

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 18 November 2010 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), G Leach, G Rice, G Smith, S Wakefield, the Clerk and 3 members of the public at 8 pm and a further 2 at 9 pm.

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr R Johnson (sick).
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item – it was noted that each councillor had received a letter from HDC, in common with all house owners/occupiers in Spaldwick, as “residential neighbours abutting the site” of the proposed Wind Farm at Woolley Hill. Usually being a neighbour would be considered a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct and preclude a councillor from taking part in the discussion / decision process. Cllr Leach also declared an interest, being the parish council representative on the Community Liaison Group. Individual councillors agreed to withdraw should a situation arise at item 7, where their presence could be considered in breach of the Code.
3. **Public Open Forum**
There being no other matters which members of the public wished to raise, the Chairman invited Mr Roughsedge to defer his report on the Village Hall until agenda item 8. A report on youth activities from representatives arriving around 9 pm, was also deferred until later.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 14 October 2010** were approved and signed
5. **Matters arising from minutes**
The Clerk reported on the CPALC AGM he had attended on 13 November. Following the appointment of a Hon. Treasurer at the beginning of 2010 to replace the firm of accountants who had been helping with the accounts, it was discovered that the financial position was considerably worse than had been reported previously. The Board agreed to address the problem by proposing measures to reduce expenditure and increase income.
The CEO has agreed to reduce his hours from 30 to 25 per week and alternative premises saving £10K per annum are being considered. The meeting accepted the Board’s proposal to increase the affiliation fees by 3% and abolish the 5% discount for early payment.
6. **Finance**
The following payments were approved:
100435 CPALC, G Rice - Training, £55.00
100436 Fergusons, grass cutting, £1210.25 (inc. £180.25 VAT)
Issue of replacement cheque was approved
100437 Young Lives, £45.00 to replace lost cheque 100432
A letter from J Blatch re Spaldwick News and Churchyard maintenance, was noted. In this he stated that Spaldwick News is now financially self supporting due to increased advertising revenue and reduced printing costs (now being done on his desk top printer); but the expenditure on churchyard maintenance (£605 for grass cutting & £150 for cutting back path edges) exceeds income from the invested fund by £715. It was therefore **resolved to make the following payment:**
100438 Spaldwick PCC, contribution to churchyard grass cutting and maintenance, £715.00
Ferguson’s 2011 grass cutting contract - It was **resolved** to accept a 4% price increase.
Draft budget and precept for 2011/12 - Following consideration of a draft budget prepared by the Clerk, it was **resolved** that the precept for 2011/12 should remain unchanged at £9900. Several small changes to the draft budget were agreed but it was decided to defer finalisation of the budget until the next meeting in case further adjustments were necessary as a result of funding changes which HDC and CCC may introduce.

7. Planning

New planning application 1001741FUL – Woolley Hill Wind Farm

Erection of 4 three bladed wind turbines and associated equipment, Land east of Whitleather Lodge, Woolley Hill, Ellington. Expiry date for standard consultations is 11 January 2011

As the application has only just been received it was agreed that the Council will consider its response at the next meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would make the documents available for viewing by councillors and members of the public by arrangement. If possible, they will also be displayed in the Community Room when the Community Access Point is open (Monday afternoons from 1.15 pm to 3.15 pm) and prior to the next Parish Council meeting on 16th December. The Clerk stated that he also holds a CD containing the Environment Statement which can be lent out.

Cllr Leach reported on the last meeting of the Community Liaison Group. Among the matters raised was that the Community Fund of around £18K pa to be shared between local parishes is insufficient. The next meeting is at Ellington on Tuesday 18 January.

The following HDC decisions were noted:

1001631NMA, land adjacent 33 Thrapston Road, amendment to 0802547REM – Consent
1001460FUL, Belton's Hill, replacement garage with gym & first floor room – Permission.

8. Village Hall

Results of Survey - Eddie Roughsedge, Chairman of the Committee, outlined the results of the survey of residents aimed at confirming the requirement for a village hall and obtaining views on 2 possible sites – (a) Public Open Space east of Playtimes and (b) Bury Close.

268 (92% of the 291 residents interviewed) supported provision of a hall.

217 (75% of the 291) would support site (a) and 217 would support site (b). 66 objected to site (a) and 69 objected to site (b). It is estimated that in each case 40% of those who objected lived adjacent to that site.

Size of Committee – Mr Roughsedge stated that the committee now had only 3 members – Greg Rice, Grahame Leach and himself. More volunteers are needed – in particular, a treasurer. Cllr Rice agreed to place an appeal in the next Spaldwick News.

9. Parish Plan

Presentation - The Chairman reported that he and Mark Sturdy had presented the plan to the N W Hunts Neighbourhood Forum on 27 October, highlighting areas where support from Panel members (e.g. CCC and HDC) would be required to ensure progress, in particular the Village Hall and Youth Group,

Action Plan - It was agreed that the Action Plan would be reviewed at the next meeting.

10. Environmental issues

Planting at village entrances – Cllr Leach reported that he had been advised by CCC Highways that planters on highway verges are a safety hazard and that planting in the ground is preferred. In any event formal permission will be required from the department. He will look at suitable plants and consider future maintenance before producing a proposition.

Footpath to rear of Nos. 2 & 3 Pound Close – The ROW officer believes that the problem tree is owned by the adjacent property owner. The complainant has been informed.

Grit / salt bin – CCC will deliver a filled bin to the site in Royston Avenue agreed with the Highways Engineer at a cost of £93.00.

Cockway Lane (within Spaldwick Parish) and Long Lane – The ROW officer says he is unable to add these areas to the byway maintenance contract. The Clerk has therefore written to Cllr Viv McGuire as follows: It would seem logical that the contractor who maintains the byways should have their contract extended to cover these unmetalled lanes. They are familiar with the requirements and would only need to add a relatively small amount of extra length. Whilst funding is going to be a problem, this should not prevent a decision being reached on the best way of dealing with this matter.

Proposed restricted access to Cockway Lane – Continuing action for Clerk to obtain details of ROW Officer's design proposals and possible funding sources. Cllr Wooddisse and the Clerk will consider the response and produce a scheme for consideration by the P. C.

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

Children's Play Area, Ferriman Road – Mr Roughsedge stated that he would like permission to move the "No Dogs" sign so that it is not obscured by the shrubs. This was agreed, and he was thanked for the offer to move the sign.

11. Spaldwick websites

In view of the amount of business it was resolved to defer this matter to the next meeting.

12. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets

Notice Boards – Cllr Johnson informed the Clerk just prior to the meeting that R B Woodworking has quoted £523 + VAT for an Oak framed board with glass windows. This will be considered along with other quotations at the next meeting.

War Memorial – response from War Memorials Trust to "Expression of Interest" was noted:

(1) WMT can only fund painting inscriptions if originally painted – photographs supplied show no evidence of this.

(2) WMT unable to fund work retrospectively – work should not commence prior to receipt of decision. This seems to rule out paying for an estimate.

The Clerk reported that he had invited Skillington Workshop Ltd of Grantham to carry out a survey and provide an estimate. (free; the visit will be combined with another local project).

13. Correspondence

CCC, Public Rights of Way, countryside access and the Parish Paths Partnership – meeting at Over Community Centre at 7 pm on 2 December – the Clerk and John Saynor (P3 coordinator) are willing to attend. This offer was accepted.

HDC Budget - briefing for Town and Parish Councils, 1 November – as no councillor was able to attend, the Clerk did so. A report was subsequently circulated to members. Proposed changes which might affect Spaldwick were: grants to parish councils and provision of bus shelters to stop; grass cutting currently undertaken by HDC to be reduced.

14. Any other business

Fly tipping near recycling bins – on one side of road and a miscellaneous collection opposite. HDC has been informed. N.B. Mattress has been removed, probably by the team emptying litter bin before the formal request was passed to them, hence remainder of fly tipping still there. Clerk will progress.

War Memorial surroundings - A vote of thanks was accorded to Alex Bromley and Richard Johnson for carrying out an excellent clean up operation prior to Remembrance Day..

Youth Group Activities – At the invitation of the Chairman, Mark Sturdy and Kit Lee reported on recent events and choice of the name ESCAPE and its design by the young people. The Youth Club is to meet at the school next Friday, followed by fortnightly meetings in the New Year. Funding will be available from Young Lives until March, but thereafter alternative sources will be required. A process to find a site and funds for a multi-use games area (MUGA) is starting.

15. Date of next meeting - 16 December 2010

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.02 pm.