

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

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), G Leach, G Smith, S Wakefield, the Clerk and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs R Johnson, G Rice and R Wooddisse
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item – none.
3. **Public Open Forum**
The Chairman invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern. No matters were raised.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 9 September 2010** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**
The Clerk reported that he had attended the AGM of Cambs ACRE at St. Ives on 28 September. A summary of the proceedings will be circulated.
6. **Finance**
Quarterly budget review - The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 September 2010 which was in line with the budget. He also tabled the bank statement and copies of the cash book and bank reconciliation at 30 September which had been examined and agreed prior to the meeting by Cllr Smith. They were accepted by the meeting as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.
The following payment made since the last meeting was approved:
100432 Young Lives, Membership fee & CRB checks, £45.00 (LGA 1972 s.137)
The following new payments were approved:
100433 F D Stowell, Salary & Expenses, £501.89 (including £3.42 VAT)
100434 East Anglian Air Ambulance, donation 50p per elector, £218.50 (LGA 1972 s.137)
Renewal of grass cutting contract (including maintenance of trees & shrubs at Ferriman Road) - Following confirmation that members were satisfied with the performance of Fergusons since taking over the grass cutting in May, it was resolved that they be offered the contract for 2011 and 2012 at the current prices plus a percentage to cover inflation at a rate to be agreed annually by both parties.
7. **Planning**
New planning applications
1001460FUL, Belton's Hill, Barham Road; replacement of garage with garage, gym and room at first floor. It was resolved to recommend approval as the proposal has no adverse impact on the surrounding area
1001610REP, 33 Thrapston Road; Extensions and alterations to dwelling (replacement of planning permission 0702832FUL which expired 9 October 2010). Being unaware of any changes to national and local policies or other material considerations since the original grant of permission, it was resolved to recommend approval subject to HDC being satisfied that there are no such changes.
1001631NMA, Land adjacent to 33 Thrapston Road: amendments to planning permission 0802547REM for 4 houses; minor amendments to make better use of privacy and the need for a social house within the development. Council examined the small scale A4 size plans downloaded from the HDC website and did not identify any reason to object to approval being granted. It was agreed to respond accordingly to HDC.

8. **Village Hall**

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter dated 4 October from Ed Roughsedge, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, seeking assistance from the Parish Council prior to a Village Meeting being called to consider proposals to be presented by the Committee. He said that he has spoken to Ed, who agrees there is no point in calling a public meeting until the results of the recent survey have been analysed and other relevant facts are known.

One question raised in the letter was how the hall would be managed after the build is completed. The Chairman said that this is clearly the responsibility of the duly elected Village Hall Management Committee. How this is done will depend on the nature of the hall – its size, facilities, letting policy etc. The Parish Council has oversight as the Custodian Trustees.

9. **Parish Plan**

Receive any reports and consider actions required – none received

The Chairman confirmed that the plan will be presented to the North West Hunts Neighbourhood Forum at Fourfields School, Yaxley, 7 pm Wednesday 27 October in order to obtain the support of its constituent bodies.

10. **Environmental issues**

Planting at village entrances – Cllr Leach stated that he hoped to have a proposal shortly. He was reminded by the Chairman that CCC Highways approval may be required.

Footpath to rear of Nos. 2 & 3 Pound Close – continuing action to resolve.

Condition of new surface, Thrapston Road – The Clerk read the response of the Highways Engineer in which he said that he has driven over this section on numerous occasions and finds it no more uneven and bumpy than most other roads in the area. He explained that it used a process new to Cambridgeshire which seals and forms a better anti-skid surface; and that unless new cheaper alternatives to conventional surfacing are tried very little will be achieved in the future with reduced maintenance budgets. The surface will continue to be monitored but it is most unlikely to be removed due to the cost involved.

Bids for funding of minor improvement schemes - The Clerk reported that two bids had been submitted – (1) for an extended footway along the south side of High Street to Ivy Way, and (2) for Speed Reduction Measures (30 mph road surface markings at entrances to village & interactive speed signs within the village). The final results are awaited but, before the marking took place, the Traffic Engineer advised that interactive signs are only permitted at accident cluster sites and hence would not be considered. The Clerk then asked that the marking of a scheme for speed reduction measures should go ahead as Spaldwick suffers from excessive speeding more than the majority of rural villages, and said that “in the past the Parish Council has declared itself to be against speed humps but, if this is the only way to reduce speeds, this decision could be reversed”. The statement from the Highways Engineer regarding the new surfacing material hinted that an offer to provide speed humps is likely.

In response to a request by the Chairman the Clerk confirmed that an offer would be put to the Council for approval before any work was started on such a project

Precautionary gritting route – The Clerk reported that the PC proposal to include Belton’s Hill and Woolley Hill in the route, on the grounds that they are particularly steep and become hazardous in icy/snowy weather and are both used by the bus to/from Spaldwick School, has been rejected because “it does not meet the bus criteria”.

Grit / salt bins – (1) It was noted that CCC can supply at £93.00 each, delivered to site and filled; (2) Following discussion of sites which included Belton’s Hill and Woolley Hill, it was resolved to purchase one bin as a trial – to be located near the junction of Royston Avenue and Ferriman Road. The precise site is to be agreed with Cambridgeshire Highways.

Cockway Lane (within Spaldwick Parish) and Long Lane – the question of maintenance has been referred to CCC Rights of Way Section to seek their assistance in cutting excessive growth of vegetation in these lanes.

Proposed restricted access to Cockway Lane - The ROW Officer is 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.

Trees in Long Lane – a number of dead trees and overhanging branches have been reported to CCC.

Tree at junction of Royston Avenue and Stow Road – The tree officer, Cllr Johnson had examined the tree along with other councillors after the last meeting and had recommended that no action be taken as the clearance under the lower branches was adequate. It was resolved to accept this recommendation.

11. **Spaldwick websites**

It was noted that an email had been received from Mark Heath regarding his website www.spaldwick.com and the parish council website www.spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk. In the absence of Cllr Rice, it was decided to defer discussion to the next meeting.

12. **Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets**

Notice Boards – awaiting additional quotes being obtained by Cllrs Johnson & Wooddisse

War Memorial - awaiting response from War Memorials Trust to “Expression of Interest” regarding funding.

13. **Correspondence**

Community Action (Cambs ACRE Magazine) Autumn 2010

Press releases from Andrew Stunell, Communities Minister 20/9/10:

(1) Principal Councils may return to Committee system from Leader / Mayor & Cabinet.

(2) Standards Board regime to end – serious misconduct for personal gain will be a criminal act and dealt with by the courts.

NALC media release – Localism in action

NALC Chief Executive’s Report 7/9/10

Cambs Together - Changing Political Landscape & role of Local Public Services.

Hinchingbrooke Hospital News update.

Cambs Flood Risk Management Partnership – Survey of past flooding events

CPALC AGM, Saturday 13 November, 10.00 – 12.30, Bluntisham Village Hall (includes presentations on funding opportunities – “Young Lives” & “Living Sport”).

Carillion WSP – A14 westbound will be closed to long distance traffic between Brampton Hut and Thrapston from 8 pm to 6 am for 2 or 3 nights, Monday to Wednesday 18-20 October. Local access from Brampton Hut will be maintained as far as Spaldwick. Spaldwick to Thrapston will be closed.

Sawtry Parish Council – email 12/10/10 asking parish councils to lobby HDC to adopt a zero policy on sex establishments in the district. A subsequent email from the Head of Democratic and Central Services at HDC advised that case law indicates that, whilst a limit can be set for a locality, a locality cannot be an entire local authority area. It was decided to draw Sawtry PC’s attention to this and to inform them that Spaldwick PC would therefore not be supporting the request for a zero policy across the whole District.

14. **Any other business**

Village shop – It was noted that the shop, known as ‘Number 12’ (High Street) is now open. Council agreed that this is a valuable asset which villagers are encouraged to support.

Clearance of leaves on village green – It was noted that a team of youngsters had spent several hours last Saturday in removing leaves and other debris from the green. Council expressed its appreciation of this voluntary work.

15. **Date of next meeting**

18 November 2010

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm