

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 13 November 2014 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Rice (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer, Leach and Plummer,
2. **Declarations of Interest**
It was noted that the recent declarations made by Councillors are now displayed on the HDC website.
There were no personal and/or prejudicial interests declared in any agenda item.
3. **Public Open Forum**
Several members of the public spoke of their dissatisfaction that no progress had been made by the Village Hall Management Committee in arranging an AGM. The response from the Chair of the Committee is reported at item 10 below.
4. **The Minutes of Meeting held 16 October 2014 were approved and signed**
5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda) - none**
6. **Finance**
It was noted that the Clerks pay would probably increase shortly.
Subject to acceptance by public sector unions, and agreement between NALC and SLCC, £9.30 would be payable in December 2014, followed by an increase from 1 January 2015 in the quarterly gross pay from £463.50 to £472.50
Payments - no invoices or other payments were presented for payment.
7. **Planning**
New applications - none received for comment
The following application determined by the Local Planning Authority was noted
1401408FUL, Conservatory to rear of 4 Stow Road, Spaldwick – **Permission granted**
8. **Assets – Provision / Maintenance**
War Memorial – The Clerk reported that he had made no progress recently on the refurbishment or duplication of inscriptions.
Footpath notice board – the proposal to locate this at the rear of the Parish Notice Board on the Village Green awaits investigation by Cllr Johnson.
Trees & hedges at Ferriman Road Public Open Space – two quotation(s) to reduce to fence height along the boundary to the rear of numbers 32-42 Ferriman Road were considered. Following discussion it was resolved to place an order for the work with Manor Farm Tree Services (J Steel) for a total of £370.
Trees on Village Green – Following his examination, Mr Steel reported that as the three trees are such a land mark in the village he feels that they should be given a chance. Although there are signs of canker he feels no immediate rush for them to be felled, but for safety reasons works should be undertaken to minimize risk of any limbs to fall. He recommended that the trees should be reduced by 30% and retaining a natural shape. His report was accompanied by a quotation for the work including chipping and removal from site of all arisings. It was resolved to defer making a decision on this matter pending receipt of further reports and quotations and any necessary planning approval.
Children’s Play Area Ferriman Road – The Clerk reported that the hedge cutting by Fergusons is still outstanding. He will chase them again to ensure early completion. A discussion with the contractor regarding any necessary rectification of the repairs to the safety tiles is still to take place.
Parish Planting Scheme – It was decided not to take up the offer for more trees.

Other Assets – no new problems were reported.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc. – The following updates were noted

Street Lighting PFI – High Street design details are still awaited.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15 – the kerb improvement near the High Street post box is still to be carried out; the project engineer is due to start design work on the Thrapston Road footway improvement scheme.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2015/16 – The bid for 2 flashing 30 mph signs was considered by the review panel on 7 November – a response is awaited.

Litter Bins – The Clerk reported that the questions of re-installing the bin at High Street / Long Lane and of providing an additional bin in Ferriman Road adjacent to the open space entrance were discussed with HDC on 21 October when it was agreed that they would have a look at the bin on the High Street. With regards to reconsidering the bin in Ferriman Road, it was pointed out that HDC will have to monitor the area for a time and take photos to determine the need for a bin and also look at access issues. If this reveals no need they suggested that the Parish Council could fund the bin but again HDC would have to agree on a suitable site.

During the discussion on this issue it was generally accepted that a survey accompanied by photos is unlikely to identify a need. The Clerk reported that he had asked HDC if, in the event that they would not fund a new bin but the Parish Council would be prepared to do so, would HDC be able to obtain and install the bin and, if so, at what cost? He had also suggested to HDC that whilst the Parish Council originally considered the best location to be between Nos. 32 and 34 Ferriman Road, it might be worth considering a site near the school entrance as this area does attract more litter. It was resolved to take no action until a response is received from HDC.

10. Village Hall – Cllr Rice, speaking as Chair of the Management Committee, confirmed that a General Meeting would be called as soon as he was in a position to report on the negotiations which had been taking place with HDC Planning, English Heritage and others regarding the proposed site.

11. Bus Service changes – Services currently operated by Whippet are still under review.

12. Water courses, drainage and flood risk measures – The following reports by the Clerk were noted:

A) Ditch adjacent to Willow House connecting sheep field to the Brook – The Clerk is arranging a meeting with Cllr Mike Baker and Mr & Mrs Wheeler to review the problem and clarify the action required.

B) Tree in Brook north of A14 crossing - The Clerk reported that he had discussed the matter with Environment Agency (Tom Flint incident 1288462), and will follow up shortly.

13. Correspondence

CCC Key Issues Briefing - October 2014 circulated by email 3 November

HDC Decision Digest - October 2014 circulated by email 3 November

Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire – A letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission letter was also circulated to members. Meetings to explain the review process to parish councils are being held at Fenland Hall, March, and at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne. It was decided not to participate in the discussions at this stage but to wait until draft proposals for changes to the areas covered by County Councillors are available.

14. AOB - Local Joint Committee meeting at The Civic Suite, Pathfinder House on Monday 24 November 2014, commencing at 7 pm. Cllr Smith agreed to attend with the Clerk.

15. Next Meeting – Thursday, 18 December 2014 at 8 pm

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm