

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 24 June 2010 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs G Rice, G Smith, R Wooddisse, the Clerk and 8 members of the public.

1. In the absence of an elected Chairman, Cllr Wooddisse agreed to chair this meeting
2. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr B Plummer. Also absent were Cllrs R Johnson and G Leach.
3. **Election of Chairman** – in view of the small number of councillors present it was resolved to defer this item until the next meeting.
4. **Other elections and appointments**
 Vice – Chairman – Deferred to the next meeting
 The following appointments were made, subject their agreement
 Tree Warden – Cllr R Johnson
 Representative to Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr G Leach
 Children’s playground inspector – Cllr G Rice
 Parish Paths Partnership coordinator – Mr J Saynor (appointed 25/2/10)
 Third signatory for Bank Accounts – Cllr G Smith (other signatories are Cllrs R P Johnson and R W Wooddisse).
5. **Vacancy on Council**
 The Clerk reported that, as no request for an election had been received by the Returning Officer by 18 June, the Council is required to fill the vacancy by co-option.
 One written application was received yesterday but subsequently, after further consideration, the applicant has withdrawn. There being no nominations submitted by councillors, the Chairman asked the members of the public present whether they would consider serving on the Council. One person indicated a willingness to fill the vacancy until the election next May but withdrew when a second person, Shonah Wakefield, expressed an interest.
 Council then resolved to co-opt Shonah Wakefield as a member of the Parish Council until May 2011. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed onto the Council by Cllr Wooddisse.,
6. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item.- none
7. **Public Open Forum**
 As there were no matters which members of the public wished to raise except in relation to items on the agenda, the Chairman agreed that public participation would be deferred until the relevant agenda items.
8. **Minutes of Meeting held 27 May 2010 were approved and signed**
9. **Matters arising from minutes** - none
10. **Finance**
The Internal Auditors Report dated 12 June 2010 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was resolved that this be accepted along with the recommendation that the asset register be expanded to include photographs and locations of assets.
The following payments were approved:
 100422 F D Stowell, Salary & Exs. April – June, £503.64
 100423 J C Shears, Internal audit fee, £50.00

11. Planning

New planning applications – none

The following HDC decision was noted

Planning application 100427FUL, Erection of single storey extension, 1 Littlecotes Close. (as amended to show a reduced scale extension, due to concerns about the retention of the hedge and the impact on the street scene).

Permission granted, subject to a condition that the hedge on the south eastern side of the site shall be retained unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

Report of meeting with RES regarding proposed Woolley Hill Wind Farm

The Clerk and Cllr G Leach met with representatives of the developer on 10 June, when 2 maps were tabled, one showing the location of the 7 turbines and the second demonstrating how the 7 were sited to meet environmental constraints (including house buffer 800m; footpath buffer 50m; bridle way buffer 200m; bat habitat buffer 75m from trees, 60m from hedges/other). RES are discussing these proposals with other local parish councils and with District Councillor Mike Baker. It is being suggested that each council appoint a member to join a group to liaise with RES in order to resolve problems, and in the event that planning permission is given, to recommend how the financial benefits to the community should be distributed. It was resolved that Cllr Leach be asked to represent Spaldwick PC in the initial meetings of the group. Cllr Rice offered to be the representative in the event that Cllr Leach declined.

12. Public Open Space as possible site for Village Hall

The content of the NALC solicitor's letter which was received on the day after the last meeting was discussed. He points out that the land is subject to a restriction in the S.106 Agreement that it is for use "solely as public open space" which is an area of land generally protected against further development. It is also subject to a restriction in the Land Registry entry that written consent of the Transferor would be required for the erection of a building on the site. He says "I do not think that the erection of a village hall would be consistent with restrictions in the Agreement or in the Land Registry entries. It seems to me that it would not be sufficient for the council to find a replacement piece of land or to return part of the £20,070. (the commuted sum received to cover future maintenance of this site and the children's play area). In my view, if the council intends to build the village hall on the public open land, it should explore whether the necessary consents can be obtained."

It was resolved that before taking any further action in this matter the Clerk should approach Huntingdonshire District Council, the Transferor, (through Councillor Mike Baker) to obtain their views on a possible request for consent to build a village hall on this site.

Comments from members of the public

(a) The Parish Plan did not establish that a Village Hall was wanted, the questions asked about how it would be used if it existed.

(b) What happened to the proposal to use the field behind the School, which was the preferred site at one time? Can this be revitalised? As a member of the VHMC, Cllr Rice said that the planners have rejected that site.

(c) Access through the Playtimes grounds seems to be a danger to children. Cllr Rice said that the access would be fenced off making it safe for the children.

13. Parish Plan

Youth Group

Kit Lee, Chairman of the Group spoke about recent developments and asked for Parish Council assistance towards set up costs. He said that a priority requirement is for seven adult members to be cleared to work with young people and that this involves CRB checks, which can be arranged through Young Lives for £5 per person. Council agreed to cover this cost. A multi use games area (MUGA) will probably top the wish list when the youth activities get established.

14. Environmental issues

Litter Picking

On the recommendation of the Clerk, it was resolved to procure the following litter pickers for use by volunteers: 1 long reach (1.27m) @ £27.99 and 3 standard reach (0.85m) @ £13.99. Total including carriage £74.37.

Planting at village entrances

In the absence of Cllr Leach, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

15. Website

The Clerk reported that Mark Heath is finding that the work involved in up-dating the Parish Council section of the village website is greater than he had anticipated, and has asked that the Council consider alternatives. Cllr Rice offered to set up a new site with a parish council domain name, which could have sections for the youth group and village hall as well as the Parish Council. This offer was gratefully accepted.

16. Correspondence

Statement from HDC regarding Gypsy & Traveller Development Plan Document

Consultation on this document will continue as planned until 9 July despite the Government's plan to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies from which the requirement arose. The final exhibition in this consultation is at Pathfinder House 8 July, 2 pm to 8 pm.

Consultation by CCC re effects of budget cuts on Children & Young People's Services – Parish Council representatives are invited to Stakeholder Meeting at Hinchingsbrooke House On Thursday 15 July, 09.00 to 12.30.

Copies of the following were passed to councillors for information.

Local Government Association briefing on The Budget

HDC Leader's comment on the Budget

The Clerk also offered to email copies on request to members of the public.

17. Any other business

Broken slat in seat at Royston Avenue

The Clerk reported that one slat had been broken recently. He also pointed out that this seat and those on the Village Green and Children's Play Area would benefit from being rubbed down and treated with preservative. He will obtain a quote to repair the broken slat and to treat all three seats.

Matters raised in email from Hilary Shuker

Bury Close - can the landowner be asked to mow the field or, at least, the paths? The Clerk reported that, in response to the same question from a villager, Mr Edwards has said that he intends to cut it in July.

Long Lane – the hedgerows need attention. They are obstructing the path and in some places almost meeting overhead. The Clerk will report this to the County Council.

Littlecotes Close – overhanging shrubs outside 8 Thrapston Road cover 50% of the pavement. The Clerk reported that Mr Hartwell accepts responsibility for the shrubs and will cut them back.

18. Date of next meeting

Thursday 22 July 2010

In the absence of any other business the acting chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm