

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 16 April 2015 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Rice (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Leach, , Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), County Cllr Simon Bywater and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer and Plummer

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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

3. **Public Open Forum** – no matters raised.

4. **Minutes of Meeting held 19 March 2015** were approved and signed.

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

6. **Finance**

Annual accounts for year ended 31 March 2015 – the Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer presented the summary Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2015. Cllr Smith reported that he had checked this summary including the bank reconciliation against the bank statements and cash book prior to the meeting and could confirm that they were correct. Following examination by Council it was resolved that the accounts be approved.

Annual Return for 2014/15

Section 1 – Accounting statements. The Clerk / RFO presented the certified accounting statements, which Council resolved to approve.

Section 2 – Annual governance statement. The statements 1 to 8 were read out in turn, to each of which Council responded ‘Yes – agreed’. Statement 9 relating to sole managing trustee of a local charity was answered ‘NA’ (not applicable).

The Clerk / RFO and Cllr Rice, as Chair of the meeting, signed both sections as required.

The following payments were approved:

100618 CAPALC Membership fee 2015/16, £200.36

100619 SLCC, Fee for Clerk’s attendance at Conference, £82.80 (inc. £13.80 VAT).

100620 NALC, LCR Magazine, £17.00

100621 Cambridge Trees Ltd, thinning crowns of 3 trees, £870.00 (inc. £145.00 VAT)

7. **Planning**

The following Planning Application was considered

15/00433/LBC, Re-roof with existing salvaged tiles and supplementary tiles. Manor Farmhouse, 15 High Street, Spaldwick. The original application had been seen by members prior to the meeting. A copy of a revised Design and Access Statement which had been requested by Nigel Swaby, HDC Planning, and which had been received by the Clerk earlier in the day was handed to members at the start of the discussion. This clarifies that the application is just for the stripping and retiling of the roof. The stripping will enable the extent of necessary work to the roof timbers to be assessed. If the works are more than just minor like-for-like repairs the owner will need to make a further application for Listed Building Consent which will have to be determined before the structural works can be carried out enabling the tiles to be replaced on a sound roof.

Following discussion it was resolved to respond that the council has no objections and recommends approval.

Local Planning Authority decisions / reports – none

8. **Assets – Provision / Maintenance**

War Memorial Refurbishment – Cllr Wakefield agreed to arrange a working party meeting.

Children's Play Area – Cllr Rice presented a report of his inspection on April 15 – the problem with the rubber tiles under the climbing frame continues; several are loose with large gaps around many of them. The Clerk is to take appropriate action regarding the tiles and to erect a notice board as soon as possible. At the Clerk's request the question of litter (in or out of the bin) will be added to future reports.

Documents recording the history and refurbishment of the bier (hand hearse) – Cllr Leach reported his concern that the shed in Church Lane is not a fit place for this to be stored so he has been keeping it in his home temporarily. Following discussion he agreed to speak to the Vicar about the possibility of it being stored / displayed in the Church.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI – details of the High Street scheme are awaited.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative – The following report by the Clerk was noted.

Ross Hamilton, Project Manager, CCC Local Infrastructure & Street Management has apologised for the apparent lack of communication. He came out to Spaldwick to look at the scheme and agreed that the issue of accessibility has not been addressed.

He has, therefore, arranged for a contractor to carry out additional works involving lowering the kerbing either side of the access to no 7 Thrapston Road and renewing the surface in the access in order to channel water to the existing gully.

Bus Service changes – an announcement regarding future services is awaited

Footpaths, byways – It was reported that Mick Ager had received a complaint from a dog walker that some young horses in a field on the footpath to Easton opposite the garage crowded around her and her dogs and chased the dogs aggressively on two recent occasions. The complaint was passed to Easton Parish Council who discussed the problem with the owner of the horses, the outcome being that she has offered to walk through the field with complainant and her dog(s) to possibly give reassurance so she may continue to use the footpath in the future.

10. Procedural and Governance Documents - It was resolved to consider adopting the Clerk's proposed revisions to the Information Publication Scheme, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders at the next meeting.

11. Complaints Procedure and Code of Conduct – It was resolved that no amendments be made to the existing documents.

12. To consider proposal to send summons and minutes for parish council meetings to councillors by email subject to individual councillor's agreement – deferred to next mtg.

13. Correspondence - none

14. Any other business

Local Joint Forum – The Chairman reported briefly on the meeting he had attended at Pathfinder House on April 13.

Parking on verge outside Manor Farmhouse – it was reported that last Sunday a row of cars was parked with their nearside wheels on the verge. The Clerk will investigate whether this recurs and, if so, take appropriate action.

Unauthorised horse grazing – it was noted that the owner of the land adjacent to Agrovista, Thrapston Road is taking action to have unauthorised horses removed from this site.

Thanks to retiring councillors – The Chairman spoke on behalf of the Council to express thanks to Councillors Plummer and Leach, who are not seeking re-election, for their long service to the Council. Cllr Bywater said he wished to endorse the Chairman's remarks.

15. Next Meetings – Annual Parish Meeting, Thursday, 23 April 2015 at 8 pm
Annual Parish Council Meeting, Thursday 21 May 2015 at 8 pm

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9 pm