

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 13 December 2012 in the Library at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Rice and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 1 member of the public. (Mr Ian Hartwell)

1. **Apologies for absence** . Cllrs Smith (away), Leach (heavy cold), Jackson-Rimmer (unwell)
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item . none declared.
3. **Public Open Forum** . The Chairman, noting that Mr Hartwell was attending due to his interest in two matters in item 7 concerning 8 Thrapston Road, agreed that he would be invited to speak when these matters were discussed.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 15 November 2012** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes** - none

6. Finance

The following payments were approved:

100529 F D Stowell, Salary & Excs Sep-Dec, £435.97 (inc. £4.49 VAT)
 100530 HMRC, PAYE Sep-Dec, £91.80
 100531 Fergusons, grass cutting, £1257.12 (inc VAT)
 100532 SLCC, half membership fee, £43.00
 100533 CCC, street light energy, £21.73 (no VAT)
 100534 Spaldwick School, room rental, £54.00
 100535 Spaldwick PCC, grass cutting churchyard, £752.00.
 100536 Cambs Acre, membership fee for 5 years £120.00
 100537 Cash for Christmas Charity, £120.00

NB The payment to the PCC was for the cost of grass cutting minus the income from the Garden Fund. The main reason for the increase from last year's payment of £540 was that the number of cuts was increased from 9 to 13 due to increased growth. The PCC will be advised that the recent annual payments for the full amount of the net cost should not be regarded as setting the level of future payments.

Budget and Precept for 2013/14

The Clerk tabled a review of receipts and payments to date together with an estimate of the position at 31 March 2013. He also presented a draft budget for 2013/14 for consideration which would require a precept of £10,000 from the District Council. Following discussion it was resolved that this budget be adopted and HDC advised that it is currently envisaged that the precept will be set at £10,000, pending confirmation of the resulting level of Council Tax. It is anticipated that this information will be available in time for the Budget and Precept to be confirmed at the next meeting.

7. Planning

The following new Planning Application was discussed:

1201858FUL, Two storey rear extension and front and side porch, 8 Thrapston Road . it was resolved to **recommend approval**

At this point it was agreed to consider a letter from a resident of Littlecotes Close re Application 1200052FUL, (Erection of one 2 bedroom dwelling, demolition of garage, outbuilding and shed, Land at 8 Thrapston Road, Spaldwick). He expresses concern that the 2 bedroom property given planning permission has its entrance not in Thrapston Road but in Littlecotes Close where all the properties are 4 bedroom houses of spacious design. The Clerk was asked to respond pointing out that this planning application was considered by the

Parish Council at the meeting on March 22nd, which was also attended by 7 members of the public. It was at that meeting **resolved to recommend approval**, on the grounds that it would have no adverse effect on the conservation area, street scene or on surrounding properties and that it was considered to comply with relevant planning policies. Permission was granted by HDC on April 25th. Council remains of the opinion that it acted properly in this matter. The fact that the entrance to the proposed property would be in Littlecotes Close was clear from the plans submitted with the application and was not raised as an issue by anyone.

Mr Hartwell left the meeting at this point

Discussion of new planning applications then resumed.

It was resolved to submit the following responses to the Local Planning Authority

1201810TREE, Beech tree, lateral reduction of two branches and crown raised to 3 metres above ground level, 4 Pound Close - **No objection**

1201882NMA, Amendment to Planning Permission 1200876FUL to new obscure glazed window to side elevation at first floor, 8 Ferriman Road - **No objection**

1201881FUL, Extension to side of dwelling, 3 Mount Pleasant . SPC recommends **approval** as the proposal would have no adverse effect on the street scene or on neighbouring properties.

1201867FUL, Single storey side and rear extension, 3 Royston Avenue – SPC recommends **approval** as the proposal would have no adverse effect on the street scene or on neighbouring properties.

To note Local Planning Authority decisions / reports

1201651FUL relating to the A14 Spaldwick Service Area . withdrawn.

The following comments subsequently received from statutory consultees were noted
CCC Highways - The increase in possible vehicle movements would be modest because of the reduction in the number of pumps from 8 to 6, which can be a major vehicle movement generator within these sites. It is understood that there are some concerns regarding a possible increase in vehicle movements through the village and while this is something that should be discouraged if possible it is not at a level that the Highway Authority could object to. The provision of extra signage within the site indicating the route back to the A14 west bound would also minimise the amount of vehicles that may make this manoeuvre.

Environment Agency . EA objects to the proposed development as submitted because there is insufficient information to demonstrate that the risk of pollution to controlled waters is acceptable.

1201639FUL, Rear extension and demolition of existing garage, 4 Mount Pleasant, **Permission granted.**

8. **Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012** . progress reports
1. Bench on Beltonø Hill . CCC ROW Officer is of the opinion that this verge is not CCC property. On his recommendation this is being pursued with adjacent land owners.
 2. Tree adjacent to bench at Beltonø Hill . deferred pending clarification of land ownership.
9. **Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets** . progress reports
- Trees on Village Green** . Cllr Plummer is checking whether there is a safety hazard; how effective the suggested treatment is; and how frequently the treatment needs to be repeated. In the meantime it was agreed to defer any action until these matters have been clarified.
- Trees / shrubs pruning, Ferriman Road public open space** . the pile of branches remains to be removed.
- Children's play area inspection report** . Cllr Rice reported that all the equipment had passed a Visual Inspection carried out on Nov 17, and that he had trimmed some encroaching plants / shrubs around the site and removed the cuttings.
- War Memorial refurbishment** . Clerk to progress
- Village sign refurbishment** . Trevor Cooper has said he will complete the work in the Spring
- Tree pruning, Stow Road verge** . awaiting action by Cllrs Johnson & Smith

Notice board on Village Green . the Clerk reported difficulty in opening the doors due to the wood swelling. He will attempt to rectify.

Brick building in Church Lane . Cllrs Plummer and Johnson have examined the building and agreed what needs doing to make it fit to receive the bier.

Refurbished Notice Board . it was agreed to store it in the brick building when refurbished until such time as a new location has been found.

10. Footpaths, byways etc. To receive reports if any.

Footpath 15 - The CCC Rights of Way Officer reports that he has applied for permission from the Environment Agency to install a new pedestrian bridge on this footpath where it crosses the Ellington Brook. It will replace one that has been missing for some years, and is expected to be installed before the end of March.

Condition of Long Lane & Cockway Lane - No reply has been received from CCC.

11. Flooding . A report received from a local resident regarding the culvert under the road near Willow House states that the ditch from the bridge across the road near Willow House through to the A14 is terribly overgrown and, as far as is known, has never been cleared or dredged. The report also refers to the ditch water valve at the A14 which needs checking, as it is believed not to be working properly. This matter together with associated questions was referred by the Clerk to District Cllr Mike Baker on Nov 23. He has agreed to arrange a walk around the area shortly with the Clerk, Councillors and other interested persons to discuss these matters further.

During the recent heavy rain this ditch between the sheep field and the brook appeared to function satisfactorily allowing water to flow into the fields around Willow House when the brook rose and to flow back into the brook when its level fell. At the residents request HDC came out with sandbags at 1715 on the Sunday when the flooding was at its worst to help protect vulnerable parts of their property.

12. Correspondence

HGV Traffic through Spaldwick . a resident suggests that heavy traffic should be restricted during the night and that Williams Transport should be asked to route their vehicles wishing to travel east from their depot to use the Catworth fly-over to cross the A14. The Clerk is to recommend that the complainant notifies HDC Environmental Health of his concern that the noise and vibration caused by HGVs during the night is preventing some residents getting uninterrupted sleep. If confirming evidence could be obtained by HDC to support the complaint it may be possible to open negotiations for a time restriction on HGVs passing through the village.

Regarding the daytime routing of Williams Transport vehicles through Spaldwick, the Clerk is to reply that this was an arrangement with County Highways to which the Parish Council agreed and that there are no plans to reopen the matter at this time.

Draft SPD on Wind Energy . comments received from Colin Watters of Molesworth who asks for support by writing to HDC before the closing date, January 4th. His letter and the Clerk's comments are to be circulated to members.

13. Any other business . following a request from Cllr Rice that an earlier start to meetings (say 7 pm) be considered it was agreed to address the question at the next meeting.

14. Meeting dates 2013 . the following calendar was agreed (Thursdays 8 pm)
 January 17, February 21, March 21, April 25, May 9 (Annual Parish Meeting),
 May 23 (Annual Parish Council Meeting), June 20, July 18, September 12, October 17,
 November 14, December 12.

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