

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 11 September 2014 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Johnson, Leach and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllrs Plummer & Smith (returning from France), Rice (work commitment) and Jackson-Rimmer (sick). Consequent to the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, those present chose Cllr Leach to preside.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

- A) To declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in an agenda item - none
B) To receive any outstanding Declarations of Interest Forms - none

3. **Public Open Forum**

Mrs S Black expressed her thanks to the Parish Council and in particular Cllr Richard Johnson for pruning the trees on the Stow Road verge adjacent to Bury Close, and to David Stowell for keeping the village free of litter.

4. **Minutes of Meeting held 17 July 2014** were approved and signed

5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)** – Cllr Leach reported that he had not yet bubble wrapped the montage of pictures relating to the bier and place it in store with the bier, but would do so shortly.

6. **Finance**

The following payments were approved:

100594 CAPALC Clerk's Catch up Training Day at Bluntisham, 11 July, £25.00

100595 F D Stowell, Salary & Expenses, July – Sept 2014, £391.40

100596 HMRC, PAYE, £92.80

100597 Parish Online, Annual fee, £33.60 (inc.£5.60 VAT)

100598 Broker Network (Came & Co), Insurance renewal premium £428.03.

N.B. At no extra cost, the cover has been enhanced by including insurance should the Clerk be unable to work due to accidental bodily injury or illness (for a period longer than 14 days) and the council needs to employ a locum to cover the duties.

100599 A G Gardens, Tree pruning o/s 23 Stow Road, £100.00

100600 Transfer to Santander SPC Grounds Maintenance A/c, £1000

100601 Transfer to Santander SPC Reserve A/c, £1000

100602 R P Johnson, Seal & Heal paint for pruned trees, £13.98 (inc. £2.34 VAT)

Investment of Reserves

It was noted that Santander propose to treat the two Business Deposit Accounts as dormant from 22 September due to the absence of usage unless there is some transaction on each in the meantime. £1000 is therefore being transferred from Barclays to each of the two Santander Deposit Accounts. It was also noted that Santander Business Deposit Accounts are being changed automatically to Treasurers' Savings Accounts on 14 October 2014 with the interest rate increased from 0.1% to 0.5% per annum.

7. **Planning**

The Clerk's responses to 2 applications after consultation with members were ratified

1401163FUL, Single storey extension between existing dwelling and garage, Brook House, West Lodge Farm: Spaldwick Parish Council has "no observations in favour or against".

1401231FUL, Extension and alterations to create residential annexe, Coton Barn Farm.

Observations of Spaldwick Parish Council:

1. It was noted that the HDC Public Access Information System refers to the property as being in Ellington Parish. Since the last boundary change it has been in Spaldwick Parish.

2. The Planning Justification Report includes the statement “the property is located some distance from any public vantage point and views of the development will only be distant”. In fact Footpath 16 Spaldwick goes around the farm and hence the development may be visible from this path. It is however considered that any impact on views from the path would be insignificant.

3. Spaldwick Parish Council has no objections to the proposal and recommends approval.

Application referred to the Development Management Panel on 15 September.

1301639FUL - Erection of 4 dwellings with associated access, parking and turning areas and landscaping, land East of 5 to 17 Stow Road. This has been referred to the Panel as it is contrary to policy CS4 which states that development in smaller settlements of 3 or more dwellings should provide 40% affordable housing. The Officer’s report to the DMP notes that the Council’s developer contributions SPD states that in exceptional circumstances a developer can submit a viability report, and such contributions as affordable housing may be discounted; and that the viability report submitted by the developer has been reviewed by the Council’s independent consultants, and it is considered that the site would not be viable for the developer if a contribution to affordable housing were made.

The Officer’s report also notes that Spaldwick Parish Council recommends the application is approved, but this is subject to a numbers of issues being addressed. Whilst the report says that this is further considered in the body of the report under the relevant heading, the Clerk has been unable to find any evidence, and has asked the planning officer for her comments.

Application determined by the Local planning Authority (HDC)

1401163FUL, Single storey extension between existing dwelling and garage, Brook House, West Lodge Farm, Spaldwick – Permission granted.

Woolley Hill wind farm new delivery option and traffic management plan

It was noted that RES and the turbine manufacturer are confident that the components can be driven directly on to site for unloading, subject to some minor improvements to the junction with Grove Lane which are planned for w/c 15 and 22 September. This will obviate the need to close the slip road over a number of consecutive weekends in October to enable components to be parked up and lifted on to site. Turbine deliveries are due to start during week commencing Monday 6 October. The next Community Liaison Group Meeting will probably be held 22, 23, 29 or 30 September.

Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund – The following report from RES was noted:

The first meeting of the Community Fund panel is proposed for 6.30pm on Monday 24 November and will be held in one of the local village halls. It will look at the terms of reference for the panel and consider how the fund can be advertised locally.

The November meeting will set a date for the first grant decision making panel which will take place in April/May 2015 (subject to the wind farm construction timetable). Thereafter the panel will meet annually.

Spaldwick Parish Council is invited to:

- nominate a councillor or person to represent the Parish on the panel and who can attend the first meeting on Nov 24; and to
- advertise within the Parish to see if there are any residents that would like to hold one of two positions on the panel which are to be offered to residents.

It was resolved to nominate Cllr Plummer to represent the parish on the panel subject to confirmation that he is willing and able to attend.

8. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

War Memorial Refurbishment – Cllr Johnson will ask Sid Wheeler whether he would be prepared to produce a sketch of the proposal to assist in obtaining approval from the public and from regulatory authorities. The Clerk will seek further quotations for the refurbishment.

Footpath notice board – in view of the likelihood of work taking place on the Manor Farm House, it was suggested that a more suitable site would be back to back with the existing notice board on the Village Green. This practicality of this will be investigated and brought to the next meeting for further consideration.

Trees in Stow Road

A) Tree outside 23/23A – the work was carried out on September 4.

B) Trees on verge adjacent to Bury Close - Cllr Johnson with some initial assistance from Cllr Smith has started trimming work. To date he has taken away 15 truck loads of branches. Members expressed their thanks.

Trees & hedges at Ferriman Road Public Open Space and Children's Play Area – It was noted that a quotation of £200 had been received by Cllr Johnson to cut back overhanging branches at 32 Ferriman Road. Following discussion it was agreed to defer a decision and to obtain quotations for lopping the trees to fence height along the whole of the north side of the Ferriman Road open space.

Other Assets – there were no reports of any new problems.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI – It was noted that all the proposed work has been completed with the exception of High Street for which a plan is awaited.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15 – It was noted that the 30 mph roundels have been painted on the road surface adjacent to the signs indicating the start of the speed limit zone; that the kerb improvement near the High Street post box will be carried out shortly; and that the new project engineer is due to start design work shortly on the Thrapston Road footway improvement scheme.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2015/16 – The following proposals were discussed:

A) Flashing 30 mph signs; indicative cost £5500 per sign including UK Power Networks electrical connection. As the CCC funding contribution per applicant is limited to £10,000, it was resolved to drop the proposal for a sign in Thrapston Road and to proceed with a proposal for 2 signs to be located in High Street and Stow Road in locations to be chosen by CCC. The total cost would be £11000 and the PC contribution £1000.

B) 'No footway' signs between Pound Close and the bridge over the A14; indicative cost £400 per sign. It was resolved not to proceed further with this proposal.

10. Bus Service changes – The Clerk reported on the latest proposals which are:

A) to continue the existing Mon – Sat 07:50 service from Spaldwick via Stow Longa, Hinchingbrooke School and Hospital to Huntingdon Bus Station arriving at 08:50 with a return journey at 17:40 arriving Spaldwick at 18:35; and

B) to provide a Mon – Fri service at 10:50 from Spaldwick to Huntingdon arriving at 11:35 with a return journey at 13:45 arriving Spaldwick at 14:10. This will also operate on Saturdays if cost is within budget.

Services to other destinations such as Bedford, Kettering, Thrapston, Peterborough, St Ives or St Neots will be withdrawn.

All feedback from consultees will be collated after 30th September, when any issues raised will be considered. No changes will take place until this process is concluded.

11. Village Grass Cutting

It was agreed to further defer any action to widen the area of mown verge in Stow Road on the Bury Close boundary pending the outcome of a proposal by Cllr Johnson to approach a resident with the necessary equipment who may be willing to cut back the overgrowing hedge first.

12. Water courses, drainage and flood risk measures – The Clerk reported as follows:

A) Ditch adjacent to Willow House connecting sheep field to the Brook – Cllr Mike Baker and his team attended the site in mid August but were unable to ascertain the problem and neither the Clerk nor Mr Wheeler could be contacted at the time. He has since explained this to the Clerk who has passed the information on to the Wheelers. Cllr Baker proposes to meet them in the near future to clarify the situation.

B) Tree in Brook north of A14 crossing – this problem was referred to the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) by Cllr Baker. As no action has yet been taken, he will ask the IDB to chase.

C) Provision of Sandbags - HDC have advised that as Spaldwick is not an area that has had a high rate of sandbags deployed in the past they would therefore not supply pre-filled or empty sandbags as a precautionary measure.

13. Correspondence

CCC Key Issues Briefing July 2014 circulated by email 18 July

CCC Key Issues Briefing September 2014 circulated by email 11 September

Cambs ACRE AGM etc 23 September invitation circulated by email 2 August

Parish Paths Networking, Huntingdonshire Area – a meeting is to be held at Brampton Memorial Hall, Wednesday 29th October from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. County Council Rights of Way and Definitive Map Officers will be in attendance to offer advice and assistance and identify practical ways in which CCC Officers and volunteers can work together to maintain and improve access to the countryside. Mick Ager is unable to attend. The question of whether another representative can attend was deferred to the next PC meeting.

Economy and Environment Committee 16th September – an email from Cllr Bywater to the convenor was discussed. Although unable to attend he asked the Committee to note the following issues being brought to his attention.

One is that when the A14 connection to Cambridge is undertaken they retrofit noise abatement measures along the villages impacted - namely Ellington and Spaldwick. Whilst Spaldwick is unlikely to be affected by the new road the meeting welcomed any move to improve noise abatement measures on the existing road.

The other issue would be to have a cycle path to connect Spaldwick with Easton, Ellington and Brampton, which already has one that links to Huntingdon. There being no cyclist present the meeting was unable to comment on the suitability of the existing links.

It was noted that District Councillor Darren Tysoe, Ellington Parish Clerk had responded that a cycle path and noise abatement would be useful benefits and a lasting legacy for residents of Ellington and other villages including Spaldwick.

Huntingdonshire Flood Forum, 7 pm Wednesday 19 November 2014, Pathfinder House, Name of attendee and/or questions required by 17 October. It was agreed to defer a response to the next PC meeting.

Email of thanks received by the Clerk from Mr & Mrs Dearman stated:

We wish to thank the Parish Council (particularly Richard) for the work carried out on the tree outside our house and number 23a. It had become at best a nuisance and at worst a hazard re driving. We are relieved.

We would also like to put on record our appreciation of the planting in the village and thanks to those involved in purchasing, planting and looking after the plants.

Today I saw you yourself, collecting other peoples' litter from the slip road to the A14. We know that you regularly "litter pick" throughout the village and your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Please ensure that Parish Council members are aware of our thanks

14. Any other business - none

15. Next Meeting – Thursday, 16 October 2014 at 8 pm

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