

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 19 March 2015 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Rice (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Leach, Plummer, Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and one member of the public.

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr Johnson

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in an agenda item - none.

3. **Public Open Forum**

Mr Keith Armer said that subsequent to the last meeting he had seen copies of the documents relating to the Village Hall EGM held 2 December 2009 at which Messrs Rice and Leach were among those elected onto the Committee. These confirmed that all the nominees had signed undertakings to accept and be "willing to act in the trusts of the Village Hall Trust Deed dated 1 July 1980". He said it was clear that Mr Rice's statement at the last meeting that he was not aware of the existence of the Trust Deed until 2014 was untrue, hence the public cannot be expected to respect his judgement, and called for him to resign as Chairman of the Parish Council. In response Mr Rice accepted that he had signed that undertaking without having seen the Deed, and said that Mr Leach agreed that he had done likewise, and that it was not until October 2014 that they and other members of the committee had seen a copy of the Deed.

Mr Armer also raised the matter of councillors' attendance at meetings of the council and asked that the figures be published. This was accepted by the Chairman who suggested that this could be included in the Chairman's Annual Report.

Mr Armer left the meeting at 8.08 pm.

4. **Minutes of Meeting held 26 February 2015** were confirmed and signed

5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)** – none

6. **Vote of Confidence in the Chairman**

At this point the Chairman referred to conversations he had had since the last meeting with several councillors all of whom had been very supportive of his remaining in office. He asked whether the Council might be prepared to vote on the question, following which it was resolved unanimously that he should remain as Chairman at least until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

7. **Finance**

The following payments were approved

100615 Spaldwick Primary School, room hire, Jan - Mar, £18.00

100616 F D Stowell, Salary and expenses Jan - Mar, £439.63 (inc £9.44 VAT)

100617 HMRC, PAYE, £94.70

8. **Planning**

To consider new applications (if any) - none

Application determined by the Local Planning Authority was noted

15/00081/EXTDET, Extension to rear of garage (extends beyond rear wall of original dwelling by 6.8 m, maximum 4 m height, 2.7m to eaves), Coton Barn Farmhouse – treated as **withdrawn**.

9. **Assets – Provision / Maintenance** – the following updates were noted:

War Memorial refurbishment – awaiting meeting of working party.

Footpath notice board location – awaiting trial.

Trees on Village Green – it was noted that the work will be carried out 23 March.

Children’s Play Area Ferriman Road – The Clerk reported that he has asked Fergusons to cut the whole hedge down to the lower height at the appropriate time taking into account the bird mating season.

The latest inspection by Cllr Rice stated the bottom wooden step of the climbing frame had come away from the ladder exposing the metal underneath. The Clerk reported that this has been repaired and one other missing bolt replaced. Also the rubber tiles under the climbing frame are loose in several places with large gaps around many of them. The Clerk will investigate possible solutions to this and the continuing requirement for a notice board.

It was noted that Wicksteed plan to carry out their inspection 19 May.

Bus Shelter in Royston Avenue - Further action deferred pending confirmation of future bus services.

Seats – The repainting of the seat on the Village Green is still outstanding. When this is done, other seats in the parish will be examined and repainted if necessary.

10. **Highways, footpaths, byways etc.** – the following updates were noted:

Street Lighting PFI – The High Street scheme is still not programmed.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15 – The Clerk reported that during the last 3 days the footway in Thrapston Road from the south end of no 7 to the south end of no 15 has been remodelled (the open stone channel has been replaced with a slotted steel grating and the whole area resurfaced). He has queried whether this is intended to have addressed the parish council’s proposal to remove the trip hazard on the footway by lowering the kerb on both sides of the entrance to no 7 and improving the drainage to reduce the risk of flooding in the entrance. The proposal was for the footway to be resurfaced in front of 5-7 not in front of 7 –15. CCC have been asked what further work they intend to have carried out in order to complete the project as originally envisaged by the Parish Council.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2015/16 – the project remains at no 2 on the waiting list

Replacement of Litter Bin at High Street/Long Lane - work complete

Repairs to potholes outside Spaldwick Service Station - work complete

Repair of damaged culvert railings at Uphorpe corner - work expected to be carried out after April 1.

Repair of damaged railings on concrete road north of A14 – awaiting response from Martin Eayrs.

Repair of damaged traffic signs (top of A14 East off slip road & 30 mph Thrapston Road) – work complete

Installation of street sign for Chandlers – awaiting response from Steve Daniels.

11. **Village Hall**

It was noted that Cllr Wakefield had agreed to be the Parish Council representative on the Committee.

Cllr Leach said that, following Cllr Johnson’s objection to the Vicar being on the committee on the grounds that he was not a resident of the village, he had confirmed that there is nothing in the Trust document that states residency in the village is a requirement. Consequently the Vicar will remain on the committee as a full voting member.

Cllr Leach gave a brief report on the committee meeting held on March 3rd. He said the committee remains extremely concerned about the lack of information on the activities of the committee in recent years, but they will now try to concentrate on their declared intention to complete the Review of the current position of the new hall project by Easter and to engage with stakeholders by September.

12. **Bus Service changes** – awaiting further information from CCC.

- 13. Water courses, drainage and flood risk measures** – the following reports were noted:
- A) Non-return valve in ditch opposite old recycling bin site** – awaiting visit by Highways Agency.
- B) Pond at 54 Stow Road** – Chris Allen of HDC has advised that the filling of a pond probably does not need any consent if it not connected to a watercourse or ditch. He confirmed that the old maps show a small pond in what is now the front garden of 54, but there is no indication of any inlet or outlet. It could have been be a water hole for cattle etc.
It is unlikely that the flooding in the garden of 3 Mount Pleasant is a consequence of the infilling. As this flooding does not affect the interior of the property it would not warrant an investigation by the County Council who have responsibility for investigating flooding. In the circumstances he does not feel that the matter should be pursued further.
- 14. To consider submitting a request for funding from the Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund** – Cllr Plummer reported that he had spoken to Jane Darlington, who confirmed that Parish Council projects which can be funded from the precept are not eligible for grants from the Wind Farm Community Fund. It was therefore agreed not to consider making an application. It was noted that the Escape Youth Group is applying for £300.
- 15. Correspondence** – none requiring the meeting's attention
- 16. Any Other Business – notification of matters to be included on agenda of next meeting**
- Review of Procedural and Governance Documents** – The Clerk reported that he had reviewed the documents listed below and identified several amendments required to take account of changes in legislation etc. since the last review. The proposals are being circulated to members for comment, with a view to their adoption at the next meeting.
Information Publication Scheme, Financial Regulations, Standing Orders – amendments proposed; Complaints Procedure, Code of Conduct for Members – no amendments necessary
- Proposal to send summons for parish council meetings by email** –The Clerk reported that it is now permissible for the summons, agenda and associated documents to be sent to councillors by email subject to their agreement and to it being sent from a recognisable email address. The same procedure could be used to send out minutes. Discussion and decision on these matters will be on the agenda of the next meeting.
- 17. Next Meetings**
8 pm Thursday 16 April 2015, Parish Council
8 pm Thursday 23 April 2015, Annual Parish Meeting

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm