

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Annual Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 24 May 2012 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Johnson, Rice, Smith, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 7 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Leach and Wakefield
2. **Election of Chairman, and declaration of acceptance of office** . There being only one nomination, Cllr B F Plummer was elected unanimously. A declaration of acceptance to the office of Chairman of the Council was made and delivered by Cllr Plummer and witnessed by the Clerk.
3. **Registrations of financial and other interests or declarations of no change**  
The five members present confirmed that their details in the Register of Financial and other Interests held by the District Council remain unchanged. The Clerk will raise the question of any changes to their registrations with the absent Councillors outside the meeting.
4. **Other elections, appointments, responsibilities**  
**Vice Chairman** . G Rice was elected unanimously.  
**The following responsibilities were allocated**  
Playground Inspection . Cllr Rice  
Finance monitoring . Cllr Smith  
Tree Warden . Cllr Johnson  
**Parish Paths Co-ordinator** . As John Saynor may be finding it difficult to undertake this task due to his other commitments, the Chairman said that he had spoken to Mick Ager who had confirmed that he would be glad to undertake this task if appointed. It was agreed that Mr Ager be appointed.
5. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item . none.
6. **Public Open Forum** . The Chairman invited any member of the public wishing to speak in respect of any of the planning applications to do so when that item of the agenda is reached. No other matters were raised at this point.
7. **Minutes of Meeting held 26 April 2012** were approved as a correct record and signed
8. **Matters arising from minutes**  
**Damage to verges on road leading to Willow House** – The CCC highways supervisor has ordered works to recover the verge - plantings / soil and seed and the installation of some reflector posts to deter verge erosion.  
**Overnight lorry parking** . ongoing action on Clerk to raise the issue with County Councillor Viv McGuire
9. **Finance**  
**1. Internal Audit** . Report received. no problems identified. The only comments were:
  - Three pages in the minute book were unsigned. These relate to the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting. They will be presented to the next APM on 31 May for approval in accordance with normal procedure,
  - No statement for one Santander A/c as at 31 March 2012. Next statement due 16 July will confirm balance at 31 March. Will request additional statement at 31 March in future.

**2. The following payments were approved:**

100510 SLCC Enterprises Ltd, Clerks training in General Power of Competence, £48 (inc £8.00 VAT)

100511 J C Shears, Internal audit fee, £50.00

**3. Consultation on appointment of external auditor from 1 September 2012** . The Audit Commission proposes to appoint Littlejohn LLP as auditor for all parish and town councils in Cambridgeshire. Council agreed that there is no reason why Spaldwick should not be included.

**10. Planning**

**To consider new Planning Applications**

**1200581FUL**, Extension to side, 9 Ivy Way. It was resolved to notify HDC that the Parish Council has **no objection** to this proposal.

**1200602LBC**, Remove peg tiles, inspect and repair roof timbers and replace peg tiles. Strip render, repair timber frame and re-instate with lime render. Internal and external alterations. Hazel Cottage, 18 Thrapston Road. It was resolved to recommend **approval** of these proposals as they will remedy several structural defects whilst retaining the important physical features of the building and by introducing the internal changes will improve its habitability and hopefully ensure it remains in good condition for many more years.

**1200767FUL**, Erection of a detached two-storey dwelling house and attached garage, Land at 19 Littlecotes Close.

Copies of objections received from 4 residents of the Close were read by members, and several verbal objections from members of the public present were heard. Council then discussed the proposal and resolved to recommend **refusal** because the site is too small to accommodate a 4 bedroomed dwelling in keeping with the existing spacious layout of the Close. The fronts of all the existing properties are set well back from the paved vehicle / pedestrian areas whereas this would be within 1 to 2 metres of the footway.

**To note Local Planning Authority decisions / reports**

**1200407LBC**, Change lead roof covering to terne coated stainless steel over south aisle, St James Church, Spaldwick . **consent granted**

**11. Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012** . progress reports

1. Making Spaldwick Bloom . Cllr Johnson reported that he is now working on the box to be located adjacent to the Silver & Golden Jubilee Plaques

2. Bench on Belton's Hill . working party visited site 28 April to agree exact location. Cllr Rice will supply the Clerk with a copy of the agreed plan for the purpose of obtaining quotes for the site preparation.

3. Jubilee mugs . 200 ordered 27 April, delivery scheduled for approximately mid June. It was agreed to produce a form to be available at the Village Street Party on which applications for mugs can be made. It is anticipated that the majority will be distributed at the Village Fete on 14<sup>th</sup> July.

4. Beacon . this proposal has been abandoned.

5. Street party . The Social Group is organising the Village Party to be held on Monday 4 June in front of Manor Farm. A meeting to finalise plans will be held on 30 May.

6. Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Tree Planting - it was agreed to obtain a free tree under the Parish Planting scheme to be planted adjacent to the bench at Belton's Hill. Bridget Halford of HDC will be asked to recommend the species and size.

**12. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets**

**Trees on Village Green** . Michael Brightman of the Tree Care Company, St Neots, who was to have carried out the work on the horse chestnut trees, died at Easter. His nephew, Andrew, who worked with him is now running the business but doesn't want to be involved in obtaining permission from HDC. The Clerk agreed to take that on. However the opportunity arose to get a free consultation from Tim Brown of Bartletts, Bedford on 16 May, hence work on the current proposal has been deferred pending receipt of Bartletts report.

**Trees / shrubs, Ferriman Road public open space** . a complaint has been received from the owner of 40 Ferriman Road regarding damage to fence and suckers from a tree in the POS. Tim Brown was also asked for advice on this.

**War Memorial refurbishment** . application for funding . no progress this month due to other priorities.

**Village Sign refurbishment** . Cllr Johnson reported that Trevor Cooper has started the repainting.

### 13. Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

The Localism Act 2011 repeals the existing legislation and introduces requirements for locally produced and administered schemes meeting certain specified criteria. The Act allows parish councils to adopt those of their principal council. Currently the Monitoring Officers of the District Councils in Cambridgeshire and the Peterborough Unitary Council are working on a Code which it is hoped the Principal Councils and all parish and town councils will adopt. The current draft, excluding details regarding the registration of interests which await regulations from DCLG, was revealed at a recent meeting of clerks . a copy is to be circulated for comment shortly.

### 14. Correspondence

**1. Cambs ACRE** . details of Community Oil Buying Scheme have been received. These will be passed to Michael Townsend who is involved with an existing local scheme.

**2. HDC Local Plan to 2036** . Invitation to briefing on 22 May at Pathfinder House . Clerk attended. This explained that following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 much of the Planning legislation has been replaced by the smaller National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In consequence a new Local Plan covering a further 10 years and superseding the existing Local Development Framework has to be in place 18 months hence. The first stage is a Consultation on Initial Issues and Options as to the places where major housing developments should take place beyond the existing commitments. All of the new sites were identified as suitable in the latest Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

A link to this consultation was emailed to councillors on 22 May. Comments may be sent direct to HDC from the link or they can be sent to the Clerk who will, as agreed by Council, produce a summary to forward to HDC. Closing date is 11 June (since extended to 24 June).

**3. HDC consultation on proposal for Local Joint Committees** . circulated 25 April with comments suggested by Clerk. There being no further comments from members, it was agreed that the Clerk's comments be submitted on behalf of the Council

**4. HDC notes of Parish Charter working group held 30 April** . the Clerk gave a brief summary of the work carried out to date and the areas which would be examined in more detail by 3 sub-groups.

**5. CCC Rights of Way** . paths on the current schedule were cut this month and will provisionally be cut again in July. Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know of any issues with the cutting of the paths e.g. should additional paths be added to the schedule.

**6. Super fast broadband** . Cambs ACRE and the County and District Councils recommend that Spaldwick supports the Connecting Cambridgeshire project which will bring access to superfast broadband to at least 90% of premises in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To publicise this, the Spaldwick website carries an item asking everyone to register an interest with a view to Spaldwick being selected as part of the 90%.

The Rural Communities Broadband Fund which, should Spaldwick fall outside the 90%, may provide funding towards a local scheme is also asking for similar information.

An email from Mark Heath making the following points was noted:

- (a) Faceplates should be installed on existing broadband connections. These will reduce SNR (Signal to Noise ratio) target margin and can yield dramatic speed improvements.
- (b) We should aim to get everyone (or the large majority) registering on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website. A form will be in the next Spaldwick News to allow people to provide details by paper.

- (c) We should wait until it is clear where we stand with Connecting Cambridgeshire before pursuing a potential bid (for example from the RCBF). At that stage, technical solutions would be clearer (so that we would avoid being left with a white elephant) and consumer demand for superfast broadband would also be better defined.

Council considered the matter and **resolved** to defer responding to the RCBF request until the area covered by Connecting Cambridgeshire is known.

**7. Town / Parish Planning Forum** - HDC Planning South Team has arranged a forum starting at 5.30 pm, in the Civic Suite., Pathfinder House, Wednesday 11 July . 2 reps invited.

#### **15. Any other business**

**1. Escape Group's MUGA project** . A presentation of the group's proposal was given by Kit Lee and Mark Sturdy. Members were asked to examine the proposal with a view to decision being made at the next meeting on how the Parish Council might be involved.

**2. Gas for Spaldwick** . Jean Haines has asked if the PC would be prepared to consider supporting this project. It was agreed that the Clerk would put a note in Spaldwick News to determine the potential level of interest from residents.

**3. HDC Chairman's Community Award to SPC**. It was noted that the outgoing Chairman of the District Council, Cllr Jeff Dutton had made this award to the Parish Council in recognition of the outstanding support it has given to the community. .

**4. Footpaths** . Mick Ager has pointed out that the footpath diagonally across the field opposite the Petrol station should be cleared of growing crops. Paddy McCartney has complained about the long grass in the church field. The Clerk will inform the CCC Rights of Way Officer regarding these problems.

**5. Verges in Ivy Way** . Cllr Rice said he had been asked by residents whether 2 areas of verge which are not privately owned can be added to the Village grass cutting contract. The Clerk will investigate costs and report to the next meeting.

#### **16. Future meetings** (to be held in Spaldwick School Community Room commencing at 8 pm) Thursday May 31 2012 - Annual Parish Meeting Thursday June 21 2012

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm