

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 18 October 2012 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Leach, Rice, Smith, Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 1 member of the public (who left after item 3)

- 1. Apologies for absence –** Cllr Jackson-Rimmer
- 2. Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item . none declared.
- 3. Public Open Forum**  
Mark Sturdy spoke about the Escape Youth Group Committee's disappointment that their proposal for a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), put to the Parish Council in May had not progressed. Following a long discussion concerning a site, ownership, maintenance, usage and sources of funding the Chairman suggested that Escape should form a committee / steering group comprised of members of Escape, members of the Parish Council and volunteers who could be invited to join to consider all possibilities and recommend a way forward.
- 4. Minutes of Meeting held 20 September 2012 .** subject to the amendment of now received to not yet received in item 5, Protected Road Verge warden scheme, the minutes were approved and signed.
- 5. Matters arising from minutes**
  - Grass verge, Stow Road** - The Clerk has looked into the complaint about grass overgrowing the pavement outside a property in Stow Road. This appears to relate to the verge outside the property which the owner cuts. This verge has been in place for many years and the property owner has no intention of claiming possession despite the fence having been taken down. The Chairman confirmed that the grass is indeed overgrowing the pavement and suggested that it should be cut back. The Clerk was asked refer this to CCC Highways, whose responsibility it is considered to be.
  - Gas for Spaldwick .** No reply has been received from National Grid since they said that the matter was passed to the relevant department on 25 July.
  - Footpath12** (opposite the petrol station) . Mick Ager recently reported no success in getting the path across the field made good. Today Mick had raised the matter with the new Rights of Way Officer, who subsequently left a message on the farmer's answerphone asking him to mark the line of the footpath with tractor wheelings or similar and to advise him when the job has been completed.
  - Fly tipping** on the concrete road north of the A14 near to Barham Road. Following a visit by HDC's Enforcement Officer on 21 September the rubbish was immediately removed. He will discuss with the Clerk and the person who reported the incident initially, whether to investigate the source of rubbish and if confirmed to initiate any subsequent court action.
  - Dog fouling .** a further appeal was posted in the October Spaldwick News. HDC have been approached regarding the possibility of additional litter / dog bins being installed in Ferriman Road and High Street.
  - Condition of Long Lane & Cockway Lane .** nothing has been heard from CCC in response to the recent complaints made by Ian Hanks to CCC Highways and by the Clerk to County Cllr Viv McGuire until today when the ROW officer has asked for the name of the owner of the first section of Cockway Lane so that he can ask the person responsible for tipping a pile of earth over the culvert to remove it. It was agreed to respond that, this section of track being Highway, CCC is probably the owner; and that the Parish Council has no information as to who tipped the pile of earth.

**Living Sport** . due to the last date for receipt of nominations being 4th October the idea of putting a notice in Spaldwick News and on the website was dropped.

**Thrapston Road Archaeological Survey** – To date 24 tickets have been issued from the Shop for next Thursday's talk. The Clerk will contact Susan Clelland this weekend to ensure any required facilities are available. Cllr Plummer agreed to meet her on arrival.

## 6. Finance

**Q2 Quarterly Budget Review and bank reconciliation** - The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 September 2012 and the bank reconciliation at that date. After discussion of the statement, which had been inspected and approved by Cllr Smith prior to the meeting, it was resolved that it be accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.

**Annual donations** -.It was **resolved** to donate £435 (£1 per elector) to East Anglian Air Ambulance.

**The following payments were approved:**

100525 East Anglian Air Ambulance, £435.00

100526 E Leach, compost for village planting, £15.00

**It was noted that the Precept Request for 2013/14 has to be submitted by 21 December**

The Clerk will prepare a draft budget for consideration at the next meeting.

## 7. Planning

**New Planning Applications - none**

**Withdrawal of the following application was noted:**

**1201311FUL** Retrospective planning application for first floor balcony to the rear, 9 Ivy Way

The Planning Officer has advised the applicants that the Local Planning Authority would have grounds to refuse the application in terms of neighbour amenity and their loss of privacy and has made suggestions as to how the issue might be overcome.

The application has subsequently been withdrawn pending resubmission.

**Woolley Hill Wind Farm** . Cllr Jackson-Rimmer recently asked the Clerk to find out if there is any more information regarding the charity funding that RES will be making available to the villages surrounding the Woolley wind farm. The Clerk referred the question to Phil Briscoe who replied on behalf of RES as follows: "The Community Benefit Fund will become available soon after Woolley Hill Wind Farm becomes fully operational. More details regarding how the Fund will be administered and how local people can apply for funding will be announced in the coming months." Phil Briscoe has today confirmed that a meeting of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) will be called within the next few weeks. Nothing further will happen about publicising the fund arrangements before that meeting. In the event that 2 representatives from each of the local PC's are invited, as was the case at its foundation, it was **resolved** that Cllrs Leach and Plummer be the representatives.

Andy Moffat, HDC Planning Service Manager, has confirmed that his department has no influence over such funds provided by the owners of wind farms. The decisions to provide a fund and how to distribute it are made by the owners.

Cllr Leach spoke of his concern that RES are apparently proposing that applications from local organisations for funding will be made direct to them. He feels strongly that the money offered by the Community Benefit Fund should be distributed to the local Parish Councils who would invite and assess applications from organisations in their parish and make grants at their discretion. After discussion it was **resolved** that this stance is adopted by the Council in its negotiations.

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

1. Bench on Belton's Hill . the Clerk presented the installation proposal which he intends to send out with the Request for Quotation to three possible contractors. With the addition of some extra detail this was approved.

2. Tree adjacent to bench at Belton's Hill . Clerk will obtain recommendation from HDC.

3. Mugs . 7 mugs remaining unsold at the shop are being passed to the Spaldwick Social Group for disposal as they see fit.

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

**Trees on Village Green .** In response to the Clerk's request for help, Cllr Plummer agreed to take this matter forward from the point reached at the June meeting where it was decided to ask Bartlett's to respond to the unanswered question ~~what~~ what treatments, if any, do you anticipate being required annually and to seek additional quotations from other tree expert companies.

**Trees / shrubs pruning, Ferriman Road public open space –** the offending Rhus which was the subject of a complaint from the owner of 40 Ferriman Road has been cut back by Cllrs Plummer & Smith. Cllr Johnson has agreed to remove the pile of branches but is unable to access the site due to the absence of a key to the security post. The Clerk is trying to locate this, but if it cannot be found the lock can be removed and replaced by a new one.

**War Memorial refurbishment .** The Clerk will follow this up without further delay.

**Village sign refurbishment -** Trevor Cooper to be asked if he can complete this work soon..

**Tree pruning, Stow Road verge -** Cllrs Johnson & Smith will carry out the work shortly.

**The Limes, High Street .** no action necessary.

**10. To consider permanent site for the refurbished bier / hand hearse .** Cllrs Plummer & Johnson will examine the brick building in Church Lane and define what needs doing to make it more suitable for housing the bier without deterioration.

**11. New Parish Council website**

It was noted that Cllr Rice has updated the website and introduced some new features. The URL remains as [www.spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.spaldwickparishcouncil.org.uk) and will continue to display all the types of information previously provided. As a result of more procedures being viewable on the website the information available under the Model Publication Scheme+issued in December 2008 will need to be amended. This will be brought to the next meeting for formal adoption. Amongst the items to be published on the website is the Register of Pecuniary Interests (i.e. copies of the councillors' individual forms). These are now also published on the HDC website as required by the Localism Act 2011.

**12. Flood Asset Register for Cambridgeshire**

**To consider providing CCC with critical information regarding flood assets**

The Clerk has ascertained that the register will be in the form of a map, available to view on the My Maps section of the CCC website, which identifies the position of culverts, drains, gullies, ditches, siphons, inspection chambers (manholes), ordinary watercourses (open channels), gravity discharge outfalls, (flapped outfalls), raised flood embankments, flood walls, sluice gates, locks and reservoirs (balancing ponds).

Council, being of the opinion that this task is best dealt with by officers from the relevant agencies (Anglian Water, CCC Highways, and Alconbury & Ellington Internal Drainage Board), it was resolved to inform CCC that the Parish Council is unable to help in the initial survey but will be prepared to examine any draft of the register when available and identify possible errors or omissions.

**13. Correspondence**

**Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Outreach Councillor Training**

HABC is proposing to arrange CAPALC led Councillor Development sessions of 2-2.5 hours each, in January/February 2013. Costs will depend on numbers attending.

Session 1: Meetings, Meeting Procedures & Code of Conduct

Session 2: Budgets, Precepts, Statutory Powers & Standing Orders

Session 3: Planning, Section 106 Agreements, & Risk Management

Cllr Rice expressed an interest in attending sessions 1 & 2 and, if not too costly, session 1.

Other members were asked to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend any sessions.

**Standards and Conduct Training** . Colin Meadowcroft, HDC Monitoring Officer invited the Clerk & Councillors to attend one of the training sessions, those remaining being Tuesday 23 October and Wednesday 7 November. Members to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend.

**Local Highway Improvement initiative**

Cambridgeshire County Council is finalising the details of this year's invitation for proposals and will be issuing application forms and guidance on how to submit bids next week. The closing date for receipt of bids will be 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012. The Clerk was asked to publish this information in the village media and invite suggestions from the public.

**14. Volunteer Winter Gritting Scheme** . The Clerk was asked to publish details of the scheme in the village media and invite volunteers to consider taking part. In addition, if there are areas of the village where residents would like grit bins to be located they will be asked to inform the Clerk accordingly.

**15. It was resolved to exclude the public during consideration of the following matter as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to its confidential nature.**

Matters relating to the letting of the Town & Poors Charity's field were discussed. It was agreed that the method for applying to rent the field will be advertised locally.

**16. Any other business**

**Footpaths 8 & 10**

A complaint regarding the condition of these footpaths across the field incorporating the Chandlers housing development was noted. The Clerk mentioned this to Mick Ager, but at the time Mick did not consider it warranted any action.

**Speedwatch** - The Clerk reported that the existing Speedwatch volunteers intend to carry out a few sessions in the near future. As more volunteers would be helpful, a note to this effect this will be publicised in the village media.

**Gate into Bury Close, opposite Royston Avenue** - Cllr Jackson-Rimmer has today reported that this gate is badly overgrown with brambles and could do with a bit of a trim. The Clerk agreed to deal with the problem.

**Footway / cycleway along A14 to Easton** – On 22 August, the Clerk reported to the Highways Agency that the section which runs alongside the westbound off slip road at junction 18 of the A14 was between a half and a third overgrown with brambles etc. These have subsequently been cut back. Cllr Rice said that the section alongside the A14 all the way to Easton is badly overgrown. The Clerk will investigate and take appropriate action.

**Refurbishment of old notice board** . Eddie Roughsedge has informed the Chairman that the work carried out by his son is now complete and has kindly offered to return it to the Parish Council. Members were asked to consider where it should be sited.

**17. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 15 November 2012 at 8 pm in Spaldwick School, Community Room.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm