

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

**Present:** Cllrs Fane de Salis (Chairman, presiding), Harriman, Johnson, Robinson, Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), District Cllr White, County Cllr Bywater and 7 members of the public

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr Jackson-Rimmer
2. **New Councillor** - Ian Harriman was welcomed to the meeting following his co-option at the previous meeting. It was noted that he had made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office on 27 October which was witnessed by the Clerk, and had completed a Declaration of Interests.
3. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item - none
4. **Public Open Forum**  
Mr Keith Armer raised two matters about which he has concerns:
  - Dog walkers should not walk anywhere in the fields as many do at present, but should keep to the designated footpaths and keep their dogs under control. Signs were fixed at the 3 entrances to Bury Close a few years ago but one is now missing and should be replaced.
  - The recent clear up of Church Lane was ill advised as it has set an unsustainable precedent. In such cases where hedges overhang the highway or adjoining footways it would be better to give notice to the responsible householder that the matter would be reported to the County Council if not cleared within 28 days.
5. **The Minutes of the Meeting held 15 October 2015 were approved.** They were signed by the Chairman subsequent to the meeting.
6. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)** - none
7. **Finance**  
**The following payments were approved:**  
100639 CAPALC, £95.00, Clerk's catch up 02/10, Chairman's training 29/6 & 13/7  
100640 Fergusons, £1611.96 (inc. £268.66 VAT)  
**Playtimes Spaldwick** – The request deferred from the last meeting for a grant towards internal works and a garden project costing an estimated £6840 was considered. Following an explanation by Mrs Vicky Wakefield of the project and the source of the other funding, which included £2000 from the Woolley Hill Windfarm Community Fund, it was unanimously resolved to make a grant of £500 in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 S.137.
8. **Planning**  
**The following new Planning Applications were considered, and responses to the LPA were agreed as shown below.**  
**15/01651/LBC**, Restoration of the ground and first floors of the dilapidated farmhouse using the original material as far as possible (retrospective), 15 High Street.  
"The applicant has clearly justified the work necessary to restore the dilapidated ground and first floors without affecting any historically significant elements.  
The Parish Council therefore recommends approval."  
**15/01824/FUL**, Three new gas compressors and enclosures, a new vent stack, site office, administration and welfare buildings and associated infrastructure, Huntingdon Compressor Station, Bigrams Lane, Stonely.  
"Our main concern is that transport during the construction phase should not pass through Spaldwick village. This is dealt with in the Transport Plan which states that construction traffic

will access the site from the B645 at Kimbolton. We suggest that adherence to this Transport Plan should be a condition if the application is approved, and that consideration be given to prohibiting construction workers' vehicles from passing through the village. We suggest that signs stating 'No National Grid Construction Traffic Access' are provided at the applicants cost at both Spaldwick exits from the A14 and at the Stow Road / Bigram's Lane junction on the route to Stow Longa and Spaldwick.

The Parish Council recommends approval subject to these concerns being addressed."

**15/01928/FUL**, Proposed dwelling house in the curtilage of 2-6 Thrapston Road, Spaldwick

"Two errors were noted in the supporting documents:

'The development is not within a designated conservation area' – in fact it is just within the Spaldwick Conservation Area.

'The proposed dwelling will not impact on the street scene' – in fact it would be seen (extending above the adjacent fence) from High Street at the vehicle entrances to The George and the Manor Farmhouse.

The Council has taken these deviations from the supporting documents into account in reaching its decision to recommend approval as it is of the opinion that the proposal will not adversely affect the Conservation Area or the adjoining properties, and is within (albeit on the edge of) the built up area of the village. It is suggested that the existing gravel path forming the access from High Street should be paved where it passes close to 1 High Street to mitigate problems of noise and loose chips."

**The following developments regarding previous applications were noted**

**15/01217/TREE, 5 Pound Close** – as there has been nothing recorded on the HDC website since validation and its status remains 'in progress' the Clerk has requested clarification of the current position.

**1301639FUL, Land east of 5-17 Stow Road** – the case officer has asked the agent to reply to the questions raised in the Clerk's email of 30 August.

**To note any Local Planning Authority decisions / reports** - none

**Spaldwick Service Station** – It was noted that the public meeting held 16 November, when Applegreen outlined proposals for the future development of the service station, was well attended with late arrivees having to stand. The proposals included replacement of the main building with one 4 times larger to accommodate a café with several coffee / food offers and a larger convenience store which would serve local residents; retention of the canopy; removal of the HGV island; and provision of 43 car parking spaces.

A summary of the meeting produced by Applegreen was passed to members. The main points of concern raised were the perceived increase in litter and in traffic through the village which is exacerbated by the shortness of the slip road onto the westbound A14. Mark Heath has agreed to provide a facility to enable members of the public to submit comments online which will be passed on to Applegreen.

It was agreed that no further action would be taken by the Council before the next presentation by Applegreen on 30 November which would take account of any comments which they consider relevant to their proposal.

## 9. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

**Proposed re-location of the bier and documents recording its history and refurbishment** – Cllr Smith is awaiting confirmation from the Clerk of the insurance arrangements before proceeding further.

**War Memorial Refurbishment** – It was reported that a response from the War Memorials Trust following the recent visit of Helen Bowman, Conservation Officer has been deferred until December.

**Children's Play Area** – Cllr Robinson reported that he had obtained quotations from Wicksteed relating to the replacement / renovation of the safety surfaces under the equipment. He will now seek 2 competitive quotations.

Following the successful village clear-up day it was decided to hold a similar event, which Cllr Robinson agreed to publicise, on Saturday 28 November to trim the hedges around the play

area. The Clerk will therefore cancel his request to Ferguson's to carry out the work (cost £240).

In accordance with the Wicksteed Inspector's recommendation the condition of the seat on the large swing has been monitored. The November PC inspection reported that it is showing small cracks and will need replacing. It was therefore agreed to purchase a replacement flat rubber safety seat from Wicksteed for £38, for installation by members.

The inspection also reported that the wooden steps of the climbing frame are slippery due to wear and weather, and could do with a coat of paint or preservative. Cllr Johnson will consider adding this to the painting of assets programme.

**Painting of Assets** – Cllr Johnson reported that the work on the seat at the play area, and the notice board at Royston Avenue has been completed. Work on the notice board on the Village Green will be started shortly

**Village box around jubilee plaques** – to note that prior to submission of an application for tree work the Clerk requires full details of the proposal, which he will discuss with Mr Leach.

**Village Cross base** – To note that the Clerk is awaiting advice from the HDC Conservation Officer regarding the Parish Council's responsibilities in safeguarding / insuring this stone.

**Other Assets** – to receive reports of any new problems.

#### 10. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

**CCC Local Highway Improvement initiative 2016-17** – It was noted that the Scheme has been submitted to CCC for consideration by the review panel which will meet on 11 & 13 January. A representative is invited to attend to represent the submitted application or a written representation may be sent by email. The Chairman agreed that if necessary he would attend. Cllr Bywater offered to attend the panel meeting to support our application if requested. He is to be given a copy of the application and details of the time slot when the proposal will be considered.

**Winter Gritting** – Cllrs Fane de Salis and Robinson and the Clerk met with Jonathan Clarke CCC Highways Network Manager and the manager of the winter gritting team to discuss the problem of gritting Belton's Hill. CCC confirmed that there is no possibility of changing the schedule which identifies the hill as being on a secondary route. It is not gritted as a precaution when frost is forecast, but only when snow is on the ground or in long periods of frost. They suggested that the PC should purchase a gritting bin at around £100 from CCC for installation at Belton's Hill for use by local volunteers when they consider it necessary, rather than as a precautionary measure when advised by CCC. They confirmed that a gritter could be purchased for around £5000 to be towed by a locally owned vehicle, but the costs would have to be met locally.

Following discussion it was resolved to order a bin from CCC which they would install at Belton's Hill, and to authorise Cllr Johnson to put out feelers to other local councils to see if there is any interest in a jointly owned local gritter.

**Bus Service changes** – nothing new to report. Changes are not expected before January.

**Speedwatch** – It was noted that the Community Speed Watch signs will be changing to better reflect the status as a scheme that has the support of both the constabulary and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership. The changes which involve laying a new film over the original sign plate will be carried out by CCC.

**Barrier at entrance to Upthorpe Farm** – old railings removed 2 bollards & concrete remain

**End of weight restriction sign, Stow Road** – awaiting action by new Local Highway Officer.

**Pothole in entrance to Spaldwick Service station** – it has been repaired several times recently but each time the repair has broken up. CCC Highways have been asked to provide a better solution. They repaired it temporarily yesterday and will place an order for a higher grade repair.

**Contact details of owners of animals kept in local fields** – to note no progress has been made in displaying information – replies are awaited from animal owners.

**Broken barrier over brook on concrete road** – repair completed, thanks to Martin Eays.

**Damaged Kissing Gate, Bury Close** – awaiting Clerk's investigation into responsibility for repair.

**Verge in Stow Road** – The Clerk informed Mr William Brown, as landowner, of the proposal that there should be a wider cut around the Bury Close perimeter on Stow Road which has been getting a narrower cut in recent years due to the brambles etc having spread more widely. He has been asked to consider whether he or his tenant would be prepared to use their farm machinery to reduce the incursion of the hedge and fallen fencing onto the grass verge and to remove the arisings, with the help of a working party of villagers to provide labour and tidy up afterwards. Mr Brown referred the Clerk to Edwards Bros who in turn referred him to Martin Eayrs, whose comments are now awaited.

**Footpaths, byways** – The following messages from Simeon Carroll were noted:

26 October - The wooden bollards at the end of this byway are to be replaced with metal posts which will provide greater security when the byway is locked in the winter months. The posts will be installed 1.5m away from the central locking bollard which will give a width clearance of 3m when the bollard is removed. The byway sign which has recently been knocked over is to be replaced.

13 November - Footpath 15 between the concrete road and the new(ish) footbridge has now been reinstated. Footpath 12 opposite the petrol station has been sprayed with herbicide hence the line of the path should now be visible.

Mr Carroll will be leaving his post at the end of the month to start work as a Local Highway Officer (LHO) in South Cambs. As the post is unlikely to be refilled, he has advised Mick Ager to submit reports via the CCC website. They will be dealt with by the relevant LHO.

**Signs on local Byways – Changes to the Prohibition of Driving Order**

It was noted that the Clerk recently received a query from a member of the public challenging the legality of new signage installed at entrance points to the Right of Way Network as they show a sign prohibiting use by cars but not by motor cycles. He has since ascertained that when the Traffic Regulation Order was amended in March 2014 to include closure when there is a high risk of damage during periods outside 1 October to 30 April, it had also been amended to change the prohibition from all vehicles to any vehicle with more than 2 wheels. This latter change had not been mentioned by CCC when parish councils were informed of the proposed new Order. It was agreed to monitor whether or not the change to the description of prohibited vehicles is having any serious effect on the condition of the byways

11. **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Robinson reported that they proposed to carry out a survey to find out if the Villagers still want a Village Hall. He also reported that the old furniture stored by Mrs Lincoln has been removed and destroyed as it was no longer in a usable condition. A home is now required for some trestle tables which are in good condition.
12. **Parish Plan** – Cllr Robinson circulated copies of the 2009 Action Plan to members but in view of the survey being carried out by the Village Hall Committee recommended deferring production of a new Parish Plan until the outcome of the VH survey is known. This was agreed by the meeting.
13. **Village clear up day** – the next event is on 28 November at the Play Area – see item 9 above.
14. **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS**  
HDC has requested the Council's views on whether it should change to whole council elections every four years starting in May 2018 or retain the existing system of 'elections by thirds'. The change would see the whole Council elected at the same time. Although not mentioned in the consultation it would also affect parish and town council elections. In the case of Spaldwick, the next election would be brought forward from 2019 to 2018.  
It was agreed to make no comment.

**15. Correspondence**

**Briefing regarding Cambridgeshire County Council budget proposal** circulated by email  
26 October

**CAPALC AGM**, 10 December 2015, 7 pm Histon & Impington Village Hall – the Clerk and all Councillors are invited. The Clerk intends to be there but no Councillor wishes to attend.

**ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE: FURTHER LIMITED CONSULTATION FOR CAMBRIDGE** – The final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission will now be published on 9 February 2016 rather than 17 November 2015 as originally planned, as further consultation regarding the City of Cambridge area is being undertaken.

**Planning forum invitation - Pathfinder House 2 December**

Cllrs Harriman and Robinson will attend.

**16. Any other business**

**Watering of horses** – a complaint that the horses in a field off Cockway Lane had been left by the owner without water was reported by the Clerk to the owner who stated that the horses are being watered twice daily, and that there is no cause for concern

**A14 Road works** - Cllr Jim Smith reported that there will be lane closures between Spaldwick and Brampton Hut Monday 23 November & Friday 27 November (8 pm to 6 pm) effect on traffic expected to be slight.

**Clearing of leaves from Village Green prior to Remembrance Day** – it was resolved to record thanks to Walter Smith and Cllr Johnson for carrying out this task.

**17. Next Meeting** – Thursday 17 December 2015

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