

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 15 October 2015 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **An apology for absence** was received from County Cllr Bywater
2. **Casual vacancy** – The Clerk reported that he had received only one expression of interest - from Mr Ian Harriman. No other nominations were forthcoming from members. The proposition that Mr Harriman be co-opted was put to the vote and carried unanimously. It was further resolved that his Declaration of Acceptance should be made at or before the next meeting.
3. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item - none
4. **Public Open Forum** – not used.
5. **Minutes of Meeting held 17 September 2015** were approved and signed.
6. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)**
Clerk's catch up day – the Clerk gave a brief report on what he felt to be a useful day.
Register of Interests – the HDC register has been updated to delete Greg Rice and will now be updated to add Ian Harriman.
Insurance of Village Cross base – Clerk's action to discuss with HDC Conservation Officer is outstanding.
A14 Improvement Scheme – Cllrs Johnson and Smith were unable to attend the meeting on October 14.
7. **Finance**
Quarterly Budget Review and bank reconciliation
 The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 September 2015 and the bank reconciliation at 30 September, which had been checked by Cllr Smith prior to the meeting. After discussion of the statement it was resolved that it be accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.
The following payment was approved
 100638 Reimbursement to Cllr Johnson £24.91 (INC £4.15 VAT), Huntingdon Timber & Roofing Supplies, 20kg Postcrete, for fixing barrier at Public Open Space, Ferriman Road.
8. **Planning**
To consider and comment on any new Planning Application(s) - none
The following Local Planning Authority decision was noted
15/01428/LBC, Reconstruct two outbuildings using existing salvaged material and supplementary material to match (retrospective), 15 High Street Listed Building consent granted for the works shown on the plans. These include fenestration and external doors subject to approval of the drawings by the LPA. Additional works to the buildings are likely to require a further listed building consent
The following developments regarding previous applications were noted
15/01217/TREE, Felling and removal of four ash trees, 5 Pound Close.
 On 17 September HDC issued a tree preservation order L/TPO/381(2015) on 4 trees at 5 Pound Close but the accompanying map did not show their positions correctly. This was withdrawn and replaced by L/TPO/383(2015) which covers the group of 5 Ash Trees around the pond. In the absence of any explanation of the reasoning leading to the TPO, the Clerk

will advise HDC that Spaldwick Parish Council continues to support the planning application to fell the four trees specified therein, and therefore objects to the Tree Preservation Order L/TPO/383(2015) as it includes these four trees, unless it is simply an interim measure to prevent any work being carried out prior to the planning application being determined.

1301639FUL, land east of 5-17 Stow Road

Street name - Subsequent to the last meeting a letter was received from HDC advising that the street name 'St James Garden' had been proposed by the developer. In view of the tight timescale (reply required by 30 September) this was circulated to members for comment. There were no objections on legitimate grounds e.g. that it would cause confusion because of similarity to an existing name, but it was agreed to support Cllr Johnson in asking the developer to consider using the name of another soldier who fell in WW1. This request was refused on the grounds that the naming process was too far gone.

Other queries - In view of concerns expressed by Cllr Smith that a dead tree scheduled for removal is still in place, the Clerk will chase the planning officer for a reply to his email of 30 August which raised this issue and questions regarding trees which were scheduled to be retained but which have been removed and the results of the archaeological dig.

9. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

Proposed re-location of the bier into the Church – Cllr Smith reported that he will write to the Vicar to ask if the Bier could be placed on view in the church rather than hidden away in the shed. He will point out that it will need to be chained to the floor and insured (the costs being covered by the Parish Council, who will retain ownership).

War Memorial Refurbishment – it was noted that a meeting with Helen Bowman, Conservation Officer at the War Memorials Trust was held on site on 13 October when various options were considered. She is in favour of the proposal to leave the current engraving alone and to add three separate plaques with the original details copied onto them. She has agreed to provide advice on suitable materials.

Children's Play Area – Cllr Robinson reported that he is arranging a meeting with Wicksteed Leisure Ltd to discuss issues raised in the last playground inspection report particularly the surfacing areas. Following this he will talk to several other companies and eventually invite formal tenders for the work. The Clerk is to chase Ferguson's with a view to arranging trimming of the surrounding trees and hedges.

Public Open Space, Ferriman Road update – the barrier at the entrance has now been installed thanks to Cllrs Fane de Salis and Johnson.

Painting of Assets – The work on the seats on the Village Green and at Royston Avenue has been completed. Work on the seat at the Play area and the notice board at Royston Avenue is in progress

Trees planted by Parish Council – The meeting considered applying to HDC for 2 trees to replace those which have died at Belton's Hill, but decided not to do so as the surviving trees are considered adequate.

Village Boxes – an email from G Leach said that he had placed some new plants in the boxes and watered them on 13 October but would be unable to look after them for 6 weeks. The Clerk agreed to make sure the boxes do not dry up during that time. Mr Leach also raised the possibility of a trim on the tree overhanging the box next to the plaques as he had noticed a large difference in the size of the plants that were out of the shade during this summer. He said he would do it himself if given approval. The Clerk is to obtain any necessary tree work approval from HDC.

10. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

CCC Local Highway Improvement initiative 2016-17 – it was noted that the Scheme will be submitted to the CCC review panel by 2 November.

Winter Gritting – it was noted that the CCC review has not changed its criteria for designating the precautionary gritting routes. The CCC Highways Network Manager reported that Belton's

Hill “is already on secondary route but does not fulfil the present criteria for a standard route.” He pointed out that there have been instances where CCC have contributed 50% to the purchase of machinery for farmers to use. He has offered to meet to discuss on site with the various options and will get some figures for the machinery. The Clerk will arrange date.

Bus Service changes – It was noted that CCC are currently assessing the tenders for the proposed new service. Changes are not expected before January 2016. The CCC team is aware that the parish council needs to be consulted on the exact route so that the proposed bus shelter can be conveniently situated for potential bus users and the bus operators,

Speedwatch – Cllr Jackson-Rimmer reported that no sessions had been held since the last meeting but it is hoped that two will be held in the next 3 weeks.

Highway and street light problems – the following updates were noted

Kerb outside 3 Stow Road to be replaced – work complete

Barrier at entrance to Uphorpe Farm – the Clerk will ask CCC to remove the accident debris from the ditch as it is a potential hazard, and will query what action is proposed to reduce the risk of further accidents.

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

Pot hole in entrance to Spaldwick Service station reported to CCC 3 Oct – repaired 8 Oct.

This has subsequently broken up. The Local Highways Officer will check the pothole again.

Contact details of owners of animals kept in local fields – The Clerk reported that he has spoken to two owners of animals being kept in fields in the parish but neither have yet displayed their contact details.

Broken barrier over brook on concrete road – it was noted that although some work has been carried out, the rail is still incomplete. The Clerk commented that, in retrospect, he thinks that it should be filled in with some form of mesh similar to that where the A14 slip road goes over the brook. A reply from Martin Eayrs regarding completion of the repair is awaited.

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

Kirby/Claas Depot, Thrapston Road – it was noted that the area round the back has been cleared up to the satisfaction of the neighbours in Littlecotes Close.

Schedule of verges to be maintained by SPC in 2016 – In response to the Clerk’s question of how close to cut the Stow Longa verge to the boundary of Bury Close, it was agreed that, as the encroachment of brambles etc. onto the verge is the responsibility of the landowner, the Clerk should ask him to have them cut back.

Footpaths, byways – no new problems were reported..

11. **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr Robinson, the parish council representative on the committee, reported that a newsletter was published on 6 October giving an update on the committee’s activities since the EGM held in February 2015, and gave a summary of its contents. He reported that Mrs Lincoln, who has stored the old chairs and tables since the old hall closed, wants them removed from her premises. The committee considers that they are not worth keeping and proposes to dispose of them. During a brief discussion it was agreed that the chairs should be scrapped but it was felt that the tables are worth keeping. If the bier is moved into the church, the space vacated could be considered for their storage.
12. **Parish Plan** – It was agreed to accept an offer by Cllr Robinson that he would review the existing documents and report back to the council on what he considers to be the best way forward in order to produce a new Plan in early 2016.
13. **Village clear up day** - The Clerk reported that only one person had responded to his piece in Spaldwick News. It was nevertheless agreed to try to get a group of volunteers to trim the hedges and generally tidy up Church Lane on Saturday 24 October commencing at 10 am. Cllr Jackson-Rimmer agreed to advertise this on Facebook.

14. Correspondence

CAPALC AGM, 10 December 2015, 7 pm Histon & Impington Village Hall – the Clerk and all Councillors are invited to attend (only one councillor may vote). Confirmation of attendees is requested by 1 December.

Tour of Cambridgeshire 4 and 5 June 2016 – Public authorities meeting at Elton Furze Golf Club, Haddon 6 pm Thursday 29 October. The Clerk will check the route when it is published. If it is likely to seriously affect Spaldwick a representative to attend the meeting will be sought.

CCC Key Issues October 2015 – circulated by email October 7

Playtimes Spaldwick – Letter from Vicky Wakefield requesting grant for internal works and a garden project, total estimated cost £6840. It was agreed to put this on the agenda of the next meeting.

15. Any other business – none**16. Next Meeting** – Thursday 19 November 2015

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.43 pm