

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 18 June 2015 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Fane de Salis (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Johnson, Rice, Robinson, Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), County Cllr Simon Bywater and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence - none

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 Annual Meeting held 21 May 2015 were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)

Installation of street sign for Chandlers – Cllr Johnson is to speak to Cllr Jim White to see whether he can help

6. Appointments, responsibilities

Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund – It was resolved that Bernard Plummer be invited to continue as the Spaldwick representative on the committee.

7. Finance

Internal Audit Report for 2014/15

This had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. No matters of concern were noted by the auditor, but he made one recommendation: Consideration should be given to reviewing and updating as necessary the Risk Assessment document annually. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange to implement this recommendation.

One member referred to the comment regarding assets: "As noted last year no photos were seen during the audit". Following the Clerk's explanation that these are stored electronically, it was suggested that he should inform the auditor to avoid this comment being made again next year.

The following payments were approved:

100624 J C Shears, £50.00

100625 F D Stowell, Salary £379.10 & expenses £58.01, April – June, Total £437.11

100626 HMRC, PAYE, £94.60

100627 HDC, cost of uncontested election 07/05/15, £105.00

8. Planning

To consider any new Planning Application(s) and comment where appropriate – none.

The following Local Planning Authority decision was noted

15/00433/LBC, Re-roof with existing salvaged tiles and supplementary tiles, Manor Farmhouse, 15 High Street – Consent granted

9. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

The Bier (hand hearse) – Cllr Smith reported that Grahame Leach is speaking to the Vicar about the possibility of the bier being put on permanent display in the Church together with the documents recording its history and refurbishment.

War Memorial Refurbishment – Cllr Wakefield reported that the working party has met several times and has obtained revised proposals which are being discussed with potential contractors. Sources of grants are also being investigated.

Children's Play Area

Visual Inspection - Cllr Rice carried out an inspection on 15 June. He reported no change on the state of the rubber tiles: and one loose bolt on the underside of the climbing frame. There were no other matters of concern.

Loose bolts - The Chairman reported that since the last meeting he had removed all the bolts on the climbing frame and reassembled them with thread lock.

High hedge - It was agreed that lowering it could be left until the autumn.

Other work recommended by Wicksteed - Cllrs Rice and Robinson are investigating alternative safety surfaces with a view to making a recommendation for consideration by Council.

Public Open Space, Ferriman Road

Replacement of bollard – in response to a query from the Chairman it was agreed that a means of preventing unauthorised vehicle access is essential. He then presented information on several possible alternatives which would provide a better barrier than the previous bollard which could easily be driven past. Having obtained the view of members that they prefer a hoop barrier he will now produce a costed recommendation for consideration by Council

Removal of old tree branches left by the PC working party – The Clerk and Cllr Rice had been intending to organise volunteers to carry out the work. However questions were raised as to whether this is desirable as these branches are now an integral part of the wild area of the open space and may be the habitat for wild life. It was therefore agreed to drop the proposal to remove the branches and to protect the area from unnecessary maintenance.

Request for trees to be trimmed – Cllr Jackson-Rimmer reported that Shona Blair Roughsedge has asked for the trees to the rear of her property in Ferriman Road to be trimmed. As there was some doubt as to the location of the trees in question Cllr Wakefield agreed to investigate.

Renovation of Assets

Shed door - Cllr Robinson will arrange for P Johnson to repair where necessary and repaint.

Seat on Village Green – Kimbolton School volunteers will carry out the work in the school holidays with assistance / guidance from Cllrs Rice and Johnson

Seats at Royston Ave & Play area – deferred pending review of progress with previous item.

Other Assets – no new problems were reported

10. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI – It was noted that the only development since the last meeting was that on June 1 an email was received from Mrs Crawshaw of BB explaining that the lighting scheme being proposed for High Street is different from that recently installed in Stow Road and Thrapston Road because they are classified differently in the CCC carriageway hierarchy. Later that day Alan Hitch of CCC explained that Stow Road and Thrapston Road are classified (C164) whereas High Street is unclassified. It was mentioned that the classifications are reviewed every 3 years, the last being carried out in 2013. In reply to Mr Hitch the Clerk pointed out that the 3 roads have similar traffic flows hence different classifications are not justified and the standard of lighting should preferably be consistent on the three routes. The question of whether the contract can or should be changed was raised. However, Mr Hitch said that, in his opinion, the change of lantern on the existing columns in High Street will result in improved lighting compared with that currently being experienced. Members of the Council were kept informed of these developments at the time.

A discussion followed, during which it was suggested that High Street might possibly be re-classified in 2016. However, it was considered most unlikely that CCC would be able to justify changing the lighting scheme if the classification is changed. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to CCC complaining of the unsatisfactory nature of the so-called consultations with the Parish Council and of the resultant outcome.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative – the 2014/15 scheme has just been completed with the lowering of the kerb and the resurfacing at the entrance to No7 Thrapston Road.

Bus Service changes – the re-tendering process continues.

Highway problems – the following updates were noted

Cover on the lamp of street light 3 outside 19 Littlecotes Close has been replaced

Manhole cover outside 23A Thrapston Road is loose – work scheduled

Manhole cover outside 39 Stow Road is loose – not confirmed by Clerk, not reported to CCC

Kerb outside 3 Stow Road needs to be replaced – work scheduled

Pothole in footway adjacent to fence of 5 Stow Road - completed

Barrier at entrance to Upthorpe Farm has been damaged again following its recent repair – known to CCC Highways (not reported by Clerk). Concern was expressed about the frequency of accidents at this location. The Clerk is to ask County Highways to investigate the adequacy of signage around the bend.

Contacts details of owners of animals kept in local fields – It was agreed that animal owners be asked to display a telephone number which can be used to contact the owner should any emergency arise.

Verge outside 54 Stow Road – As there had been no positive response to the request to the selling agents to have the grass cut, it was agreed that the Clerk should instruct Fergusons to cut this area on their next visit if it remained uncut at that time.

Footpaths, byways – no matters were reported.

11. Procedural and Governance Documents

It was resolved to adopt the revised Information Publication Scheme, Financial Regulations, and Standing Orders which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Rice asked the Clerk to send him final copies of the documents so that he could put them on the parish council website.

12. Complaints Procedure and Code of Conduct.

It was confirmed that no amendments are required to these documents.

13. Training

Chairmanship – The Chairman's request to attend Chairmanship training organised by CAPALC at Hemingford Abbots 29 June, 6 & 13 July at total cost of £105.00 was approved.

Councillors – No requests were received from members to attend Councillors training organised by CAPALC at Hemingford Abbots on 1, 8 & 15 July at total per individual of £105.00

Catch up day Friday, 3 July – it was noted that this has been postponed until Friday 2 October, Details will be available nearer the time

14. Correspondence

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme Parish update

29 June 2015, Marriott Huntingdon Hotel 6:30 - 8.30pm.

Invitation circulated 29 May – It was noted that Cllrs Johnson & Smith will attend.

CCC Key Issues for May 2015 - circulated by email June 7

15. Any other business

Speedwatch – It was noted that there had been questions raised on Facebook within the last few days regarding the lack of any recent Speedwatch activity in the village. Cllr Jackson-Rimmer said that she is currently trying to arrange a training session which is necessary for new volunteers to attend. In the meantime she will try to make up a team from those who have previously been involved.

16. Next Meeting – Thursday 16 July 2015

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm