

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer (Domestic), Leach (Sick) and Wakefield (Work)
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item . none
3. **Public Open Forum** . not held, no public present
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 16 January 2014** . were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)

ShapeYourSpace . Having noted this minute, Mark Heath emailed the Clerk to say that this was something that he and a number of people providing local village websites in the area have been bothered by; and to ask that his concerns regarding lack of consultation with providers of local village websites and the cost to the County Council in this era of budget restraint be escalated to the relevant authority. Following discussion it was resolved to pass his comments to the CCC Digital Engagement Manager with a copy to County Councillor Simon Bywater.

6. Finance

The following payment was approved:

100574 Mick Ager, 3 x A3 laminated footpath maps, £10.48 (inc. £1.74 VAT)

7. Planning

To consider any new Planning Application(s) and comment where appropriate . none.
To note any Local Planning Authority decisions / reports . none.

8. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

War Memorial Refurbishment . The Clerk reported that HDC had confirmed that the addition of plaques along the lines being considered would constitute permitted development and would not require a planning application. He tabled a photograph of a granite wedge similar to that being considered, along with a full size diagram illustrating the probable size of lettering. He also tabled a sample of quotes for recutting the existing inscriptions as compared with one quote for the plaques. It was agreed to obtain further quotes as soon as possible for both options to inform a decision.

Seat on Green . awaiting painting

Children's Play Area . In the absence of Cllr Leach, the Clerk reported that he and Cllr Leach had visited the Brampton play area where gaps between tiles were repaired by Terry Pond using wet pour 3 years ago. As Cllr Leach was not happy with the current appearance of these repairs the clerk attempted to locate identical work done by the other contractor but was unable to do so. The Clerk agreed that the cosmetic appearance could have been better, but expressed his opinion that the repairs removed the potential loose tile hazard. Following discussion it was resolved to place an Order with Mr Pond to glue down any loose tiles and infill the gaps between tiles with wet pour at the quoted price of £485.00 which includes the cost of materials.

Parish Council website . Cllr Rice reported that an Archive Minutes section has been added to the website. The Clerk has provided a memory stick containing the minutes for 2009 . 2013 which will be incorporated in the archive in the next few days.

Notice Board on Village Green. The Clerk reported that this board is currently out of use as he is unable to open the doors due to swelling exacerbated by the continued rainy spell. Cllr Johnson agreed to try to resolve the problem. He will also look at the possibility of fitting an internal backing board with a surface more suitable for drawing pins.

Village Sign. concern was expressed regarding the lack of progress in dealing with the gaps in the woodwork at the base of the sign. Cllr Johnson agreed to look into possible solutions and make a recommendation.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI. nothing to report

Village Grass Cutting. The costs for adding further areas to the contract are still awaited.

Flooding in Stow Road. the recent heavy rain coupled with two sections of drain being blocked has caused large volumes of surface water to flow down the side of the road from the Old Village Hall entrance down to and across Thrapston Road. Due to the flood water being clear as compared with the muddy water in the ditches and the brook, Anglian Water carried out a check and confirmed that no mains leakage was involved. County Highways were informed of the problem, but the local Highways Engineer has said that CCC is unable to carry out any further work until after April.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative. a response from CCC is expected in March.

CCC Winter Gritting Route Review. The Clerk reported further correspondence with CCC in which they stated that their records indicate that Ferriman Road is not used by commercial bus services more than the five times per week necessary for primary gritting route status, but if the Parish Council has evidence that this is not the case, he will pass this to his colleagues for investigation. The Clerk replied giving full details of the bus services using the Royston Avenue stop i.e. at least 18 a week.

CCC also stated that changes to the gritting route criteria were outside the scope of this most recent review. However Spaldwick's comments have been noted by the Network Manager and they will be fed into a forthcoming review of the whole gritting operation which will include looking at the criteria used to determine the routes.

Potential blocking of watercourses. The Clerk has initiated action to have removed some fallen trees in and around the section of drain between the flood field adjacent to Willow House and the Ellington Brook; and a group of self seeded trees in the Ellington Brook downstream of the bridge over the brook on the concrete road north of the A14.

The Clerk reported that these potential problems were discussed with Cllr Mike Baker who has brought them to the attention of the Internal Drainage Board. Having obtained the consent of the landowner, Cllr Baker will, with the aid of a team of volunteers, remove the fallen trees near Willow House in the next few weeks. The IDB has confirmed that the trees in the Brook are the responsibility of the Environment Agency; hence they will report the problem to EA for resolution.

Road surface in Royston Avenue. The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint regarding the bumpy road surface in Royston Avenue. It was resolved to note this complaint and to forward it to County Highways for comment.

Broken Railings over the brook (on concrete road, North side of the A14). the Clerk is to ascertain ownership and ask for repairs to be carried out.

10. Condition of the Manor Farmhouse 15 High Street

It was noted that the Clerk had received a query from a resident regarding the current status of this grade II listed building and what powers Parish and District Councils have to force people to keep such old buildings in an acceptable state, to which he had replied that only the District Council has powers regarding such matters. It was also noted that, following an incident involving a tile falling from the roof, the fence in front of the site has been moved out a further metre.

The Chairman reported that the HDC Conservation Officer is now working on the case and that no Parish Council involvement is necessary at this stage.

11. Bus Service changes . The meeting of the local working group due to be held on 26 February has been postponed until Wednesday 12 March, 7-9 pm at the Civic Suite, Huntingdon Town Hall. The Clerk will attend and report back.

12. Correspondence for information

First World War Centenary Project 2014 to 2018 - The Last Post, a mass participation music project for 300 communities announced by Eric Pickles . emailed to members.

CCC January Key Issues Update - received via Cllr Bywater & emailed to members.

CCC February Key Issues Update - received via Cllr Bywater & emailed to members.

13. Any other business

Sandbags for flood protection . following a suggestion from a member of the public the Clerk was asked to investigate the options for obtaining a supply of bags (filled or empty) to be kept in the village for emergency use.

Reverend Stephen Bowring - It was noted that Stephen would be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of the parishes of Spaldwick, Easton and Barham & Woolley at a service on Sunday 16th February at 4 pm in Spaldwick Church. The best wishes of the Council will be passed on to him.

14. Next Meeting . Thursday, 20 March 2014 at 8 pm