

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 9 September 2010 at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), R Johnson, G Leach, G Rice, G Smith, S Wakefield, R Wooddisse, the Clerk and 5 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – none (all present)
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item – none.
3. **Public Open Forum**  
A question regarding the ownership of Long Lane was raised. The Chairman agreed to take this at agenda item 10.  
The tree on the grass triangle at the junction of Royston Avenue and Stow Road was said to require trimming. The Chairman said this would be looked at by the tree officer and other councillors and action would be taken if considered necessary.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 22 July 2010** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes** – none
6. **Finance**  
**External Audit**  
It was noted that the audit had been completed with no matters giving cause for concern being raised. A Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be posted on the notice board.  
**The following payments made since the last meeting were approved:**  
100426 Spaldwick School, room rental £16.00  
100427 Connections Bus, £110.00  
**The following new payments were approved:**  
100428 Moore Stephens, External audit fee, £172.73 including £25.73 VAT  
100429 Wicksteed Leisure, Playground inspection fee, £52.88 including £7.88 VAT  
100430 Philippa Hanks, Machine & supply hardwood timber for seat repair, £130.00  
100431 Came & Co (Broker Network Ltd), Insurance 1/10/10 to 30/9/11, £463.49
7. **Planning**  
**Street naming and numbering**  
**(a) 12-14 High Street** – HDC have decided that this property is now to be known as: 12 High Street (shop with living accommodation) and 14 High Street (living accommodation)  
**(b) Development adjacent to 33 Thrapston Road** - Subsequent to the last meeting, a letter dated 3 August was received from HDC saying that the developer had proposed the name Church Meadow for the access roadway and that any comments were required within 14 days. Consultations were therefore carried out by email and phone with Parish Councillors, which resulted in a recommendation that the new houses should be named 1, 2 and 3 The Chandlers, Thrapston Road, Spaldwick. This was based on a proposal by Cllr Johnson that the name should include Chandler to commemorate the lives of Arthur Robert Chandler and Percy William Chandler, two of the soldiers from Spaldwick who were killed in action in World War I.  
**New planning application**  
1002159FUL – Change of use from beauty salon to village shop, 12 High Street, Spaldwick  
It was resolved to recommend **approval**, there being no objections.  
**Withdrawal of planning application:** It was noted that application 1001107FUL - erection of annexe and porch, 3 Ivy Way – has been withdrawn.

### **Proposed Woolley Hill Wind Farm**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Liaison Group will be held on 21 September. The Clerk will attend if Cllr Leach is unable to do so.

### **Proposed Bicton Wind Farm, Planning Application 1001201FUL**

The Clerk pointed out that the deadline for receipt of comments by HDC is 17 September. .

## **8. Site for Village Hall**

(1) No formal reply has yet been received from Cllr Mike Baker to SPC letter of 3 July regarding possibility of obtaining HDC consent to build a village hall on the Public Open Space at Ferriman Road.

(2) A letter from Persimmon PLC stating that their permission would be required for any building on the site was noted. The Clerk pointed that, as SPC would require permission from HDC and that this could only be granted if they first obtained permission from Persimmon, the approach via HDC referred to in (1) above was chosen to ensure that both relevant transferors had been consulted.

(3) Cllr Rice reported that the Management Committee is in the process of carrying out a survey of all residents of the village aged 18+, which questions whether they want a new village hall and, if so, which site they would prefer.

## **9. Parish Plan**

Cllr Plummer reported that the Plan would be formally presented to the Neighbourhood Forum on 27 October with a view to ensuring support when it is required from the stakeholders such as County and District Councillors, the Police and other services, who will be present at the meeting. In the meantime activities initiated as a result of the action plan are continuing.

## **10. Environmental issues**

**Planting at village entrances** – Cllr Leach presented details of several types of planters which are available. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer a decision on which type is best until he had investigated possibilities further.

### **Footpath to rear of Nos. 2 & 3 Pound Close**

The Clerk reported that he was still trying to resolve the problem reported by the occupant of No.2 regarding a tree on this footpath and possible hazards from 3 very old trees on land adjoining the footpath.

### **Bury Close**

A number of complaints have been made by residents about the condition of the field during the height of the summer which made walking along the paths difficult and produced large amounts of thistle seeds which blew around the village. An overall cut of the field was carried out in mid August, which has removed the seed problem. Mr W Brown has confirmed that it was cut at the request of the land-owner. He pointed out that it is privately owned and that users of the footpaths should remain on them and not walk anywhere they choose.

This raised the question of how members of the public can recognise the official paths when they are not delineated and the perimeter unofficial path created by dog walkers is clearly visible. The official paths are also difficult to walk along due to the remaining uncut and tufted grass. It was resolved that, as a first step, the Clerk should place a piece in Spaldwick News asking people to keep to the paths and referring them to maps which would be displayed on the Notice Board and Parish Council website. It was further resolved that the Clerk should discuss the problem with the Rights of Way Officer with a view to the paths across Bury Close being added to the schedule of paths maintained (i.e. cut) by CCC.

### **Cockway Lane (within Spaldwick Parish) and Long Lane**

In response to the Clerk's request for a cut of excessive growth to be included in the CCC Highways maintenance programme, as the lanes are officially "highways", the local highways engineer stated that there are no funds available. The Clerk reported that he will now speak to the CCC Rights of Way Section, who maintain the byways, to request their assistance in dealing with these lanes.

### **Trees in Long Lane**

In response to a question from a member of the public, who was concerned about the roots of two trees which are damaging the garage and grounds of 42 Ferriman Road, the Clerk stated that Cambridgeshire County Council is the owner of the lane. As it is nominally a highway he suggested that the property owner should contact Cambridgeshire County Council, West Highways Division in Huntingdon.

Cllr Leach reported that a large branch of a dead tree was overhanging the lane and in danger of falling. The Clerk is to report this to CCC Highways and request its removal.

### **11. Inspection of Children's Play Area**

Wicksteed's Inspection Report dated 9 August 2010 was noted. This stated that the area and equipment are generally satisfactory, but made the following recommendations – trim back foliage on approach path and provide sign showing name & address of playground and contact details. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Fergusons whose contract includes maintenance of shrubs and trees in the 2 PC owned sites including the play area, to trim the shrubs. An offer made by Lynda Haley, who was present at the meeting, to trim around the gate was gratefully accepted.

#### **Report by parish council inspector**

Cllr Rice reported that he would be attending a training session the following day, and would commence routine inspections thereafter.

### **12. Proposed restricted access to Cockway Lane**

It was noted that Cllr Wooddisse and the Clerk met the ROW Officer, John Cooper on 29 July, who agreed in principle with the proposal for a chicane, but as the site is Highway not Byway he would have to refer the matter to the Highways Engineer, Tony King. The latter subsequently replied that he has no objection, but is unable to assist financially. Nevertheless he would need to approve the plans.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should ask the ROW Officer to supply details of his proposal and whether he can obtain funding. Cllr Wooddisse and the Clerk will consider the response and produce a scheme for consideration by the Parish Council.

### **13. Repair / Replacement of Assets**

**Seat in Royston Avenue** – repair completed today, thanks to Richard Johnson who has removed the broken slats and fitted the new ones free of charge.

**Notice Boards** – It was resolved that both existing notice boards will be replaced. Details of new boards similar in size to the original ones (accommodating 8 x A4 sheets) were tabled - Aluminium Alloy with impact resistant screen cost £646; Oak with glazed screen and routed head board cost £834. Before proceeding further Cllrs Johnson and Wooddisse offered to obtain prices from local carpenters for boards similar to the latter.

### **14. Website**

Cllr Rice reported that the new website is now up and running. All the 2010 minutes have been uploaded along with the agenda for today's meeting. Other information will be added shortly. In response to a query from the Chairman, he confirmed that the website would be controlled by the Parish Council. Initially, in addition to the Parish Council the Village Hall will have pages on the site. Other organisations can be added later.

### **15. Correspondence**

**CCC letter re Winter Service, Gritting Arrangements.** It was agreed to request the addition of Belton's Hill and Woolley Hill to the precautionary gritting route.

**NW Hunts Neighbourhood Forum** – Wednesday, 27th October 2010 - Venue to be confirmed.

**Camb's ACRE AGM**, Burgess Hall, St. Ives, Tuesday 28 September at 5.30pm followed at 6.30 pm by a presentation on Localism and the Big Society. In the absence of any Councillor able to attend the Clerk will do so.

**Letter from Head of Spaldwick School re damage to grounds and property**

Miss Prior reported that in the early hours of 1 September some young people had set alight a black refuse bin, melting an area of paving at the school. They had also damaged the roof. CCTV images have been passed to the police. She asked for support from the Parish Council to prevent any future incidents.

Following discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should reply expressing sympathy with the school management, but pointing out that the Parish Council is unable to prevent such incidents.

**Correspondence for information - Circulated 2 September:**

Clerks and Councils Direct, September 2010

Life on the Verge – CCC newsletter about Protected Road Verges

HDC Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10

HDC Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10

DCLG Consultation on Local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases (for information only – NALC is considering a reply on behalf of parish councils).

**16. Any other business**

**Uneven road surfaces, Thrapston Road & Royston Avenue** - Cllr Rice commented on the new “RJ” surface laid earlier in the year, which at the time was said to be a trial of the process. It is extremely uneven and results in excessive noise from passing vehicles, particularly those with empty trailers. The Clerk to report this to CCC Highways.

**Footway in Thrapston Road** - In response to a query, the Clerk confirmed that the plans for the development adjacent to 33 Thrapston Road do provide for a footway across the front of the site linking with that at Pound Close.

**War memorial** – In response to questions raised by members, the Clerk apologised for having made no progress in obtaining funding to carry out the proposed refurbishment and stated that he would now give priority to the matter; the Clerk and Cllr Johnson stated that they would clear the leaves etc. from the area around the War Memorial prior to Remembrance Day.

**17. Dates of future meetings**

The Clerk’s action in booking the Community Room for the following dates was ratified.

14 October 2010

18 November 2010

16 December 2010

13 January 2011

17 February 2011

24 March 2011

21 April 2011

28 April 2011 (Annual Parish Meeting)

19 or 26 May 2011 (dependant on date of election)

23 June 2011

21 July 2011