

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 15 November 2012 in the Library at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Leach, Rice, Smith, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 5 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Johnson and Wakefield, both due to illness
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item . none declared.
3. **Public Open Forum** . no matters raised
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 18 October 2012** were approved and signed.

5. **Matters arising from minutes**

Dog fouling . HDC have been approached regarding the possibility of additional litter / dog bins being installed in Ferriman Road and High Street. A reply was received on 29 October stating that the request for litter bins has gone to the street cleansing team to monitor and make a decision. This will be over a period of approximately 8 weeks

A number of small white bags containing dog dirt have recently been found in Long Lane and adjoining fields, which are offensive to the public and potentially dangerous to inquisitive children. It is proposed to post an item on the village website regarding this matter.

Refurbishment of old notice board . The Chairman reported that he has now taken possession of the board following its excellent refurbishment by Nathan Roughsedge. He is awaiting advice from Cllr Johnson as to how it should be mounted, after which a decision can be made regarding its future location.

6. **Finance**

The following payments were approved:

100527 F D Stowell . reimbursement of travel expenses paid to Susan Clelland re Archaeology talk, £45.00

100528 E G Leach . bulbs for planters, £4.00

Maintenance of Street Lighting . The Clerk reported that he had asked Balfour Beatty why we had not received an invoice from them since September 2011 when it was resolved to accept option 1 of the proposed contract at £20.05 for the period 1 July 2011 to 1 July 2012. It seems that the contract was not received by BB and they let the matter drop. They now offer a three year contract at an annual charge of £20.85 to June 2013, and increased thereafter at the rate of RPIX. It was resolved that this 3 year contract be accepted.

7. **Planning**

New Planning Applications

1201639FUL - Single storey rear extension and demolition of existing garage, 4 Mount Pleasant. It was resolved to recommend **approval** as the development is in keeping with other properties in the area and would have no adverse effect on the street scene or on neighbouring properties.

1201651FUL - Replacement of existing building to create take-away and drive-thru restaurant; increased parking; and removal of HGV pump island etc., Spaldwick Service Area, High Street. It was noted that this will be the subject of a Special Meeting on 22 November

Amended Planning Application

1201357FUL - Erection of a detached dwelling revised scheme, Land at 19 Littlecotes Close. Amended drawings received from HDC since refusal was recommended at the

meeting on 20 September were tabled. It was also noted that several letters of objection regarding these amendments had been sent to HDC and copied to the Parish Council. Members of the public present also expressed opposition to the amended drawings which were not considered to obviate their original comments.

Following discussion it was resolved to inform HDC that the amendments do not materially alter the reasons why it was decided to recommend refusal of the initial application on the grounds that the site is too small to accommodate the proposed dwelling which would be out of keeping with the existing spacious layout of the Close; and that the Parish Council would prefer to see this site remain unaltered as it provides an attractive open aspect in the approach to Littlecotes Close from the adjacent Conservation Area.

To note Local Planning Authority decisions / reports . none received.

Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG)

The Chairman gave the following report of a meeting held 13th November 2012 which was also attended by Cllr Leach:

1. The CLG provides a forum for the exchange of information regarding the preparation, construction and operation of the Woolley Hill Wind Farm being developed by RES.
2. Membership - The group comprises representatives of RES, two Councillors from each of the Parishes in the area, HDC and CCC Councillors and Shailesh Vara MP for NW Cambridgeshire. The public are invited to attend meetings as observers.
3. Dissemination of information will be via the RES Project website www.woolleywindfarm.co.uk and through the Parish Clerk on the village website, notice boards and newsletter.
4. Provisional Timescale - Consent was given March 2012; Work starts April 2013 with the first visible signs being delivery of aggregate, cranes, and trenching; Turbines to be delivered January 2014; Operations start March 2014.
5. Community Benefit Fund - Available from start of operations. £18400 per annum shared by local community. To be administered by an independent agency. Details of the procedures are to be provided at the next meeting in February 2013.

8. Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012 – progress reports

1. Bench on Belton Hill . one quote recd to date, others awaited.
2. Tree adjacent to bench at Belton Hill . no progress reported

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

Trees on Village Green . no progress in obtaining alternative proposals.

Trees / shrubs pruning, Ferriman Road public open space . the heap of branches is still to be removed.

Children's play area - A member of the public having reported that some shrub branches were very close to a swing and needed pruning, Cllr Rice agreed to cut them back at the weekend.

War Memorial refurbishment – Clerk to progress.

Village sign refurbishment . The Chairman will speak to Trevor Cooper about completing the work.

Tree pruning, Stow Road verge . Cllrs Johnson & Smith will do the work when both have time available.

Brick building in Church Lane . No report was available as Cllrs Johnson & Plummer had been unable to carry out an inspection. As he considered that the bier needed to be moved from Mr and Mrs Smith's premises as quickly as possible, Cllr Leach offered to take responsibility for progressing the roof refurbishment. This offer was accepted by the meeting.

Milestone on Thrapston Road Green . Cllr Leach reported that there is a black line along one edge which suggests that a vehicle tyre has been in contact. Various possibilities for protecting the stone from damage were discussed (e.g. 4 small posts at the corners; a larger area of gravel around the base). It was decided to take no action at this time other than to ask Fergusons to ensure that the grass mowers take care not to damage the milestone

10. Footpaths, byways etc.

Footpath 12 . It was noted that an email had been received from 2 members of the public complaining that this path is still not passable and asking the Parish Council to take a more robust approach. With this possibility in mind the Clerk said his understanding of the legal position is that the farmer should flatten a path 1 metre wide along the correct line, or failing that the County Council could get the work done at the farmer's expense.

Mick Ager, the Parish Paths coordinator, reported on 10/11: "The farmer has now marked the line with his Quad bike so no action needed. I will keep an eye on the FP and if the farmer ploughs the field or the line gets washed away I will let you know". It was agreed to leave the matter in his hands for the time being.

Condition of Long Lane & Cockway Lane . It was noted that there had been no response from the County Council officers and/or councillor to the Parish Council's concern at the lack of maintenance of the verges and the surface of these lanes. The Clerk reported that he had emailed County Councillor Viv McGuire on 9 November pointing out that the Parish Council is waiting to hear whether anything can be done at County level to deal with the matters raised in his email of September 14. No reply has been received from Councillor McGuire, nor has Ian Hanks received any response to his complaint sent to a County Council Officer.

Footpaths 8 & 10 adjacent to Chandlers . It was noted that the garden behind no.6 Chandlers has now been fenced off, with FP10 running alongside the fence at the south end; and that the condition of both paths north of the churchyard is now acceptable.

11. Amendments to the documents / procedures

Information available under the Model Publication Scheme . It was resolved to adopt Version 2 with immediate effect, incorporating amendments to show information which is now available on the Parish Council website and was previously available only in hard copy.

Complaints Procedure . It was resolved to adopt Version 2 with immediate effect, to take account of replacement of the 2007 Code of Conduct by the 2012 version.

12. Local Highway Improvement Scheme . It was noted that no requests had been received following the item posted in the November edition of Spaldwick News. In the absence of any other proposals, the Clerk was asked to investigate whether improvements to Long Lane might qualify for funding and, if so, to draft a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

13. Winter gritting

Pavements . It was noted that there had been no response to the item in Spaldwick News regarding volunteering to spread grit on local pavements, or requesting any additional bins.

Highways . to note that CCC has considered all requests for additional routes to be covered by the precautionary gritting scheme. Our request (including Belton's Hill) was turned down because it does not fall within the specified parameters. (5 scheduled buses per week). It was resolved that the Clerk should ask CCC to review the criteria to take account of school buses and steep hills.

14. Speedwatch . it was noted that there has been no response to date for volunteers to assist the current team of three, who have run 2 sessions this week with another 2 planned.

15. Complaint . The Clerk reported that he had received a letter on 26 October from 2 members of the public regarding the lack of progress in resolving the problem with Footpath 12, and querying why item 15 on the agenda of the October meeting was considered to be confidential. This said: "The Parish Council is elected to serve the public in an open manner and not behind closed doors". As the complaint related to council administration and procedures, it was dealt with by the Clerk who replied on 29 October explaining the current situation regarding the footpath and the legality of the confidential session. Subsequently

they acknowledged receipt of the letter in the email referred to in item 10 above. Council noted and accepted that the complaint had been adequately dealt with.

16. Correspondence

Milestone (10 Thrapston, 7 Huntingdon)

English Heritage has reported receipt of an application to amend the entry for this milestone on the Listed Building Register ref: 1130164 . no details given but it could relate to the new location. They state that following internal discussions they will also need to consider whether in fact the milestone should be retained on the List. As the Parish Council is invited to provide information or comments about the architectural or historic interest of the structure at this stage, the Clerk was asked to reply to the effect that the milestone is now an important village feature which we wish to retain on the List

Shape your Place . Following a brief report by the Clerk regarding this scheme, it was resolved not to encourage local participation as the Parish Council currently deals with problems affecting the village and passes them on to the appropriate body for action where it cannot resolve them itself.

HDC Consultation on Revision to Wind Power SPD . Following complaints about the 2006 Supplementary Planning Document relating to Wind Turbines, HDC has produced a draft revision which will be available on their website for consultation from 16 Nov to 4 Jan, via the link <http://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/portal/pp/spd/windspd> Councillors were asked to examine the draft document with a view to comments being submitted individually or jointly in due course.

17. Any other business

Dog walking without a lead . a concerned resident has pointed out that there are several residents that continually walk their dogs through the village off the lead by the side of what are busy roads, and has queried who should be enforcing this in the Village. The Clerk was asked to advise them to contact the HDC Animal Welfare Officer / Dog Warden direct.

Thanks to Susan Clelland . The Chairman said he would like to put on record that Ms Clelland's talk on October 25 regarding the archaeology dig at Thrapston Road was much appreciated by those who attended.

Ash tree dieback due to chalara . The Clerk reported that the current advice was that any sign of disease should be reported to DEFRA. The specific advice re leaves is to leave them where they are and then burn them. Do not add them to garden waste. If you are moving from an affected area then wash any boots.

Allotments . It was reported that some Gardening Club members have shown an interest in obtaining an allotment. Cllr Smith agreed to speak to the Club about the possibility.

18. Dates of coming meetings (to be held in Spaldwick School; Community Room)

Special Planning Meeting re proposed Service Area Development, Thursday 22 November at 8 pm . Subsequently cancelled due to withdrawal of Application 1201651FUL.

Next Ordinary Meeting, Thursday 13 December 2012 at 8 pm

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm