

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 25 February 2010 at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs G Leach (holiday), R Johnson (other engagement), J Pope (domestic).
2. **Notice of resignation** – A letter was received from Cllr. Pope immediately prior to the meeting tendering his resignation from the council due to increasing demands on his time from a personal and business point of view. The Chairman asked the Clerk to acknowledge the letter and to express the thanks of the Council for the work he had carried out as a Councillor since his election in 2007.
The Clerk stated that he would start the process of filling the vacancy immediately.
3. **Declarations of Interest - as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item.**
None declared.
4. **Public Open Forum**
No members of the public were present.
5. **Minutes of Meeting held 14 January 2010** were approved and signed.
6. **Matters arising from minutes**
 - Precautionary gritting schedule**
The Clerk has e-mailed County Cllr. Viv McGuire asking how long the temporary change to the winter gritting schedule will remain in place. He suggested that if the original schedule cannot be fully re-instated, particularly vulnerable points could be considered for gritting exceptionally.
 - Milestones on Listed Building Register**
HDC propose to relocate both milestones to points somewhere close to their original locations and where they can be seen by members of the public. They are considering moving the one currently behind 8 High Street to the verge of the slip road from the A14 at the junction with the old A604 opposite the recycling bins. The Highways Agency, owner of the land, has been approached for comments. SPC will be advised of the outcome. HDC have written to P Racey regarding the other milestone, but have had no response to date. They would like to relocate it near the bridge over the brook on the approach road to West Lodge Farm.
 - Ferriman Road Public Open Space as possible site for Village Hall**
HDC Planning Dept. was intending to hold a progress meeting earlier today regarding the question of whether there are any limitations in using public open space provided under a S.106 agreement for the site of a village hall. It is likely that the question will now have been referred to the Legal Dept.
 - Dog fouling in and around Ferriman Road**
The Clerk wrote a piece for the February edition of Spaldwick News. Signs warning of penalties for breaching dog fouling and dogs on leads regulations have been renewed throughout the village and additional ones posted by HDC.
 - Street Lights**
Since the last meeting four faulty lamps have been replaced at Ivy Way, Ferriman Road, Stow Road and Thrapston Road by CCC at the request of the Parish Council.

Bus Shelter

HDC Transport Team Leader reports that the bus shelter programme has recently been agreed and authorised. 31 sites were considered and 9 shelters are to be installed across the District. On the scoring system 10 points is the maximum. The highest score was 8 and the lowest being implemented was 5. Spaldwick scored 4 along with many other sites, with a number also achieving 5 that are not proceeding due to lack of funds. Spaldwick will remain on the waiting list to be considered next year but the number likely to proceed is unlikely to exceed 4 or 5, and hence Spaldwick is unlikely to obtain a shelter from this source in the near future.

7. Finance

To consider moving funds on deposit with A & L to another bank or to HDC.

(a) Clerk to seek statement from HDC regarding security of investment with them.

A memo dated 26/1/10 from Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services at HDC was tabled. This explains that risk is minimal as the Local Government Act 2003 effectively gives the lender a legal guarantee for loans over £10,000.

(b) Cllr. Smith to investigate possibility of higher returns elsewhere.

He reported having spoken to Barclays and HSBC but neither had offered a suitable product.

Having received these reports the Council **resolved** to leave the reserve funds in the existing accounts with Alliance & Leicester, and to review the position when interest rates start to change.

Street Light Maintenance – Church Lane

Costs for 2009/10 are: Maintenance £18.65; Energy £29.48; Total £48.13 to be invoiced shortly. Estimated costs for 2010/11 are: Maintenance £18.93; Energy £21.74; Total £40.67

The following payment was approved:

100414 CPALC, one copy of "Standing Orders for Local Councils", £25.00

8. Planning

Planning Applications

No new applications or reports of LPA decisions affecting Spaldwick were reported.

Local Development Framework – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

The Clerk gave a summary of the document which had been received for comment.

Most of the sites which are identified as being potentially available for Market Housing are located in the Market Towns or the Key Service Centres. However a considerable number of sites put forward for consideration in those areas were discounted largely on the grounds that they were outside the specified direction of growth. In Kimbolton (a Key Service Centre) 8 sites were put forward, but all were discounted and are considered not appropriate for further assessment.

In Easton 4 sites; Ellington 5 sites; Grafham 1 site; Brington 3 sites; Molesworth 1 site; Stow Longa 1 site and Spaldwick 1 site (land to rear of Spaldwick Free Church and Nos. 39 – 41 High Street, 0.9 ha) were discounted as they are not within or adjacent to a Market Town or Key Service Centre. Some unlisted sites were also discounted because the site fell below the threshold of 0.2 ha.

Non-inclusion of sites in the SHLAA does not mean that no new development is permitted in a parish council area – e.g. infilling is still permitted in principle in smaller settlements.

The documents are available for inspection at the Clerk's Office. It was agreed that no comments will be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. To review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Clerk recommended the following amendments:

Standing Orders

Para 9 Declarations of Interest

Change to read:

“Code of Conduct

(a) All councillors shall observe The Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils (SI 2007/1159) adopted by the Council on 19 July 2007.

(b) In accordance with paragraph 12(2) of the code, which paragraph has been adopted by the Council, councillors may exercise the rights contained in (c) below if members of the public are permitted to (i) make representations, (ii) answer questions and (iii) give evidence relating to the business being transacted.

(c) Councillors with a prejudicial interest in relation to any item of business being transacted at the meeting may (i) make representations, answer questions and (iii) give evidence relating to the business being transacted but must, thereafter, leave the room or chamber.”

Add new paragraph

“Public Participation in Meetings

Towards the start of all meetings of the Council the agenda shall include a Public Open Forum during which the Chairman may invite members of the public to address the meeting on any matter which may assist the Council in making informed decisions. If it is apparent that the matter to be raised concerns business on the agenda the Chairman may invite the member of the public to defer speaking until that item is reached.

The time allotted to any member of the public shall not exceed 5 minutes and the total time if more than one wishes to speak in respect of the same business shall not exceed 10 minutes.”

In view of some comment from members, the Clerk is to insert a further paragraph stating that members of the public cannot participate in the discussion and decision making process. Members were asked to submit any other comments to the Clerk prior to the next meeting so that the revised text can be issued with the agenda for formal approval.

Financial Regulations

As there have been no changes in the NALC Model Financial Regulations since 2004, the Clerk recommended that no changes be made at this time.

This proposition will be submitted to the next meeting for formal approval.

10. To ratify Clerk’s action in submitting application to join the Parish Paths Partnership 2010/10.

The Clerk reported that in order to meet the deadline he had submitted an application for the Council to join the P3 scheme in 2010/11 with John Saynor as co-ordinator, the work proposed for the first year being to Survey the Network and prepare a costed plan for future work. No grant has been requested for this year.

The Clerk read out the agreement he had signed on behalf of the Council, which details the endeavours the County and Parish Councils will make to improve and maintain the network. Council **resolved** to ratify the Clerk’s action.

11. To receive report on North West Huntingdonshire Neighbourhood Forum

The Chairman and Clerk gave brief reports on the first forum held on 20 January at Sawtry. Official notes of the meeting will be circulated when received from HDC.

**12. Correspondence
Circulated 16/0209**

Hinchingbrooke Hospital Next Step News, January 2010

Policing Pledge

Kerbside Recycling – HDC advise that they are introducing kerbside collection of glass, and removing existing bottle banks in the near future.

Predisposition, predetermination or bias, and the Code of Conduct – The Standards Board for England guidance issued December 2009.

Rural Strategy for Cambridgeshire 2010 – 2015 – Consultation until 23 April 2010.

Cambridgeshire's Third Local Transport Plan – Consultation until 9 April 2010.

(Exhibitions at Libraries – Huntingdon 3 March; St. Neots 19 February)

Big Lottery Fund, Reaching Communities is open to applications from parish councils.

Notes of meeting of Huntingdonshire Flood Forum held 10 December 2009 (including notes of presentation by John Oldfield, Bedfordshire Group of Drainage Boards).

Press Release re Community Infrastructure Levy – this level is being introduced from April, to obtain contribution for community infrastructure from all housing developments. From 2014 the present S.106 agreements will be scaled back, only being used for site specific contributions.

13. Any other business

Street light outside school entrance – Clerk to report that this is out.

Appointment of Councillor to carry out playground inspections

Due to resignation of Cllr. Pope a vacancy exists in this position. Appointment of replacement to be included on next agenda.

Big Lottery Fund, Reaching Communities

Reference was made to this paper in the correspondence pack. Members were asked to consider whether there is a project for which an application for funding could be made.

**14. Date of next meeting
Thursday 25 March 2010**

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