

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 13 October 2011 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), G Leach, G Rice and G Smith, the Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllrs S Jackson-Rimmer, R Johnson, and S Wakefield.
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 15 September 2011** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**
Archaeological Dig in Thrapston Road - Date and venue of Susan Clelland's talk still to be agreed.

6. Finance

Quarterly budget review

The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 September 2011 and a bank reconciliation at 30 September. These had been examined in detail by Cllr G Smith prior to the meeting who confirmed their accuracy. After discussion of the statement it was resolved that it be accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.

The following payments were approved:

100486 Getspacial (Parish on-line), Setting up fee & Annual fee £36.00 (inc. £6.00 VAT)
100487 Donation to East Anglian Air Ambulance - £220.00 (LGA1972 S.187)

7. Planning

Planning Application 1101444FUL, 4 dwellings adjacent 33 Thrapston Road

New consultation dated 5 October sent to PC and to neighbours . The Clerk explained that the amended plans were requested by the Local Planning Authority in order to bring them into line with the dwellings exactly as built and hence into line with the proposal accepted at the last parish council meeting. Subsequently the LPA asked for details of the proposed fencing to be added to the plans. These are for 1200 mm timber post and rail ranch style fencing to the boundary of plot 1; estate style iron fencing to the front of plot 2 continuing around plot 3 up to the parking area of plot 4 with gaps to the front doors of plots 2 & 3; and estate style iron fencing / railings on top of 225 mm brick wall to path from parking lay-by to front door of plot 4.

At the request of the LPA a further planning application will be submitted for the wood burner flues on plots 1, 2 & 3. It should be noted that although the flue on plot 3 is already in position its erection is not covered by this retrospective planning application.

On the assumption that the latest amendments relate only to those necessary to show the dwellings exactly as built; and to add the ranch style fencing to plot 1 and the estate style iron fencing / railings to plots 2, 3 & 4; and that a separate planning application will be submitted in respect of the wood burner flues; it was resolved to respond that Spaldwick Parish Council has no objections and recommends approval.

Local Planning Authority decision

Planning application 1100849FUL, Erection of dwelling, land to rear of 33 Thrapston Road . it was noted that this application has been withdrawn.

Milestone . this was installed on the green outside Stanwell House on 22 September. It was noted that a letter has been received from Michael Knight of Riseley writing on behalf of the Milestone Society expressing pleasure at its restoration and stating that the event will be

recorded in their half-yearly newsletter and will form part of an article in the Society's annual 'On The Ground' journal 2011.

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

Making Spaldwick Bloom . Cllr Leach reported that he is proposing two raised beds for plants, one located on the Village Green near the Village Sign and one on the green in front of Manor Farmhouse either between the post box and litter bin or nearer the Meeting House. He will advise exact locations after discussing with interested parties. These beds will be in rectangular good quality wood boxes which Cllr Johnson has agreed to make. Roger Haines is advising him on what to plant and when. Costs are not yet known but will include wood, liner, soil and plants.

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

1. Parish booklet with input from all sections of the village with current and historic features . the Clerk to ask Stuart Dixon to liaise with Richard Johnson and Alan Barnden with a view to producing a proposal as to its content.
2. Benches on Belton's Hill and above Upton Lodge . 2 possible sites at Belton's Hill on the byway to Leighton Bromswold were discussed. It was agreed that the site on the top side of the byway approximately 130 metres from the junction with Barham Road is preferred. Approval of the County Rights of Way section is to be sought by the Clerk.
3. Definition of a Village Walk with plaques at various sites illustrating village history . the Clerk to enquire how John Saynor is progressing on this.
4. Planting trees in bulk or individually - no suggestions have yet been forthcoming from members of the public in response to the invitation in the October Spaldwick News

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

War Memorial . two further quotes being sought. Skillingtons report has been sent to the War Memorial Trust for approval of the proposed method of refurbishment.

Trees on Village Green – A report by Brian Ogden, HDC Arboricultural Officer, was tabled. This stated that the tree (T1) closest to the junctions with Stow Road and Church Lane is suffering from a significant amount of dieback. All of the trees are suffering typical reduced physiological stress caused by more than one factor, including bleeding canker, and premature defoliation due to the leaf minor larvae feeding on the leaves. The other two trees are in better structural and physiological condition than T1. There is no treatment for this bacterial disease or for the leaf minor.

He proposed two options for T1:

- a) Remove all major dead wood. Reduction of the whole crown by 25% will remove all the dead branches and leave the tree in a structurally sound condition. The work would, of course, result in a further stress on the limited storage energy of the tree.
 - b) This tree could be safely felled and removed, and a replacement tree planted this winter.
- The other two trees are in poor physiological condition but they are in fair structural condition. They will not benefit from extensive pruning and only minor and major dead wood should be removed. They may all continue to decline in health, especially if we have another dry spring and early summer.

The Clerk reported that he is in the process of obtaining several quotations for the work including separate quotes for both T1 options. The first contractor to reply, who is an arboricultural consultant, believes that T1 should be removed now and a replacement planted. This will mean that there will be an established tree on the Green when the remaining trees have to be removed.

It was agreed to defer taking a decision on whether or not to fell T1 until further quotations had been received. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to speak to Brian Ogden, with the Chairman present if possible, with a view to obtaining further advice.

Inspection of children's play area

A report of the inspection he carried out on 12 October was presented by Cllr Rice. This highlighted two trip hazards: loose edge stone on safety surface of large swing; and uneven paving stones on entry path.

Hand Hearse (Bier) . awaiting outcome of proposal to seek someone interested in its refurbishment. In the meantime a letter has been received from Canon Jonathan Young stating that before dealing with the question of possibly re-housing the bier in the Church, the PCC wishes first to address the whole issue of the use of the church building. A meeting to discuss this matter is to be held on 12 October. Once some ideas begin to emerge, the PCC will need to seek the advice of the archdeacon and diocesan advisory committee particularly if alterations to the building are proposed.

10. Correspondence

HCV Strategy meeting – Swavesey Village College, Tuesday 29 November at 7 pm. The Clerk agreed to attend.

CPALC AGM - Bluntisham Village Hall, 10 . 12.30, Saturday, 3rd December 2011. The Clerk agreed to attend.

Request for grit bin in Littlecotes and dog bins at High Street/Long Lane & adj. Bury Close . It was agreed to purchase a bin for Littlecotes Close from CCC on condition that the salt will be spread by the residents when needed. Jane O'Dwyer, who made the request on behalf of the residents, is to be asked to confirm this and to confirm that no one has any objection to having a bin in Littlecotes. She will be asked to consult with residents regarding its location. The Clerk will seek approval from County Highways before making a final decision on its location.

The Clerk is to ask HDC whether they would install a dog / litter bin in High Street at the corner of Long Lane. The question of a dog bin adjacent to Bury Close was discussed. A location close to the kissing gate at the churchyard was ruled out as HDC will only empty bins on the roadside and there is already a bin in Royston Avenue which is relatively near another gate to Bury Close. It was agreed, therefore, not to pursue this request.

NW Hunts Neighbourhood Forum . Fourfields School Yaxley, 7.00 pm Wed 19 October.

Consultation on Review of the CCC decision to remove all subsidised bus service funding - this is addressed to individual current and prospective bus users and requires responses by 9 December. The Clerk will publicise the consultation particularly to current users and will also respond by identifying the services that are particularly needed and commenting on possible future initiatives.

Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, DCLG Consultation 13 Oct 2011 to 5 Jan 2012 . the Clerk will identify areas of the document relevant to parish councils and circulate these details for comment.

11. Any other business

Village assets . Cllr Leach agreed to provide the Clerk with photographs of the new notice boards to add to the register of assets.

12. Dates of future meetings in 2011 – Thursdays 17 November and 15 December

Both will be held in the Community Room at Spaldwick School, commencing at 8 pm.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm