

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 19 July 2012 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Leach, Smith and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell)

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer, Johnson, Rice and Wakefield

2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item . none declared.

3. **Public Open Forum** . not required; no public present.

4. **Minutes of Meeting held 21 June 2012** were approved and signed.

5. **Matters arising from minutes**

Gas for Spaldwick . the expressions of interest have now risen to 11. The Clerk will pass this information to National Grid Gas and obtain their comments on the possibility of providing a gas supply in Spaldwick and how much it might cost.

Footpath12 (opposite the petrol station) . this path is still virtually impassable. The Clerk will follow up on action proposed by ROW Officer.

6. **Finance**

Quarterly Budget Review

The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 June 2012 and the bank reconciliation at 30 June. 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:

100516 Fergusons, grass cutting, £1697.76 (inc £282.96 VAT)

100517 E G Leach, Brass plate for bier £30.00 inc £5.00 VAT and Compost & plants for village planting, £31.94 inc £5.32 VAT. Total £61.94 inc £10.32 VAT

100518 Spaldwick School, Room Hire, Apr . Jul, £66.00

100519 Sid Wheeler, Framing pictures of Bier refurbishment, £32.00

Insurance of assets . it was agreed that the two new planters be added to the asset register and insured for £250 each. The Clerk reported that the insured value of the Bier had been increased from £132 to £1400. It was agreed that this would be reviewed based on information available on similar items in other villages.

7. **Planning**

It was noted that the following 2 Planning Applications had been processed ex meeting due to urgency following consultation with 4 councillors

1200854FUL, Rear conservatory, 6 Ferriman Road

The possible adverse effect of the proposed conservatory on the attached property 8 Ferriman Road was considered but, on ascertaining that there is an existing conservatory at no. 8 (not shown on the plans) with only high small windows facing no. 6, HDC were advised that the Parish Council recommends approval as the proposal will have no adverse effect on the street scene or on neighbouring properties.

1200876FUL, Side and rear 2 storey extension, 8 Ferriman Road

It was noted that the proposed extension has been revised from that submitted on Application 1200184FUL to make it subservient to the existing building. HDC were advised that the revised design, having no adverse effect on the street scene or on surrounding properties, the Parish Council recommends approval of this application.

To consider new Planning Applications if any . none

The following Local Planning Authority decisions / reports were noted:

1200602LBC, Remove peg tiles, inspect and repair roof timbers and replace peg tiles. Strip render, repair timber frame and re-instate with lime render. Internal and external alterations. Hazel Cottage, 18 Thrapston Road.- **Consent** granted.

1200767FUL, Erection of a detached two-storey dwelling house and attached garage, Land at 19 Littlecotes Close. . **Withdrawn**

1200929FUL, Amended scheme of PP 1102132FUL, rear roof raised & change of window, 32 Ferriman Road . **Permission granted**

1200854FUL, Rear conservatory, 6 Ferriman Road . **Permission granted**

- 8. Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012** . progress reports
1. Making Spaldwick Bloom . Cllr Leach reported that he is currently watering the two planters. He expects that the Gardening Club will ultimately take responsibility for planting and watering. It was resolved to record thanks to Richard Johnson for making such a good job of constructing the planters which now surround the Village Sign and the Jubilee plaques.
 2. Bench on Belton's Hill . nothing to report
 3. Tree adjacent to bench at Belton's Hill . nothing to report
 4. Jubilee mugs . it was noted that the 200 purchased had been disposed of as follows:119 given free to children, 45 sold at £5 each on behalf of Spaldwick Social Group, 34 to be sold at the Village Shop on behalf of Spaldwick Social Group, 2 broken on receipt from supplier.
- 9. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets**
- Trees on Village Green** . awaiting information from other arborists.
- Trees / shrubs, Ferriman Road public open space** . Cllr Plummer reported that, having looked at the problem Rhus tree to the rear of 40 Ferriman Road, he is of the opinion that it is necessary to remove the tree and kill the roots but the quoted price of £310 is excessive. Following discussion, it was agreed to form a working party to carry out the work.
- War Memorial refurbishment** . application for funding proceeding.
- Village sign refurbishment** . still in progress
- Trees on roadside verges** . Cllr Smith reported that he will be assisting Cllr Johnson shortly in pruning the trees on the Stow Road verge adjacent to Bury Close. He agreed that they would also look at pruning the large tree outside The Limes, High Street.
- 10. Code of Conduct and Register of Interests**
- Alternative proposals for a new Code of Conduct based on templates produced by HDC and NALC had been circulated prior to the meeting, with a recommendation from the Clerk and CAPALC that the HDC proposal be adopted. It was resolved that the Code based on the HDC model be adopted.
- It was noted that forms have been issued by HDC on which members are required to register their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. These must be completed and returned to the Clerk in time for him to send them to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of adoption of the Code i.e.by 16 August.
- 11. Correspondence**
- Protected Road Verge warden scheme** email 27/06/12
- Cambridgeshire County Council are setting up a Protected Verge Warden Scheme and invite a member of a local council to become Warden for the PRV in Stocking Lane. When discussed by Kimbolton & Stonely PC there was no volunteer forthcoming. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Spaldwick Clerk to see if anyone from Spaldwick would take on the role.
- Cllr Grahame Leach agreed to volunteer in his personal capacity to act as PRV Warden for this verge. The Clerk will advise CCC accordingly and point out that Spaldwick Parish Council cannot undertake to provide a successor if / when one is required.

Rights of Way Grass Cutting Update

CCC have advised that, in light of the recent very wet weather which has produced abnormal growth, the timing of the second grass cut of the public rights of way due to start this month has been deferred to Aug/Sept to give the most benefit, putting the paths into good shape for the rest of the year. It is appreciated this will leave many paths with tall and probably wet grass for more weeks than CCC would like and whilst this is not desirable, it is believed to be the more manageable option in the short term.

DCLG Consultation: Payments by parish and community councils and charter trustees

The Local Government Act 1972 S.150(5) states "Every cheque or other order for the payment of money by a parish or community council shall be signed by two members of the council". It is proposed that this be repealed so that the councils can adopt modern methods of payment and alternative means of control. Authoritative guidance on control systems will be provided by the sector. The bodies will be free to retain the two signature rule if they consider that appropriate.

It being felt that the current system of payment by cheques with two signatures is quite satisfactory, no formal response to the consultation was proposed.

12. Any other business

Proposed termination of tenancy of Town & Poors Charity Field

As sole trustee of the Charity, the Parish Council has been informed that the tenant, Edwards Bros (Spaldwick) Ltd, wishes to terminate its tenancy of the land after harvest next year. In the absence of any conflicting information relating to the tenancy, the agents (Robinson and Hall) have assumed that, as the rent is paid annually in March, it is a Lady Day tenancy and hence they will be serving notice to quit on behalf of their client by Lady Day 2014, unless the trustees wish to accept earlier termination after the 2013 harvest.

Council noted the situation and will at a later date consider the future use of the land.

Phone call from resident suggesting closure of byways due to damage caused by vehicles following the heavy rainfalls . The Clerk stated that he had put this suggestion to CCC, who subsequently confirmed that they are looking to close the byways to vehicles with more than two wheels from July 21 until conditions improve.

Grass verges, Ferriman Road / Royston Avenue – a resident reported that this week the grass verges had only been half cut. The Clerk advised him to report it to HDC who sent out an Inspector. He reported it to be acceptable. The Clerk then submitted a complaint on-line suggesting that it was not up to the normal standard and that a further strim might be useful.

Blocked drains . In response to a complaint from Cllr Leach regarding a blocked surface water drain by the Village Sign, the Clerk reported that he had already asked CCC Highways to clear that particular blocked gully and two others . Thrapston Road, adjacent to the milestone; and High Street, in edge of the kerb at entrance to Manor House farm yard. He agreed to follow up this request until satisfactory action has been taken.

Village Fête . despite the bad weather this was a great success thanks to the hard work of the Social Group to whom the Council extends its sincere congratulations.

Condition of Long Lane and Cockway Lane . during the recent prolonged wet weather both lanes became quagmires. The Clerk is to ask CCC whether they could spread some hardcore to improve the surface in future. The question of maintenance of the verges on these lanes is also to be raised again with CCC as they are becoming very overgrown.

13. Date of next meeting

As two members indicated that they would be unable to attend the next meeting scheduled for 13 September, it was agreed that the next ordinary meeting would be held on Thursday **20 September 2012** at 8 pm in Spaldwick School; Community Room

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm