

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 21 June 2012 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs. Plummer (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Rice and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 1 member of the public after item 8.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer, Leach and Smith
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item . none declared.
3. **Public Open Forum** . not required; no public present.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 24 May 2012** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes** (not on the agenda)
  - Footpaths** – Bury Close has now been cut.  
Footpath 12 (opposite the petrol station) - At the request of the ROW Officer, the farmer attempted to clear the growing crop by driving a vehicle along it. This produced 2 narrow parallel paths of flattened crop, which Mick Ager considers unsatisfactory. The ROW Officer will check it himself and try to meet the farmer on site to agree action required.
  - Verges in Ivy Way** . It having been noted that the majority of roadside verges in the village outside domestic properties are maintained by the occupiers of those properties except where cases of hardship have been identified, Cllr Rice agreed to inform the residents and suggest that they withdraw their request for the verges in Ivy Way to be added to the PC contract.
  - Gas for Spaldwick** . Only 6 expressions of interest have been received to date. The note in Spaldwick News will therefore be repeated in the next edition.
6. **Finance**
  - The following payments were approved:**
  - 100512 F D Stowell, Salary and expenses Apr . Jun, £404.86 (inc £4.00 VAT)
  - 100513 HMRC, PAYE, £91.60
  - 100514 Impact China Ltd., 200 china mugs, £769.14 (inc £128.19 VAT)
  - 100515 B F Plummer, cost of printing mug application forms, £22.00 (inc £3.67 VAT)
7. **Planning**
  - The following new Planning Application was considered**
  - 1200929FUL**, Amended scheme of Planning Permission 1102132FUL, Rear roof raised & window design changed, 32 Ferriman Road. It was resolved to recommend approval as the development would have no adverse effect on the street scene or on neighbouring properties.
  - Local Planning Authority decisions** . none reported since the last meeting.
8. **Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012** . progress reports
  1. Making Spaldwick Bloom . Cllr Johnson reported that the boxes he had made to surround the Silver & Golden Jubilee Plaques had been completed but when placed in position they appeared too large. He has taken them away to make them smaller.
  2. Bench on Belton's Hill . the plan detailing the location is being finalised
  3. Tree adjacent to bench at Belton's Hill . discussion with HDC awaiting location plan.
  4. Jubilee mugs . It was agreed that mugs would be given free to all children of residents including those at school up to the end of the current school year. The balance from the 200 ordered will be given to the Social Group to be sold on behalf of their funds .Claim vouchers, for those who have not already completed them, will be available from the Village Shop. Mugs will be available for collection at the Village Fete and thereafter from the Village Shop.

5. Jubilee Street Party, June 4<sup>th</sup> . it was resolved to record thanks to the Spaldwick Social Group for organising the highly successful party held on the road adjacent to The Green, which was enjoyed by around 320 villagers of all ages.

## 9. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets

### Trees on Village Green

A report from Bartletts Tree Experts on the 3 horse chestnut trees was received. This said that all 3 trees show signs of Phytothorora Bleeding canker from previous years but no evidence of infection this year. However it can be assumed that it will continue in the future due to the nature of the trees. It was also noted that all three trees suffered from Leaf Minor infestation during the summer. Tree T3 (near the Village Sign) has a large cavity in one of the main scaffold limbs which is a potential safety issue and all three are exhibiting die back in the canopies from root compaction round the root collars.

The report recommends improving the health of the trees by excavating the soil to expose the root collars; a systemic ground injection of phosphate and fertiliser amendment to control the Bleeding Canker; and a full canopy spray to control the Leaf Minor infestation. In addition it recommends a 10% crown thin to reduce the canopy weight and reduction of the scaffold limb with the cavity to prevent failure.

The cost of the work proposed would be £1600.

Following discussion it was decided to ask Bartletts to respond to the unanswered question ~~what~~ what treatments, if any, do you anticipate being required annually? and to seek additional quotations from other tree expert companies.

### Trees / shrubs, Ferriman Road public open space

A report from Bartletts Tree Experts regarding the complaint received from the owner of 40 Ferriman Road regarding damage to fence and suckers from a tree in the Public Open Space recommends felling the Sumach to ground level and treating the stumps with chemicals to prevent re-growth, at a cost of £310.00.

The proposal also included an option to reduce the crown height of the mixed species hedge group at the Public Open Space side of the fence by 2-3 metres to reduce over shadowing of the adjacent house gardens at a cost of £610.00. (If the works were undertaken together the cost would be reduced).

Following discussion it was agreed to defer a decision to a later meeting after site inspections by councillors.

**War Memorial refurbishment** . application for funding proceeding.

**Village sign refurbishment** . Trevor Cooper has refurbished the painting. Work to preserve the wooden mounting is still to be carried out.

## 10. Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

### 1. Code of Conduct

The draft Code prepared by the Cambridgeshire group of Monitoring Officers for the 5 District Councils and Peterborough Unitary Council to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and which they recommend be adopted by Cambridgeshire Parish Councils was circulated to members with the agenda. Although the details in the document are dependent on acceptance by the principal councils, two of which had meetings of their Standards Committees this week for this purpose, the Clerk suggested that Council could resolve now to adopt this Code when finalised with effect from 1 July 2012, the date when the Statutory Instrument defining the current code is revoked, and when the 6 Principal Councils aim to adopt the new Code.

Council considered the Clerk's suggestion but resolved to defer adoption of a new Code until the next meeting.

### 2. Register of Interests

Council noted the following explanation given by the Clerk:

The Localism Act 2011 s.30 requires newly elected and co-opted members to notify the District Council Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of

taking office. S.31 of the act requires existing members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at a meeting, and if not entered into the register to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

A disclosable pecuniary interest relates not only to the member's interests but to those of the member's spouse, civil partner or other person with whom the member is living as husband and wife, or as if they were civil partners and the member is aware that the other person has that interest.

The Register has to be published on the District and Parish Council websites. Whether or not existing members will be required to complete a new Registration of Interest form, other than when stated above, remains to be clarified.

#### **11. Escape Group's MUGA project**

Council noted the following proposals by the Escape Group for Parish Council involvement:

1. PC to support Escape in carrying out a consultation to assess the need for a MUGA.
2. Should the consultation support the need:
  - 2.1 PC to adopt or pass on project to a suitable management team to enable MUGA choice to be finalised and financed.
  - 2.2 PC to establish a working group to work towards securing the land, raising the funding, leading on the tender process and managing the build.
  - 2.3 PC to take ownership of the completed MUGA and maintain it.

Following discussion it was resolved to respond as follows:

The consultation carried out for the Parish Plan has already established the requirement for outdoor sports facilities. Before formulating a MUGA project and associated project team a more detailed assessment should be made of how a MUGA might meet the needs of as many people as possible across the age groups, its probable use by various sections of the community to ensure sustainability, and further consideration by the PC and Escape Group of the various fundamental issues which would be involved in organisation and management.

#### **12. Correspondence**

**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 . no one is able to attend.

#### **13. Any other business**

**Verge outside 3 Stow Road** . it was reported that a small area of the grass verge had sunk. The Clerk will investigate the cause.

#### **14. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 19 July 2012 at 8 pm in Spaldwick School; Community Room

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.