

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Annual Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 15 May 2014 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Johnson, Leach, Rice, Smith, and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell).

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllr Wakefield
2. **Election of Chairman and declaration of acceptance of office** - There being only one nomination, Cllr G Rice was elected unanimously. A declaration of acceptance to the office of Chairman of the Council was made and delivered by Cllr Rice and witnessed by the Clerk. From this point onwards Cllr Rice presided over the meeting.
3. **Registrations of financial and other interests or declarations of no change** - The six members present confirmed that their details in the Register of Interests held by the District Council remain unchanged. The Clerk will raise the question of any changes to their registrations with the absent Councillor outside the meeting.
4. **Other elections, appointments, responsibilities**  
**Vice Chairman** – Cllr Plummer was elected unanimously.  
**The following responsibilities were confirmed:** Playground Inspection – Cllr Rice; Finance monitoring – Cllr Smith; Tree Warden – Cllr Johnson; Parish Paths Co-ordinator – Mick Ager; Highways Warden – David Stowell; Representatives to Woolley Hill CLG – Cllrs Leach and Plummer; Representative to Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Plummer.
5. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item – none.
6. **Public Open Forum** – none.
7. **Minutes of Meeting held 24 April 2014** were confirmed and signed
8. **Matters arising from minutes** (not on the agenda)  
**Sandbags** – The Clerk reported that he had asked HDC for advice on the suggestion that the parish council holds a supply sandbags for emergency use – a reply is awaited.  
**Surface of Royston Ave** – The Clerk reported that the CCC Local Highways Supervisor has responded to the complaint about the bumpy surface and that his comments have been passed on to the complainant. These confirm that CCC is happy that the surface has done its job - sealed the road surface against the ingress of water and produced a skid resistant surface, and include the comment 'If the surface is a little undulating surely this is a good thing. It should keep vehicular speeds down especially in the close proximity of the school'.
9. **Finance - To approve any payments due** – none  
**Insurance** – the question of public liability insurance of the charity field is under discussion with Came & Co. They are considering whether this could be covered under the Parish Council policy.
10. **Planning**  
**The following new Planning Applications were considered**  
**1400718FUL** Single storey and two storey extension, new porch, alterations to front elevation and insertion of Velux roof lights, 54 Stow Road.  
 There being no objections to this proposal it was resolved to recommend approval  
**1400624FUL** Proposed conservatory to side/rear, 2 Burton Way.  
 There being no objections to this proposal it was resolved to recommend approval

**The following matters relating to applications pending decision by the Local Planning Authority were noted** – no response was deemed necessary.

**1301600FUL** 9–11 Thrapston Road – additional documents dated 04/02/14 have been added to the HDC website – these cover Permeable Block Paving of the entrance area,

**1400413FUL & 100414LBC** 27 High Street - Description changed to 'Replacement of clay roof, installation of velux window, rainwater goods', as like for like repairs to dormer window need neither planning permission or listed building consent.

**1400417FUL & 100418LBC** 27 High Street – Description changed to 'Part demolition of front boundary wall, build new boundary wall with timber gates to vehicle access' as removal of the yew tree needs neither planning permission or LBC. A further report by the HDC Landscape Officer accepts removal of the yew tree but suggests a condition relating to its replacement.

## 11. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets

**War Memorial renovation** – a reply is awaited in response to the Request for Quotation.

**Street Lighting PFI** – This is awaiting confirmation that Littlecotes Close will be included in the scheme despite a recent statement by Balfour Beatty to the contrary. The latest comment from BB received 13 May says that they will check the contractual position with Cambridgeshire County Council. The Clerk has pointed out that, in any event, it is important to consider the location of two of these lights when planning the scheme in Thrapston Road as No. 1 is outside 8 Thrapston Road and No 2 is outside 2 Littlecotes Close which faces Thrapston Road.

To date no residents have requested copies of the proposal summary which was referred to in the May Spaldwick News, and no comments have been received from residents. This is disappointing as comments have to be submitted to BB by 13 June if they are to be taken into account

**Children's Play Area** – Cllr Plummer reported that he had examined the safety surface repairs and agreed with the previous reports that they were unsatisfactory. Following discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should inform the contractor accordingly and ask to be notified as to how and when they propose to remedy the deficiencies.

## 12. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

**Village Grass Cutting additional areas** – It was noted that the Clerk had negotiated a reduction in Ferguson's original quotation to £40 per cut; and that following consultation with members by email this price was accepted. Council confirmed its acceptance of this action.

**Footpath Improvements** – It was noted that the stile at the southern end of footpath 17 which is one of the footpaths through the field south of the primary school has recently been replaced with a pedestrian gate; and that within the next 6 weeks or so four old footbridges north of the A14 are to be replaced. Three of these are on the path between the Ellington Brook and Belton's Hill and the last one is where the footpath divides and heads off towards Woolley.

**Local Highway Improvement Initiative** – The Project Engineer has been in contact to say he has returned from leave and is picking up the project again.

## 13. Correspondence

**Spaldwick School** – The Head has advised of several changes to be made in July to the furniture in the Community Room, including replacement of the low backed seating by stacking banquet style chairs.

**HDC** – Parish Councils are asked to publicise HDC's new policy to use their discretionary powers to award up to £1,000 retail rate relief to small retailers in the district. The Clerk agreed to inform The George, The Shop 'No12' and Spaldwick Service Station.

**Housing Related Support for Older People - Update for Parish Council Members** – circulated by email May 1.

**CCC Key Issues Briefing May 2014** – circulated by email May 10

**14. Any other business** – Cllr Smith expressed thanks to Cllr Plummer for all the work he had done during the last four years as Chairman of the Parish Council. These thanks were endorsed by the other members. In response, Cllr Plummer thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their support whilst he had been held that Office.

**15. Next Meeting** - Thursday 19 June 2014, 8 pm in the Community Room

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm