

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 19 June 2014 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. Rice (Chairman, presiding), Jackson-Rimmer, Leach, Plummer, and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell).

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllrs Johnson, Smith (cold) & Wakefield (unwell), and County Cllr Bywater
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item – Cllr Leach in respect of item 6, ref 100589.
3. **Public Open Forum** - not held, no public present
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 15 May 2014** were approved
5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)**
6. **Finance**
The following payments were approved:
 100588 J C Shears, Internal Audit, £50.00
 100589 E G Leach, plants & compost for village planters, £48.94 (inc. £3.17 VAT)
 100590 F D Stowell, Salary & Expenses, Apr – Jun 2014, £403.74 (inc. £4.42 VAT)
 100591 HMRC, PAYE, £92.60
Internal Audit Report for 2013/14
 It was noted that the report which was circulated with the agenda had revealed no serious deficiencies. It was, however, agreed to implement the following recommendations annually in January:
 A) Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to be reviewed and presented to members.
 B) The Risk Assessment document to be reviewed and updated as necessary;
 and to ensure that all pages of the minutes are signed or initialled when approved.
7. **Planning**
To consider any new Planning Application(s) and comment where appropriate – none.
The following Local Planning Authority decision was noted
 1400624FUL, Proposed conservatory to side/rear, 2 Burton Way – Permission granted.
8. **Code of Conduct** – It was resolved to amend the Code adopted on 19 July 2012 to incorporate changes recommended by the HDC Monitoring Officer mainly concerned with clarifying and reporting ‘non-statutory disclosable interests’ previously described as ‘other interests’. Members were advised that new Declarations of Interests forms which now include ‘non-statutory disclosable interests’ should be returned to the Clerk within 28 days.
9. **Assets – Provision / Maintenance**
War Memorial Refurbishment – the Chairman agreed to produce a drawing of the proposal to facilitate negotiations with the War Memorial Trust, HDC and contractors.
Hand Hearse/Bier – it was confirmed that the Council had no objection to the use of the bier in the Church for a flower display in connection with the Open Gardens on 22 June, on condition that it was protected from water and was not left in the Church overnight. Cllr Leach assured the meeting that these conditions were accepted by the organisers.
Trees in Public Open Space, Ferriman Road – A request from the person residing at No. 32 that branches overhanging her garden be cut back, and if possible the height of the trees be reduced was discussed. Cllr Plummer agreed to speak to an HDC tree officer to obtain

advice regarding these and similar trees on the boundary of the open space adjacent to the gardens of other houses in Ferriman Road.

Trees in Stow Road - In response to complaint that the tree outside 23/23A has extended its branches such that they now overhang the drive way which is regularly used by 5 cars thus impeding vision of the road both to the left on leaving and on returning from Stow Longa and turning into the drive, it was agreed that the Clerk should ask Cllr Johnson to arrange a working party of councillors to raise the canopy of this tree and to trim other trees on the Stow Road verge which obstructed the views of pedestrians and drivers.

Children's Play Area – The Clerk reported that the contractor who carried out the safety surface repairs had been asked to remove the excess adhesive protruding above the joints. A visit from Fergusons to trim the hedge along the eastern boundary of the area is still awaited.

Re-location of old notice board – the Clerk reported that having looked at the area around the Jubilee plaques he had doubts about its suitability as the site for the board which it is proposed will contain information regarding local footpaths, and asked for guidance as to exactly where the Council wished it to be located before seeking agreement from HDC and, if necessary, CCC. The Chairman responded that the Council is seeking agreement to the principle of this site and would determine the exact location at a later date.

Other Assets – The Clerk reported that the paint on the shed door in Church Lane needed attention. Action was deferred until a later meeting to allow members to view it.

10. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI – A report by the Clerk which had been circulated prior to the meeting was noted. This included action he had taken in response to comments from residents; and to a proposal from Cllr Wakefield that no lights should be removed from Ferriman Road, to which BB had replied that the two lights proposed for removal could only be retained if funded by the Parish Council. In the absence of Cllr Wakefield this matter was not pursued. The Clerk reported that County Cllr Bywater had received an Email from the Head of Assets and Commissioning Economy, CCC Transport and Environment stating that the question of Littlecotes Close not being included in the BB contract is a County Council matter. He explained that Littlecotes Close was adopted by the Authority on 15th May 2008 hence the road is maintained by the County Council and the streetlights are maintained by Balfour Beatty under the PFI. "This road does not feature within the Contract for upgrading as it is newer than other roads in the County. Unfortunately, as with a number of similar roads recently adopted, the County Council has no additional funds available to add this to the existing programme."

It was noted that replacement of columns in Ferriman Road, Royston Avenue, Stow Road and Thrapston Road commenced this week.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15 – It was confirmed that Council accepted the CCC plans showing locations of 30 mph roundels and kerbing outside The George; and noted that plans for the work to the footway outside 5/7 Thrapston Road are in preparation.

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2015/16 – CCC have invited proposals, closing date 12 September. The Clerk was asked, by means of a notice on the Spaldwick website and in Spaldwick News, to invite members of the public to suggest projects. These and any from council members would be considered and prioritised at the next meeting with a view to the selected scheme being developed and agreed at the September meeting for submission to CCC.

Highway surface dressing programme 2014/15 - To note that 70m² of Stow Road, Spaldwick is scheduled to be dressed on Sunday 27 July. The dressing will be remedial works on last year's dressing - anywhere from Spaldwick to Stow Longa as marked.

Footpaths, byways – It was noted that the Clerk was arranging to have 2 large builders' bags, which had been dumped at the start of the byway at Belton's Hill, to be removed by HDC; and that the wooden kissing gate into Bury Close which was reported as damaged on 30 April has been repaired.

Keep Clear markings – Cllr Leach pointed out that these markings between 10 and 12 High Street were unsightly and unnecessary. The Clerk will ask County Highways not to renew the markings in the future.

Footpath 16 markings – Cllr Rice said that he recently encountered difficulty in locating the path in the vicinity of Coton Barn Farm. The farmer said that this is a common problem due to lack of marker posts. The Clerk will ask for this deficiency to be remedied.

11. Water courses, drainage and flood risk measures

Ditch adjacent to Willow House connecting sheep field to the Brook – Mike Baker and his team cleared some dead trees etc in Mid March – further work is required.

Tree in Brook north of A14 crossing – The Internal Drainage Board was to have reported this to Highways Agency in March – removal still awaited.

Provision of Sandbags – no response received from HDC to emails of 5 May and 5 June. The Clerk will follow this up.

12. **Bus Service changes** – next Working Group meeting 7pm Tuesday 1 July – The Clerk will not be able to attend as originally planned. He agreed to consult local bus users on the options to be considered at the meeting and to submit a report thereon to the Working Group.

13. **Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Liaison Group** – Cllr Plummer reported that he and Cllr Leach had attended the meeting on 9 June at which an update on the programme was received.

14. Correspondence

CCC Key Issues Briefing June 2014 – circulated by email June 17

Cambridgeshire County Council Statement of Community Involvement – this was adopted on 25 March 2014 and is available to view on Cambridgeshire County Council's website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk (search statement of community involvement). It can also be viewed on request at the main County Council Offices at Shire Hall and, until 16 July 2014, at the main County libraries.

Empowering Parish Councils to sell electricity – Steve Shaw, Local Works asks SPC to submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act asking the government to give parish councils the right to sell electricity they generate from local schemes.

First World War centenary programme 2014-2018 – emailed link to members 18 June
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/320244/First_World_War_centenary_programme_2014-2018.pdf

15. Any other business

LCR On-line - members were advised of the user name and password to access the Local Council Review weekly update.

Fly tipping in Long Lane – it was reported that garden rubbish from a neighbouring garden or gardens had been thrown over the fence into the Lane. Clerk and members will monitor.

High Street verge east of Ivy Way – uncut long grass is obscuring the line of sight of drivers leaving Ivy Way and needs cutting back. Clerk will take appropriate action.

16. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, 17 Jul 2014 at 8 pm

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm