

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

**Present:** Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), S Jackson-Rimmer, G Rice, G Smith, S Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllr G Leach.
2. **Declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item** – none.
3. **Public Open Forum**  
**Hedges overgrowing pavements** - a member of the public asked whether something could be done regarding overgrowing hedges in 3 identified problem areas. The Clerk agreed to write to the householders concerned to point out the problems their hedges are causing and to ask for them to be cut back.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 13 October 2011** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**  
**Grit bin, Littlecotes Close** . Residents have confirmed they will spread the salt when needed. A site has been agreed by residents and CCC.  
**Dog bin, High Street/Long Lane** . the Clerk reported that he had been unable to pursue this request due to more urgent matters taking precedence.
6. **Finance**  
**Letters inviting financial support** have been received from Citizens Advice Bureau & HDC re CCTV in market towns. Council considered these requests but resolved not to contribute.  
**To approve any payments due** - None
7. **Planning**  
**To consider any new Planning Applications** . None  
**To note any Local Planning Authority decisions** - None  
**Application 1100849FUL**, Erection of dwelling to rear of 33 Thrapston Road . to note an appeal against failure of the LPA to give notice of its decision within the appropriate period will be decided by the Planning Inspectorate following an exchange of statements. Council considered that as the application was unchanged its original comments to the LPA should not be modified.  
**Latest position of (part retrospective) application 1101444FUL**, 4 houses currently being built adjacent 33 Thrapston Road . it was noted that this application, regarding which the Parish Council has responded to consultations at the last two meetings, remains undetermined by the LPA.
8. **Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012**  
**Making Spaldwick Bloom** . It was noted that Cllr Johnson & Leach are proposing that the raised planting box on the Village Green should be placed around the base of the Village Sign. Council confirmed its agreement. It is understood that Cllr Johnson is unable to undertake the work on the boxes for a few weeks hence Cllr Leach is now planning to start the planting with Winter Pansies instead of Spring Bulbs.  
**Other commemorative possibilities**  
1. Parish booklet with input from all sections of the village with current and historic features . Council received a report from Stuart Dixon proposing that this project be dropped on the grounds that a small booklet would not do justice to the wealth of information there is going back over many years. He also believes the cost of producing a booklet would be prohibitive.

An A5 booklet of about 50 pages, black and white with perhaps some colour, stapled or stitched would cost £775 + VAT.

He would like, at some future time however, to bring Miss Davis's book up-to-date by re-formatting and amending it, but this is not something that can be done without certain permissions, particularly of the present guardian of the original documents. At the very least he would hope to be able to digitise the papers so as to safeguard them.

Instead of a booklet to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, he suggested a souvenir tea towel could be produced with drawings / sketches of the Church, the Old Forge and some of the listed buildings on the High Street. His draft proposal was tabled for comment. This was favourably received by the meeting, with the additional comment that it should include reference to it being to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.

As the idea originated in a discussion about funding the church's intention of installing a water supply to enable the building of toilets and a small kitchen area, Stuart suggested that any profits should go to this project.

Council considered the report and agreed to drop the proposal for a booklet of Spaldwick's history, and to support the idea of a commemorative tea towel. The Clerk is to inform Stuart.

2. Bench on Belton's Hill . It was noted that the ROW Officer's opinion is that the best location is on the right hand (top) side of the byway a few metres past the post which closes the byway during the winter months.. The area is quite wide and would be out of the way of any vehicle using the byway or requiring access to adjoining fields, but it would need some work to clear a patch and lower the ground level a little to improve the access.

Council agreed to this proposal and asked the Clerk to obtain the necessary approvals for its location and to obtain separate costs of procuring a three seater bench with arms and installing it on site.

3. Definition of Village Walks . John & Chris Saynor's proposal to produce a leaflet showing several circular walks starting from the centre of the village was favourably received by the meeting. However their proposal to house them in a dispenser at a central point was considered unnecessary. Instead it was suggested that the leaflets could be made available in the Shop and in The George. The Clerk is to ask Mr & Mrs Saynor to advise the estimated cost of the leaflets.

4. Planting trees in bulk or individually - no suggestions for locations having been received, this proposal is to be dropped.

## 9. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets

**War Memorial** . a second quotation has been received and both proposals have been discussed with the War Memorials Trust. A third quotation is being sought prior to submission of a grant application. It is expected that this will be available in 2/3 weeks.

**Trees on Village Green** . It was noted that Brian Ogden, HDC Arboricultural Officer had met with the Clerk and Cllr Johnson on 10 November, when he strongly recommended that the tree in the worst condition be felled now and a replacement planted in the same location. He pointed out that there is a variety of Horse Chestnut which might be used as it is immune from the current problem. It was resolved to accept his recommendation to fell tree T1 and reduce the crowns of the other two by 25%, removing the dead wood and to plant a replacement. The Clerk reported that he has received three quotes for the work to the existing trees and is expecting a fourth. He will now approach Bridget Halford, HDC Parish Planting Officer, with a view to obtaining a reasonably sized replacement for the felled tree. It was agreed to defer a decision regarding the placement of purchase order(s) until the next meeting.

**Hand Hearse (Bier)** . It was noted that it still has not been possible to find anyone interested in refurbishing the bier and that the Church is unlikely to be willing to have it in their building. It is understood that Cllrs Leach and Johnson are proposing that a working party should clean up and carry out minor repairs to the hut, and that the bier should continue to be stored there with the wheels raised from the floor to minimise further deterioration until such time as a more suitable location is found. In their absence it was resolved to defer discussion to a later meeting.

**Children's play area** . Council considered what action to take regarding two trip hazards; loose edge stone on safety surface of large swing and uneven paving stones on entry path. It was agreed that Wicksteed be asked to quote for this work to be carried out when the gaps in the safety surface are repaired.

#### 10. Highway warden appointment

The appointment of David Stowell as Spaldwick volunteer highway warden until the next Annual Council meeting in 2012 was confirmed. Any complaints regarding the condition of the streets and the adjoining footways including flooding due to blocked gullies can continue to be routed through him. He will liaise closely with the local Highways Engineer and will monitor all reports received by CCC.

#### 11. Correspondence

**Textile and Paper recycling banks** . HDC will be removing all existing paper banks during November as the tonnage is so low that it is no longer economically viable. They can provide a textile and shoe bank which will produce an income for the Parish of £150 per tonne of materials deposited. The Parish Council considered having a bank, but resolved not to do so in order to avoid competing with the scheme run by Spaldwick School.

**Jigsaw Cambridgeshire** – this is a new project aimed at supporting existing local history and archaeology groups and creating new ones. The council is asked to pass this information to anyone who would be interested. The letter has been posted on the notice boards.

**Proposed parking restrictions outside Spaldwick School** - The Safer Routes to School Project Officer emailed the Clerk on 20 October advising of a scheme to apply yellow zigzag markings outside the school and stating that if no comments were received by 9 November they would assume that it had Parish Council support. The tight timescale is to enable the work to be done while the budget is still available, but an extension to 18 November was agreed to allow it to be discussed at the Parish Council meeting. The school governors have subsequently written to residents and others inviting comments by the revised date. Notices have been displayed on the notice boards inviting any objectors to inform the Parish Council prior to, or at, this meeting.

No objections having been received by the Parish Council from local residents, Council considered the proposal and resolved to support it. The Clerk will report the decision to the project officer.

**Winter gritting, Belton's Hill** . An email has been received from Barham & Woolley P C asking Spaldwick P C to consider placing a grit bin adjacent to the road at Belton's Hill. Council, continuing to be of the view that a grit bin is not the solution, resolved to repeat the request it made to CCC when the precautionary gritting schedule for this coming winter was being formulated i.e. that Belton's Hill and Woolley Hill should be included. It was agreed to send this reply to Barham & Woolley P C with the suggestion that they do likewise. The Clerk suggested that in the event that the schedule could not be amended perhaps a small gritter could be kept locally and towed by a 4WD vehicle along the otherwise ungritted roads when frost was forecast. Although this raised the question of who would do this, the Clerk will investigate the possibility.

**Crossing Stow Road from Bury Close to Royston Avenue** . An email has been received from a local resident asking whether the Parish Council has any plans to consider traffic calming measures between Ferriman Road and Royston Avenue. She pointed out that it is relatively easy to cross from Royston Avenue but to cross from Bury Close to Royston Avenue is more difficult due to the reduced visibility coupled with the excessive speed of some vehicles including vans and lorries. It was resolved to pass this message to CCC Highways and to ask for their recommendations as to how this problem might be mitigated. The Clerk will discuss with David Henrick the possibility of carrying out more Speedwatch checks.

**12. Any other business**

**Preparing Village Green for Remembrance Day Service** . It was resolved to record the thanks of the Council to Richard Johnson and Chris Goddard for raking up the remaining debris which had fallen from the trees.

**Planting of crocus bulbs donated by Kimbolton Rotary Club** . It was resolved to record the thanks of the Council to Shonah and Tony Wakefield for planting the bulbs in two groups on the green in front of the Manor House.

**13. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 15 December, in Spaldwick School Community Room commencing at 8 pm

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