

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 14 January 2010 at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Leach; unable to attend due to conflicting Welcome Club event.

2. **Minutes of Meeting held 10 December 2009**

Para 5(1) was corrected to read “It was resolved to appoint Cllr G Leach”. That change having been made, the minutes were approved and signed.

3. **Matters arising**

Parish Paths Partnership – Applications invited to join the scheme by 26/2/10.

One response to the piece in Spaldwick News has been received – from John Saynor, 1 Stow Road, who is interested in helping this project. It was, therefore, resolved to submit an application to join, with the possibility that Mr Saynor will be appointed co-ordinator if no other volunteer comes forward in the immediate future.

Countywide Advisory Freight Map - comments requested by 29/1/10. If no other comment, Clerk will suggest that it needs to make clear that the industrial areas in Thrapston Road Spaldwick and Thrapston Road Ellington are outside the weight control zone and hence cannot be accessed from roads south and east of the zone (inc. B645). This suggestion was accepted. The only other comment was to query the need for such a map.

Precautionary gritting schedule – CCC have advised that Belton’s Hill cannot be included in the schedule. Within the last few days they have also advised that due to the shortage of salt/grit the schedule has been temporarily curtailed and no longer includes Spaldwick and the road through Stow Longa to Kimbolton.

War Memorial renovation – I. Quinton quotes cleaning only £800. The Clerk has booked a place at a War Memorial Trust conference for custodians at The Guildhall, Cambridge on 4th March, A decision on action to be taken will be deferred until after receiving a report on that event. In the meantime the Clerk will continue to gather information on costs.

Ferriman Road, Public Open Space - HDCs Planning Service Manager has today confirmed that he is looking into the question of this as a possible site for the Village Hall, and whether there are any specific issues related to its allocation as POS in accordance with S.106 of the Planning Act.

Milestone - Listed Buildings Register Rec. No. 004784 (Thrapston 10, Huntingdon 7). The Clerk to ask HDC to consult the Parish Council regarding its relocation.

No progress was reported on the following since the last meeting:

Litter in Cockway Lane, Surplus playground equipment, Village Sign.

4. **Finance**

Quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation at 31 December 2009

Following a proposal by Cllr Smith, who had examined the accounts prior to the meeting it was resolved to receive and accept the Clerk’s report.

The following payments were approved:

100412 Spaldwick School, room rental, Sept – Dec, £46.00

100413 Cambridgeshire ACRE, Annual membership subscription, £25.00

HDC offer to invest funds over £25000 with them at prevailing Bank Base Rate, and with 30 days notice for withdrawals. The Clerk pointed out that currently this

would mean 0.5% pa interest compared with 0.1% pa from A & L. If interest rates were to return to the 2008 regime A & L would be paying 1% below that which HDC is proposing to pay. It was resolved that (a) the Clerk would seek a statement from HDC regarding security of investing with them; and (2) Cllr Smith would investigate the possibility of obtaining higher returns elsewhere, before any decision is taken regarding the offer.

5. **Planning**

Local Development Framework

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – to note that update will be issued for consultation for 4 weeks from end of January (this identifies potentially suitable housing development land and gives indicative capacity).

Planning Applications – none.

Planning Enforcement – HDC report no cases in last quarter.

6. **Correspondence**

Circulated 10/12/09

Minutes of CPALC AGM 21/11/09. N.B. The Clerk has subsequently written again to the CEO regarding his concern at errors in the revised Constitution. The CEO has replied to the effect that he will make the necessary corrections.

HDC Code of Conduct Enquiries, Sept – Nov 2009, Case Nos 51 -56

Summary of key findings in Cambs consultation on E. E. Plan for levels of growth.

Bicton Windfarm Meetings

Friday 15 January 7.30 pm Stop Bicton Windfarm open meeting, Mandeville Hall

Saturday 16 January 10.30 – 12.30 am Stop Bicton Windfarm Action Group, Coffee Morning, Kimbolton Youth Club.

Monday 18 January 4.30 – 8.30 pm Public Exhibition of details of proposed windfarm development, Queen Katherine Building, Kimbolton School.

North West Huntingdonshire Neighbourhood Forum

Public Meeting Wednesday 20 January 7pm at Sawtry Infants School. The Clerk will attend. Councillors and members of the public are also invited.

Consultation on Cambridgeshire's Third Local Transport Plan – runs to 9 April.

Consultation on NHS proposals to improve Hearing Services in Cambs.

Police crime figures Oct to Dec 2009

1 x poaching; 1 x business burglary; 2 x house burglary; 1 x road related; 4 x suspicious incidents.

7. **Any other business**

Water Leak at bottom of Stow Road – In response to reports of water leaks in the centre of the road and on the pavement (thought to be from a faulty joint or other damage to a water main or to be due to excessive surface water), CCC and Anglian Water were informed. Subsequently AW attended but were unable to find a leak in the mains water system. The problem is probably caused by the blocked drain opposite Church Lane. CCC will be asked to look at this problem again.

Problems due to snow and ice – Just before Christmas HDC and CCC were asked for assistance in spreading grit on Church Lane which appeared to be particularly hazardous. They responded by saying that they had received numerous such requests but were unable to help as all their efforts were being used to keep the main roads (including those through Spaldwick) open. The Clerk discussed with the Chairman the possibility of a do-it-ourselves approach, but this was rejected on the grounds that it could result in claims for damages if someone fell on the treated surface. Our insurers have since confirmed that they recommend that Parish Councils do not themselves spread grit on slippery surfaces for this very reason, but instead provide salt bins at possible hazardous sites for use by members of the public.

Dog poo in and around Ferriman Road – Cllr Leach has been approached by a member of the public about the abundance of dog poo around the School, Ferriman Road and the general area. He has suggested some warning signs. GL has checked and says that he cannot see any signs on the lamp posts. The Clerk to write a piece for the Spaldwick News and website and to ask HDC to install new signs where necessary.

Bus shelter – In an e-mail to the Clerk Cllr Leach said he proposed to raise the question of what action should now be taken. In his absence the matter was not discussed. The Clerk, however, said he would ask HDC Transportation Team for an update on their installation programme.

Faulty Street Lights

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had reported two unlit lights to CCC. (No 5 Stow Road and No 17 Thrapston Road).

Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

In response to the Internal Auditor's report for 2008/09, the Council stated that these documents will be presented annually to the January meeting for review. CPALC have, however, advised that this review should be delayed until the issue of a revised edition of the NALC Model Standing Orders, which is expected shortly. The Clerk will place this matter on the agenda when the new edition is received.

8. Date of next meeting

Thursday 25 February 2010

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.37 pm.