

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 26 February 2015 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Rice (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Johnson, Leach, Plummer, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and three members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence – none received prior to the meeting. N.B. Cllr Smith's email advising of a bad cough was sent prior to the meeting but not received until early the next day. Cllr Wakefield apologised later for not sending her apologies but she was unwell.

2. Declarations of Interest

To declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in an agenda item.

Cllr Johnson declared an interest in planning application 15/00093/FUL (and 15/00094/LBC), as an involved contractor.

3. Public Open Forum

Mr Keith Armer said he believed Greg Rice had misled local residents by saying he knew nothing of the Village Hall Trust's governing document when he was elected to the Village Hall Committee at an AGM about 5 years ago, and that he was not aware of its existence until October 2014. Mr Armer said he has been told by others present at that AGM that all those elected had been informed of the governing document. Taking this into consideration along with Mr Rice's inaction regarding the absence of an AGM during his time in the Chair, he said that in his opinion Mr Rice was unfit to be a Parish Councillor and should resign forthwith, otherwise he would be reported to the Standards Committee as being in breach of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

Mr & Mrs Armer then left the meeting.

4. Village Hall (This item was brought forward from item 10 of the agenda).

At the request of the recently elected Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council was invited to appoint a representative to serve on the Committee. It was resolved to appoint Cllr Wakefield to be that representative subject to her agreement.

Cllr Leach firstly thanked Bill McCue, who was present, for his past work on the committee including preparations for the EGM. He then gave a report of the first meeting of the new Committee held on 16 February, at which officers were appointed: Chairman - Grahame Leach; Treasurer – Raine Thompson; Secretary – David Henrick. The Vicar, Revd Stephen Bowring was co-opted to the Committee with full voting rights. The next meeting will be held on 3 March.

In response to questions raised by councillors he confirmed that the committee members are in the process of being 'validated' by the Charity Commission; and stated he would check with the Commission whether it was alright for the Vicar to be on the committee. Cllr Johnson asked for it to be recorded that he objected to the Vicar being on the committee on the grounds that he was not a resident of the village.

Mr McCue then left the meeting.

5. Minutes of Meetings held 15 January and 12 February 2015 were confirmed and signed.

6. Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda) - none

7. Finance

To approve any payments due - none

Council Tax 2015/16 – It was noted that the Parish element is £41.15 compared with £42.74 last year, due to an increase in the Tax base from 234 to 245 Band D equivalent properties.

Amendment to the Barclays Bank mandate

It was resolved to amend the mandate to include the Clerk as an authorised signatory for administration purposes. This will enable the Clerk to stop cheques quickly when necessary and to notify the bank of any errors in the statements. At this time it is not proposed to change the requirement that 2 Parish Councillors must sign all cheques.

Town and Poor's Charity

It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to set up a secondary account with Barclays entitled "Town & Poor's Charity Account" into which the balance (currently £196) held for the Charity in the main Parish Council bank account would be transferred.

8. Planning

The following new application was considered (Cllr Johnson withdrew from the meeting) **15/00093/FUL (and 15/00094/LBC)**, Internal and external repairs, renovation and extensions and new garden wall, The Limes, 27 High Street. It was resolved to recommend approval because the proposals will help to maintain the listed building in a good state of repair without adversely affecting any features of architectural or historic interest, and will not adversely affect the character or appearance of the Conservation Area.

The following applications determined by the Local Planning Authority were noted

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. **Permission Granted to FUL and Consent to LBC**
1402142LBC, replacement windows to dormers on east and west roof slopes, 27 High Street – treated as **withdrawn**.

9. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

War Memorial – it was resolved to set up a working group comprising Cllrs Johnson, Leach, Smith and Wakefield to produce a proposal for refurbishment of the memorial. The Clerk will provide the group with details of the work he has undertaken to date.

Footpath notice board – Cllr Johnson will carry out a trial, placing it back to back with the Parish Council notice board on the Village Green.

Trees on Village Green – the contractor has applied for permission from HDC to carry out the work. Assuming acceptance the work should be carried out mid-March.

Children's Play Area Ferriman Road – The Clerk reported that the owner of No 23 had recently said that he didn't want the high hedge cut down as it provided privacy to his back garden. On further investigation it was apparent that the high hedge was not needed as both neighbouring properties are sheltered by their own high fences, and that it would look tidier if it were cut to the same height along the entire length. The Council decision to request the contractor to proceed accordingly will therefore be implemented.

Bus Shelter in Royston Avenue – It was noted that More-than-Shelters UK could provide an enclosed shelter with front and rear openings and flat wooden seating at a total cost of £2950 including installation on the verge adjacent to the existing Royston Avenue bus stop. It was resolved to delay considering placing an order until CCC confirmed that scheduled bus services would continue to operate along Royston Avenue.

Other Assets – there were no new problems reported.

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

Street Lighting PFI – no further programme available.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15 – the raised kerbing has now been installed near the post box in High Street. The project engineer has advised that the works planned for the Thrapston Road footpath will exceed the agreed budget due to the other two jobs. The works are estimated at costing an extra £700 (barring any unforeseen circumstances) which would be an extra £70 from the parish. As the PC had already agreed to pay "£510 or whatever

10% of the final cost turns out to be within reason”, the Clerk authorised the engineer to proceed with the design.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2015/16 (Bid for 2 flashing 30 mph signs) Decisions have now been taken on the allocation of this year’s Local Highway Improvement budget. This application was not successful but has been placed second on the reserve schemes list. It may be possible for the project to proceed if any of the approved schemes are not taken forward.

Litter Bin at High Street/Long Lane – awaiting action by HDC

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

Damaged culvert railings at Upthorpe corner – The local Highways Engineer has confirmed that it will be repaired, possibly in the new financial year.

Damaged railings on concrete road north of A14 (where the brook passes underneath) – Cllr Plummer pointed out that these have still not been repaired and remain a serious safety hazard. The Clerk will speak to Martin Eayrs, who 12 months ago said that, although the bridge is probably the responsibility of more than one landowner, he would patch up the handrail as an act of goodwill.

11. Bus Service changes – To note an update from CCC: The final timetables are dependent on the bids received. Further information will be available around April 2015. All existing services will remain in place until a new service commences.

12. Water courses, drainage and flood risk measures – to receive progress reports

A) Non-return valve in ditch opposite old recycling bin site – The Amey Highways Inspector has referred this matter to an engineer to find out what work would need to be done.

B) Pond at 54 Stow Road – The Clerk has asked HDC to investigate whether removal of the pond is likely to affect local water courses and increase the risk of flooding, taking into consideration that after the last meeting a member of the public reported that the garden at 3 Mount Pleasant had recently experienced flooding and queried whether there might be some connection with the filling in of the pond.

13. Correspondence

The following were noted:

CCC Key Issues for January 2015 – circulated by email 22 January

CCC Key Issues for February 2015 – circulated by email 25 February

Police & Crime Commissioner’s Outreach Worker – information from Rebecca Avery circulated by email 25 February

HDC Decision Digest January 2015 - circulated by email 30 January

The following were noted, but no proposals to make grants were forthcoming:

HACT - Request for a grant to help deliver the door to door RING and RIDE service

Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust – Request for support for the Bobby Scheme

14. Any Other Business

Chandlers street sign – Cllr Johnson raised the question of whether the name Chandlers had been adopted for the 3 new houses off Thrapston Road. The Clerk confirmed that it had; and that he has recently been trying to contact the builder to have a street name sign erected.

15. Next Meeting - 8 pm Thursday 19 March 2015

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