

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 17 February 2011 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), G Leach, G Rice, G Smith, R Wooddisse, the Clerk and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs R Johnson and S Wakefield.
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item – none
3. **Public Open Forum** - No matters were raised.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 5 January 2011** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes** - none
6. **Finance**
Quarterly budget review at 31 December 2010 and bank reconciliations at 31 December 2010 and 31 January 2011 – It was resolved to accept the Clerk's report which had been examined and recommended for approval by Cllr Smith.
2011/2012 Budget – Finalisation of the budget was deferred to a later date at the last meeting as the effects of HDC and CCC funding cuts were not clear. CCC has since stated that the grass cutting grant will probably be reduced to 75% of last year's grant i.e. from £632.55 to around £474. The effects of HDC cuts are still not yet known, hence it was agreed to defer finalisation of the budget until the meeting on 24 March.
The following payments were approved:
 100463 CCC, salt bin, Royston Avenue, £109.28 (including £16.28 VAT)
 100464 CCC, annual maintenance & energy charge, street light, Church Lane, £40.66
 100465 Fergusons, cut hedges & prune shrubs Ferriman Road, £264.00 (inc £44.00 VAT)
The Clerk's request to attend SLCC Regional Conference – to network and receive updates on legislation, Big Society etc. at Hatfield, Tuesday 29 March, £65 + VAT – was approved.
7. **Planning**
Planning Application 1002042FUL, Erection of 25 metre high wind turbine, Glebe Farm, Barham Road. Following discussion it was resolved to recommend approval because the proposal will contribute to the national renewable energy target without having any adverse effect on the surrounding area.
The following HDC decision was noted - 1100014NMA, Non-Material Amendment following grant of planning permission, Alterations to garaging and storage, Land at and including 55 Stow Road – Accepted with no additional conditions.
Allocation of addresses – it was noted that the 2 new houses will be known as 57 & 59 Stow Road
Quarterly report of enforcement cases, January 2011 – the following cases were noted:
 1. Sign located on eastbound A14 advertising Wren Kitchens & Bathrooms. Trailer advert removed after issue of request by HDC.
 2. Sign located on eastbound A14 advertising The George, Spaldwick. No action taken. Modest local service adverts are generally considered acceptable by HDC.
 3. Development adjacent 33 Thrapston Road, alleged not to be in accordance with approved plans. Planning Officer visited site and confirmed that distance from boundary of 33 Thrapston Road to the new dwelling is 7.6m as per the plans. Complainant informed that the access road is the correct width.
 4. Untidy land, rear of 14 High Street – ownership being investigated.

Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Liaison Group –The Clerk reported that In the absence of Cllr Leach, away on business, he had attended the meeting on 18 January. Reports of the Parish Council meetings held at Ellington and Spaldwick were given by their representatives. The other 2 councils represented (Alconbury Weston and Leighton Bromswold) had made no formal comment. RES stated that HDC had told them to expect to be asked for more information to be provided in the Environmental Statement.

New application – HDC have advised that a planning application relating to 9-11 Thrapston Road has been received although not yet validated. The Clerk stated that as it is 6 weeks to the next meeting it would be advisable to allocate 3rd March for a special planning meeting in order to meet the 3 week reply period. This was agreed.

8. **Village Hall** – Cllr Plummer reported that he has been in contact with Robinson & Hall and Persimmons to arrange for himself, Mr Roughsedge and other representatives of the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to discuss with them any conditions which may apply to the two top sites.

Cllr Rice reported that David Henrick has agreed to be treasurer. The Charity Commission website has been updated to show the current Trustees – Messrs Roughsedge, Rice and Henrick. The accounts are being updated and the bank mandate amended.

9. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer briefly reported that progress is being made on several matters highlighted in the Action Plan – Village Hall, Youth Group, High Street footway. An update of the Action Plan will be presented to the Council shortly.

10. **Environmental issues**

Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme 2010/11, High Street Footway

The following report by the Clerk was noted - The scheme was approved by the Huntingdonshire Area Joint Transport Committee on 17 January. Michael Anker, CCC Traffic Technician wrote to residents in the locality on 25 January and invited any comments by 4 February. 2 residents raised queries which were mostly regarding how wide the footway would be and where it would be placed in the grass verge. One resident however was opposing the plans. Since replying, the Technician has not heard from the two residents again so assumes that they are now happy with the proposal. He has been waiting for a cost from BT for moving the telegraph pole so that the footway could go along the existing kerb line. Unfortunately, this will be cost prohibitive so it will be necessary to take the footway around the back of the pole. As only part of the verge is highway he will mark the boundary on site to ensure that there is sufficient width to do this. CCC will then be able to order the work and start before the end of the financial year.

Planting in Village - Following a brief discussion, Cllr Leach agreed to write a piece for the Spaldwick News inviting suggestions as to where and what might be planted and inviting members of the public to help maintain them.

Dangerous Dead trees – Cllr Leach expressed concern about 2 trees which he considered to be a hazard and agreed to show the Clerk those to which he referred so that the owners responsible could be advised

11. **Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee June 2012 and Royal Wedding 29 April 2011**

It was noted that John Blatch has arranged a Garden Party on Saturday 30 April 2011 to celebrate the wedding. Cllr Plummer agreed to speak to Spaldwick School and the Social Club to ascertain whether they were proposing to celebrate these events. Suggestions were invited regarding some permanent feature to commemorate the Jubilee.

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

War Memorial – The Clerk reported that he is arranging a visit by Skillington Workshop Ltd to survey the memorial and advise on its refurbishment.

Notice Boards – Cllr Johnson discussed with R B Woodworking the possibility of obtaining a reduced unit price now that it had been decided to order two, but as marking the Council’s

name had not been included in the original quotation, it was agreed to keep the price at £523 each with the name included. Order number 1102 has now been placed.

Playground Inspection – Cllr Rice reported that he would carry out an inspection this week.

13. Correspondence

CCC Highways, Notification of Road Closures – Barham Road closure for sheet piling works originally planned for 17 to 28 January will take place from 7 February for 2 weeks. Woolley Hill will be closed from 7 March for 3 weeks for repairs to Mad Bridge.

Comments on the Parish Council's decision to recommend approval of Woolley Hill Wind Farm Planning Application subject to specified caveats

Four communications objecting to the Parish Council's decision were received between 8 & 11 January from local residents. The Clerk responded by saying that their complaints would be passed to the Council and sending them a copy of the Parish Council's formal response to HDC Planning. Another resident who had seen this response said: "Seems a balanced approach". A further two similar complaints were received on 13 & 16 February.

During the consideration of these communications it was noted that

- A Special Parish Meeting was held on 16 December 2010 to inform the Parish Council of the views of electors. A notice of the meeting was delivered to all households. Minutes of the meeting which included the main points raised were subsequently issued.
- Prior to the Parish Council meeting held 5 January 2011, at which the Planning Application was discussed, members had carefully examined the proposal and its supporting documentation; letters from 8 residents giving their reasons for objecting to the proposal; and the views expressed at the Parish Meeting held on 16 December.
- At the meeting on 5 January members discussed the application and, taking into consideration all the information before them, concluded that there were insufficient material grounds for objecting to the proposal and resolved to recommend approval by 4 votes to 1. Further discussion then took place, during which it was agreed to include several caveats in the formal response to HDC.

The meeting concluded that proper procedures had been followed by the Council in reaching its decision on 5 January and resolved that no further action be taken. The Clerk is to inform the complainants accordingly.

Request for copy of the Parish Council's Complaints Procedure – One of the residents who had complained about the planning decision requested a copy of the Council's Complaints Procedure. The Clerk responded that SPC does not have a complaints procedure and suggested that any complaint should be addressed to the Clerk who would ensure that it is dealt with as quickly as possible. Council agreed with this response, and asked the Clerk to produce a Draft Complaints Procedure which could be considered for future adoption.

14. Any other business

Council Elections – 5 May. Nomination papers available from 1 March, nominations open 22 March and close at noon on Monday 4 April.

Talk on Spaldwick from pre-history to the middle ages being given in Huntingdon tonight by Susan Clelland of Wessex Archaeology – she has been invited to give a similar talk in Spaldwick – details to be arranged.

Play Equipment stored at West Lodge Farm – Clerk to prepare proposal for disposal.

15. Date of next meeting

Special Planning Meeting proposed – Thursday 3 March

Next Scheduled Meeting - Thursday 24 March 2011

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm