

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 15 January 2015 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs Rice (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Leach, Plummer, Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and 13 members of the public.

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr Jackson-Rimmer
2. **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr Johnson declared an interest as an involved contractor in item 7 Planning Application 1402142LBC
3. **Public Open Forum** – A member of the public said he had met with Greg Rice, the Chair of the Village Hall Committee for a discussion about the current situation and how it had arisen. This revealed that most of the present committee had not been made aware of the importance, until very recently, of the Charity's Governing Document which includes the procedure for the election of members of the committee who are the managing trustees of the charity. He said that he now understood that Mr Rice had subsequently resigned from the Committee, but pointed out that he would remain responsible for any actions he had taken whilst a trustee. In response to a question about the reason for discussions on a possible site being kept confidential, Mr Rice stated that the requirement was imposed by HDC. A current member of the Committee said that he and his fellow members had taken office in the belief that this was in order and in the interests of the village. They had acted with good faith but with little progress. A question was raised regarding the welfare of the horses in Bury Close. This was answered by another member of the public who stated that they were regularly fed and were well looked after.
4. **The Minutes of Meetings held 13 November and 18 December 2014 were approved without amendment.** In particular, it was unanimously agreed that the November minute regarding the Public Open Forum was satisfactory in its original form without further detail.
5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda) - none**
6. **Finance**  
**Quarterly Budget Review**  
The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 31 December 2014 and the bank reconciliation at 31 December which had been checked by Cllr Smith prior to the meeting. After discussion of the statement it was resolved that it be accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.  
**To approve any payments due - none**
7. **Planning**  
**The following application was considered**  
**1402142LBC - Replacement casement windows to dormers on east and west roof slopes, The Limes, 27 High Street.** N.B. Due to the late receipt from HDC and the small amount of detail involved, this application had not been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Following discussion it was resolved to respond that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposal and recommends approval. (Cllr Johnson, having declared an interest, took no part in this decision)  
**Other New Planning Applications received but not yet circulated**  
**1402064FUL & 1402065LBC,** Removal of window from 1980s kitchen extension and replace with French doors. Insert wood burning stove and replacement of window and door to garden studio, King's Croft, 16 High Street. As a reply is required by 4 February and cannot be

extended, it was resolved to delegate the decision to the Clerk following receipt of comments from members and from the public (if any).

**To note applications determined by the Local Planning Authority (if any) - none**

## 8. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

**War Memorial** – no progress reported on refurbishment or duplication of inscriptions

**Footpath notice board** – proposal to locate at rear of board on village green awaiting trial.

**Trees on Village Green** – four quotations received for removing dead wood and reducing canopy by 30% and for submitting prior notice of the work to HDC were tabled. Prices before addition of VAT (where applicable) were £1070, £725, £710 and £594. Following discussion it was resolved to accept the quotation of £725 + VAT from John Talbot of Cambridge Trees Ltd, Wyton-on-the-Hill, subject to his ability to commence the process immediately.

**Children’s Play Area, Hedge cutting.** Cllr Wakefield stated that in her opinion the work is not complete. The hedge has only been done as far as the end of the garage belonging to the house next to the play area. She proposed that the contractor is instructed to cut it down along the whole length to the lower height. The Clerk suggested that the owner of no 23, who had complained about the hedge, should be consulted to confirm that is what they really want. On being put to the vote, it was resolved unanimously to accept Cllr Wakefield’s proposal.

**Children’s Play Area, Safety surface repairs.** The Clerk’s action re the poor finish is outstanding.

**Bus Shelter, Royston Avenue.** Following the last meeting, details of the three shelters mentioned (installed prices £6380, £4975 & £2448) were circulated to councillors to enable an informed discussion to take place at this meeting. It appeared that the majority favoured one supplier on account of the price although the shelter was possibly too long and provided little protection from the weather. The Clerk therefore obtained a further quote from this supplier for a shorter, wider more enclosed shelter at £2630 which was presented to the meeting. Before a decision is made on the preferred design the clerk is to enquire whether one of the two openings could be at the rear to give access from the footway and whether more comfortable seating than the standard perch design is available. The meeting considered that the site at the existing bus stop sign in Royston Avenue is acceptable, subject to this continuing to be on the route of scheduled bus services when the contracts currently under discussion are placed, and to any necessary permission from the County and District authorities which will be sought when the position becomes clear.

**Other Assets** – nothing reported.

## 9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc. – to note the following updates

**Street Lighting PFI** – It was noted that an email was received from Balfour Beatty on December 24 apologising for the delay in completing the scheme; and an email from the Design Team on January 5 stating that High Street is not in the current programme so they won’t be designing it yet. BB have subsequently been asked when they expect it to be programmed. A reply is awaited.

**Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15** – It was noted that CCC has instructed the contractor to carry out the kerb improvement near the High Street post box; and that design work on the Thrapston Road footway improvement scheme is due to have started.

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

**Litter Bin at High Street/Long Lane** – awaiting re-installation by HDC

**Potholes outside Spaldwick Service Station** – awaiting action by CCC Highways.

**Winter Gritting** – The Clerk recently noticed that the published scheme does not include the Royston Avenue/Ferriman Road bus route as negotiated last winter, and has taken this up with the Network Manager, who has responded: ‘There will be no additions to or reduction of the gritting routes this season. I am able to add your request to the list of roads to be considered for addition to the gritting routes, this review will be done over the summer months’.

- 10. Village Hall** – Cllr Leach gave a report of the Village Hall Committee meeting held January 7, which he had chaired. It was attended by two other members of the existing committee, and two other parish councillors as observers. The members confirmed that they had not been given a copy of the trust deed on joining the committee. They had been sent copies by the previous Chairman in October, but with no suggestion that the committee was wrongly constituted. The committee agreed to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting at 7.30 pm February 9 at Spaldwick School to elect a new committee. This would be advertised widely, with nominations being invited by February 6.
- 11. Bus Service changes** – The ‘Final Options Feedback Report’ was received from the CCC team on December 24. This summarised the main issues raised from the consultation, and how they intend to respond to the issues. The Clerk had immediately responded that it was very disappointing that no Saturday Service is proposed for Services 400 and 401. He was under the impression that it had been intended to retain the 400 Service between Spaldwick and Huntingdon virtually unchanged (including Saturdays); and that Saturday operation of the new 401 service would be included as an option in the tender request.
- 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 met with the Internal Drainage Board Engineer and the Clerk on December 20. Having discussed the matter with Mr & Mrs Wheeler they looked at the water courses in the area and concluded that with the exception of part of the ditch opposite the old recycling bin site they are in good order. As this patch is very overgrown with brambles and other vegetation it was not possible to see the non-return valve which stops water flowing back towards the village. It was agreed to contact the Highways Agency to get the area cleared and to ensure the valve can function correctly. Cllr Baker subsequently wrote to all residents regarding this matter  
**B) Pond at 54 Stow Road** - The Clerk is trying to ascertain whether removal of the pond is likely to affect local water courses and increase the risk of flooding.
- 13. Correspondence**  
**The following were noted:**  
**HDC Decision Digest Nov 24 - Dec 17, 2014** - circulated by email 31 December  
**World War 2 commemoration** – CCC announce that grants of up to £500 are available for groups arranging events – details were circulated to members by email 6 January.  
**CCC Key Issues for November/December 2014** – circulated by email 12 January
- The following were noted and responses considered:**  
**Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036** – HDC have announced a Consultation on the current status continuing until 20 March targeted at all three council tiers. The Chairman, Clerk and one other councillor are invited to attend a seminar on either 26 January or 2 February – circulated by email 30 December, replies required by 16 January. The Clerk and Chairman confirmed that they will attend.  
**Royal Garden Party** - CAPALC is looking for nominations by 27 January, in recognition of past service, for this event at Buckingham Palace on 12 May. No nomination was proposed.  
**New Year 2016, Honours Nominations** – a letter from DCLG received via CAPALC invites nominations to be included for consideration in the New Year 2016 honours round. Citations are required by **Monday 9th March**. There was no immediate response. Members were asked to bring any nominations to the next ordinary meeting  
**Parish Polls, Consultation on the Government’s intentions to modernise parish poll regulations** – circulated by email 8 January, together with the Clerk’s observations. There being nothing further to add, these observations were accepted as reflecting the Council’s view.

**14. Any other business****Damaged crash barrier / bollards, Stow Road, adjacent to Upthorpe Farm entrance.**

The question was raised as to what action, if any, is being taken to repair the damage and make the area safe. The clerk will contact CCC.

**Woolley Hill Wind Farm** – Cllr Plummer reported as follows.

**Community Fund** - To be considered at the first panel meeting on April 13, applications for grants must be submitted with supporting information by 31 March. When a village organisation is considering making an application the first contact should be made with the Parish Council (via the Clerk).

**Local Energy Discount Scheme** - RES should by now have contacted the properties eligible for LEDS (those sited within 2km of the turbines).

- 15. 2015 Meeting schedule** – Spaldwick School has confirmed that all the dates proposed at last month's meeting have been booked with the exception of that on February 19 which clashes with half term, hence the following Thursday has been booked instead.

- 16. Next Meeting** 8 pm Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup> 2015

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm