none have volunteered for Speedwatch.
8. **Bus Shelter Site**

Cllrs Leach and Smith reported that they believe the best site for a bus shelter would be in Royston Avenue on the verge north of the phone box. Council agreed that this is the best site.
9. **Maintenance of Assets**
  - Village Sign** - deferred until the spring
  - War Memorial renovation** - response to request for a quote for cleaning only is awaited. N.B. It is hoped that firm quotes can then be obtained for renovating the lettering.

Cllr Johnson reported that the war memorial at Leighton Bromswold had recently been renovated by Fairhaven & Woods Ltd at a cost of £2200. A grant of £875 had been obtained from English Heritage towards the cost. It was also noted that the War Memorials Trust brochure being circulated to members contained information about grants. The Clerk to follow up these leads.
10. **Planning** - nothing to report
11. **Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme 2010/11 Bidding Round**

The bid for a High Street footway was one of six to score 6 points. The successful bids scored between 7 and 11 pts. 30 bids scored less than 6 pts. 18 were not scored (8 exceeded budget, others rejected for varied reasons). The bid for speed reduction measures (flashing lights) scored 3 pts.
12. **Correspondence**
  - Email to all councillors 6/11/09**

Invitation to visit CCC Huntingdon depot to see demonstration of recycling equipment, 3<sup>rd</sup> December

**Circulated 11/11/09**

Infrastructure Planning Leaflet  
 Extract from National Policy Statement re Wind Farms  
 Charity Commission News no 30  
 Hinchingsbrooke Hospital proposals feedback invited forms enclosed

**Circulated 12/11/09**

Clerks & Councils Direct November 2009  
 The Clerk November 2009  
 NALC Policy & Parliamentary briefing P18-09 dated 30 October 2009  
 "Local Councils and Cheque Signatories"

**Circulated 23/11/09**

Parish Paths Partnership - invitation to apply for grant by 26/2/10 - The Clerk is to put an item in Spaldwick News inviting volunteers from the 50 respondents to the Parish Plan Questionnaire to liaise with the County P3 Officer regarding maintenance of the Rights of Way.

Countywide Advisory Freight Map - comments requested by 29/1/10

**Reply to query regarding Gypsy and Traveller sites** - Lynette Hughes, Senior Planning Policy Officer states that the Development Plan Document identifying preferred permanent sites is not expected to be issued for consultation until sometime after February 2010.

**CPALC** - Autumn 2009 Bulletin circulated with agenda.

**Email from Steve Shaw of unlockdemocracy.org.uk was forwarded to councillors on 26/11/09**

Entitled "Empowering Parish and Town Councils by getting the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill adopted in Parliament", it invited interested parties to contact specific MPs who are in a position to progress this Bill. Cllr Leach has subsequently reported that he sent E-mails to all these people and was happy to do this after attending a conference on the subject of Sustainability where they were told of the awful situation that particularly affects landfill and many other areas where sustainability will be increasingly important. Alistair Burt has since confirmed that he will introduce the Bill into Parliament.

**Register of Electors 2010** – The new register in force from 1 December 2010 includes 8 electors transferred from Ellington as a result of the boundary change, bringing the total to 439.

**Band D equivalent properties** – the 2010/11 council tax base is expected to be 229 (subject to confirmation by HDC's Corporate Governance Panel), an increase of 3 on the current year.

**Broadview & proposed Bicton Wind Farm** – turbine components and blades will not be delivered through Stow Longa (and hence not thro' Spaldwick); a detailed preliminary layout of the scheme has been prepared; an exhibition is planned for January which will show turbine size and locations.

**13. Any Other Business**

**Provision of Salt Bins** – HDC is intending to place a bulk order to reduce the price from the supplier to around £100 per bin (40% discount). Parish Councils are asked to indicate any interest as soon as possible. The plan is that parish councils would fund the supply, installation and maintenance of the bins which would be located with the agreement of the CCC Highway Supervisor at hazardous sites on the non-precautionary network e.g. steep gradients, sharp bends or areas where there is a history of poor surface water drainage or ponding. As Belton's Hill falls within this category, the possibility of locating a bin there was discussed, but it was considered to be too dangerous a location for volunteers to spread salt by hand. Instead it was resolved to respond to CCC suggesting that this area should be part of the precautionary gritting network.

**Results of recent police speed checks**

A report has been received from the police that they carried out speed checks in Spaldwick on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November, arising from which 12 Fixed Penalties of £60 and 3 penalty points were imposed. In addition one summons was issued for another offence.

**Thanks to old and new Village Hall Management Committees**

At the request of the Chairman, the Clerk is to write to members of both committees expressing thanks for their efforts to provide a new village hall.

**Milestone - Listed Buildings Register Rec. No. 004784** (Thrapston 10, Huntingdon 7)

Cllr Leach reported that he had recently been visited by a representative of HDC who said that funds are now available to remove this milestone from its present location in his garden and to relocate it in the public domain, probably on the section of road leading to Willow House.

**14. Dates of 2010 meetings**

Thursday, January 14

Thursday, February 25

Thursday, March 25 (Wednesday March 24 if General Election is on March 25)

Thursday, April 22

Thursday, April 29

Thursday, May 27

Thursday, June 24

Thursday, July 22

Thursday, September 9

All meetings will commence at 8.00 pm

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