

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 15 September 2011 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), S Jackson-Rimmer, G Rice, S Wakefield, the Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllrs R Johnson, G Leach and G Smith
2. **Declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item** – none.
3. **Public Open Forum** . no matters were raised.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 21 July 2011** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes** . none.

6. Finance

Town and Poors Charity: 205530 – It was noted that the Annual Return to the Charity Commission for year ending 31 March 2011 was submitted by the Clerk on 23 August 2011.

External Audit . It was noted that the External Audit was completed on 23 August, the auditor's report stating: "On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."

The following payments were approved:

100479 F D Stowell, Salary (£367.11) and expenses (£48.56), July . Sept., £415.67 inc. £6.14 VAT,

100480 HMRC, PAYE July . Sept, £91.80

100481 Moore Stephens, External audit fee, £172.80 inc. £28.80 VAT

100482 CCC, Contribution to High Street footway JFMI scheme, £440.00

100483 R P Johnson Builders Ltd, installation of new notice boards, £325.00

100484 Wicksteed Leisure, Inspection of play area, £54.00 inc. £9.00 VAT

100485 Broker Network (Came & Co), Insurance premium for year commencing 1 October, £457.84

Balfour Beatty maintenance contract for street light in Church Lane . it was resolved to accept option 1 at £20.05 for the period 1 July 2011 to 1 July 2012.

Request for donation . It was agreed not to respond to a letter from Victim Support.

Parish on-line mapping . On the recommendation of the clerk following a 28 day free evaluation it was agreed to register for membership of Parish Online at an annual fee of £10 with a setting up fee of £20 (total first year cost £30 +VAT)

7. Planning

New Planning Applications

1101343FUL & 1001344LBC, Land west of Long Lane. Conversion of stables and hay barn to residential, new outbuilding, store and hovel, convert loose box stable as utility store. Demolish hay barn and Nissen hut.

Council considered the proposed development to be in keeping with its surroundings and to have no adverse effect on neighbouring properties and agreed to recommend **approval**.

Some concern was expressed regarding responsibility for maintaining the section of Long Lane, which is understood to be an unadopted highway, between High Street and the entrance to the site. During periods of prolonged wet weather it may get churned up by vehicles regularly entering the site making it difficult for pedestrians to walk by. It was agreed to include a note in the response to the LPA suggesting that the County Highway Authority

be asked to discuss this matter with the owners with a view to having a plan in place to deal with this problem should it arise.

1101393FUL, Oakwood, 26 High Street. Construction of entrance canopy to dwelling house. Council had no objection to this application and resolved to recommend **approval**.

1101444FUL, Land adjacent 33 Thrapston Road. Erection of 4 dwellings to revised design (retrospective) and erection of double garage plot 3. Construction of road side parking lay-by plot 4 (part retrospective) garden shed and air source heat pump plot 4, and placing of central heating oil tanks on plots 1,2 and 3.

The design changes having some impact on the adjacent properties and the surrounding area were identified by the Council and commented upon as follows:

1. Change of garage serving plots 3 & 4 to a double garage serving plot 3. The increase of 2m in length is acceptable. Although the distance between the garage and the boundary of 1 Pound Close has been reduced from 8m to 2m, the threatened overpowering effect on the neighbour's garden has been mitigated satisfactorily by the proposed reduction of 1m in height and the introduction of the hipped roof facing their garden.

2. Road side parking lay-by for plot 4. This is considered satisfactory for the parking of a car, but it is suggested that some measure should be taken to prevent its use by larger commercial vehicles.

3. The addition of a second window in the bedroom of plot 3 which faces east and overlooks the front garden of 33 Thrapston Road is considered acceptable as the degree of overlooking differs very little from that of the first window in that room.

4. The garden shed and air source heat pump on plot 4 have no adverse effect on other properties.

5. Assuming that the oil tanks on plots 1, 2 & 3 are within range of delivery vehicles, their locations are considered acceptable in respect of safety and visual effect.

6. The changes to the design of plot 1 have no adverse impact on neighbouring properties or the surrounding area.

Having taken the above matters into consideration, Council recommended **approval** of this application.

Proposed Woolley Hill Wind Farm appeal against LPA refusal – It was noted that this will be dealt with by Public Inquiry and that any further written comments must be submitted by 19 October. It was resolved not to submit any further comments but to write to the Planning Inspectorate asking that full consideration be given to the points raised in the Parish Council's original response.

Local Planning Authority decisions - none have been reported since the last PC meeting.

Milestone (10 Thrapston, 7 Huntingdon) . James Simmins advised that the milestone was expected to be installed on the green outside Stanwell House during the week commencing 5 September, but to date this work is still outstanding.

8. **Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012**

Making Spaldwick Bloom . In the absence of Cllr Leach there was no update. Cllr Rice pointed out that Catworth is using half barrels for some of its displays.

Other commemorative possibilities . to note progress on the following projects:

A parish booklet with input from all sections of the village with current and historic features:

On reading that this proposal had been dropped due to lack of expertise, Stuart Dixon has offered to help with its publication if it is decided to proceed. The Clerk will discuss with him what might be possible.

4. Benches on Belton's Hill and above Upthorpe Lodge . no response yet to request in September Spaldwick News for suggested locations.

5. Definition of a Village Walk with plaques at various sites illustrating village history . John Saynor is working on this.

6. Planting trees in bulk or individually . the Clerk pointed out that HDC's Parish Planting Scheme is still operating, final orders being required by 11 November. A note is to be put in Spaldwick News asking for suggested planting locations.

9. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets

War Memorial . The report on the survey of the war memorial carried out by Skillington Workshop Ltd in July and a quotation for its refurbishment was noted. The Clerk is to obtain further quotes based on the programme of work proposed by Skillingtons.

Notice Boards . the new board on the Village Green was installed mid August.

Tree on Village Green – awaiting visit from Brian Ogden for advice on suspected %Weeping Canker+

Hand Hearse (Bier) . The outcome of the proposal to seek someone interested in its refurbishment is still unknown. Cllr Leach reported in writing that the possibility of locating the bier (when restored) in the church was raised at the recent meeting of the PCC and that it was decided to discuss the matter with the Archdeacon. He pointed out that should the PCC decide to proceed with a programme to provide toilets, kitchen etc within the building there was unlikely to be room for the bier.

Inspection of children's play area

(a) Monthly Inspections - Reports of the inspections carried out on 8 August and 5 September were presented by Cllr Rice. All checks were satisfactory with the exception of the observation on loose tiles previously reported.

(b) Annual External Inspection . the report of the inspection carried out by Wicksteed Leisure on 4 August was noted. It recommended monitoring the gaps at the tile joints where excessive gaps or lifting tiles may create trip hazards. It recommended that the gaps at the tile joints on the safety surface under the see-saw should be filled as a short term measure, though in the longer term total replacement will be necessary. Following discussion it was agreed to place an order on Wicksteed Leisure to fill these gaps at a total cost of £265.00.

10. Correspondence

Archaeological Dig in Thrapston Road - Susan Clelland, who carried out the dig last year, has confirmed that she is able to give a talk on the results . date and venue to be agreed.

Future of Spaldwick Church . an email from Jean Haines, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, suggesting that the church building could be converted for use as a shared community centre and worship space, was briefly discussed. The generally expressed view was that the church building would be unlikely to provide more facilities than are currently available in the Community Room at the school. It was agreed to accept the offer of Cllr Rice to respond on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Luminus – After investigation, Luminus have reported that they are currently unable to provide financial help towards provision of a bus shelter in Royston Avenue.

District Wide magazine – HDC are to discontinue publication of the printed version and to replace it with Huntingdonshire News to be published on their website. The Parish Council has been asked to consider allowing this publication to have a link to the SPC website. It was resolved to accept this proposal.

Preparation for coming winter . CCC have invited applications for additional grit bins at £95 each and for applications from Parish Councils to assist with more formal highway treatment. It was resolved not to accept these invitations at this time.

2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

It was noted that the Boundary Commission for England is consulting on the initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies until 8 December 2011, which include Spaldwick in a new St Neots constituency covering 10 Huntingdonshire District Council wards and 12 South Cambridgeshire District Council wards.

11. **Any other business** . none.

12. **Dates of future meetings** – 13 October, 17 November, 15 December

In the absence of any further business the meeting was closed at 9.40 pm