

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 24 March 2011 at Spaldwick Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), G Leach, G Rice, G Smith, S Wakefield, R Wooddisse, the Clerk and 4 members of the public.

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr R Johnson (holiday)
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item . none
3. **Public Open Forum** – Mr Blatch, who wished to speak regarding matters raised in his letter of 17 March addressed to the Chairman, was invited to speak at item 6. No other members of the public wished to speak.
4. **Minutes of Meetings held 17 February and 3 March 2011** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**

**Dead trees** – Cllr Leach had shown the Clerk the trees to which he referred at the February meeting. Mr Brown was informed of the one on land adjacent to Long Lane and he has since had the overhanging dead branch removed. The other tree on the boundary of Bury Close is not adjacent to a public right of way. The Clerk will inform Mr Edwards and leave him to determine what action, if any, to take.

**Bus Services 400 to 409** – The Clerk gave an update on steps being taken to overcome the problems arising from the imminent withdrawal of the Stagecoach bus services. CCC have evaluated bids for various options and anticipate awarding a contract shortly which makes provision for transport of students to Hinchingsbrooke School and for other residents to access Huntingdon for work, and nearby towns for shopping. More details will be made available soon.

**Nene and Ouse Community Transport** will continue to offer a range of services which are available on payment of a membership fee of £15. The operators have confirmed that Cambridgeshire members with Concessionary Bus Passes travel free on the Ring & Ride Shopping trips within Cambridgeshire i.e. to Peterborough on Tuesdays & Thursdays, Huntingdon on Wednesdays, St Neots on Thursdays and St Ives on one Monday per month.
6. **Finance**

**2011/2012 Budget** – it was resolved unanimously to adopt the budget as appended to these minutes.

**The following payments made since the last meeting were approved:**  
 100466 Connections Bus Project, provision of facility & 2 youth workers, 24 Feb, £110.00  
 100467 F D Stowell Salary & Expenses Jan . March 2011, £521.86

**Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011** – It has just been announced by DCLG that these new regulations come into effect on 31 March 2011 and hence will apply to the preparation, approval and audit of the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2011. The Clerk reported that he had read them and envisaged no difficulty in complying with them

**Letter from John Blatch, Treasurer, St. James Church, Spaldwick** (circulated to members prior to the meeting). Mr Blatch spoke regarding the following matters:

  - **Church Path** The gravel path from the gate at Church Way to the main door is worn out, the gravel has virtually disappeared and the grass is encroaching on either side. Having heard that Buckworth Parish Council obtained a grant from HDC for a similar project, he is asking whether Spaldwick Parish Council could find some way of repairing the path. Since writing the letter he has contacted HDC asking whether funding could be made available as an Environmental Improvement Scheme. A reply is awaited. It was agreed that the Clerk and Mr Blatch would investigate what grants may be available and how to submit an application.

- **Royal Wedding** A Garden Party to celebrate the occasion is to be held at 43 High Street on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April in aid of St. James Church. Mr Blatch is hoping for a turnout of 100 or more, and asks whether the Parish Council would like to be associated with the celebration and pay for the Loyal Toast of sparkling wine. During the subsequent discussion alternative means of funding the toast were suggested and Mr Blatch withdrew his request.

## 7. Planning

### **Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Liaison Group**

The meeting planned for 15 March was cancelled and is rescheduled for 6 April.

### **Woolley Hill Wind Farm Planning Application 1001741FUL**

In response to requests for additional information regarding the environmental impact, RES have submitted Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) to HDC. The Clerk gave a report on the content which provides answers to questions raised by the HDC Landscape Architect, the Environment Agency, Natural England, CCC Highways and English Heritage. The Clerk is to circulate a summary of the SEI to members and to provide them with links to the full document on the HDC website. Members wishing to comment were asked to advise the Clerk as soon as possible, the dead line for replies to HDC being 15 April.

### **New Planning Application**

1100342TREE, Work to trees near the gateway, The Old Rectory, Pound Close, Spaldwick. Council welcomed the proposal to carry out remedial work but agreed not to comment on the details which can be better dealt with by the HDC Arboricultural officer.

### **To note HDC decision**

**Application 1002042FUL**, Erection of 25 metre high wind turbine, Glebe Farm, Barham Road - Permission granted.

8. **Village Hall** – The Chairman reported that he and Eddie Roughsedge are arranging to meet the HDC Head of Planning Services within the next few weeks to seek guidance on the possible sites for the hall.
9. **Parish Plan** – The Chairman reported that at the next meeting he will present a summary of the progress against the actions identified in the Plan.

## 10. Environmental Issues

### **Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme 2010/11, High Street Footway**

At the last meeting the Parish Council approved the scheme for the footway to run alongside the kerb and for the kerb to be extended into the roadway to maintain the footway width past the telegraph pole west of Ivy House.

The Clerk was subsequently advised that the HDC Conservation Group objected to the change to the kerb due to its proximity to Ivy House (a listed building). After consulting councillors by email he asked CCC to look again at the possibility of taking the path around the rear of the telegraph pole, but for various reasons this option was rejected and they concluded that the best option is for the footway to run alongside the existing kerb, accepting that it will be narrowed as it passes the telegraph pole. The order has been placed accordingly. It is anticipated that work will start shortly.

Council agreed to accept this situation.

## 11. Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee June 2012 and Royal Wedding 29 April 2011

**Royal Wedding** – It was agreed that the Parish Council would not arrange any celebration itself in view of the other known events already planned . Church Garden Party & Street Party in Ivy Way.

**Diamond Jubilee** . Since the picture of the Silver and Golden Jubilee plaques appeared on the front of the March edition of Spaldwick News with the question 'What do we do for 2012?', only one idea has been received. Alan and Faye Barnden have suggested

something providing a view through time from 3000 BC to the present, based on findings from the archaeological excavations on Thrapston Road. During discussion of this idea, the general feeling was that this could take the form of a semi-permanent feature to be displayed in the Church or Village Hall.

## 12. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets

**War Memorial** . awaiting visit of contractor to survey the memorial.

**Notice Boards** . Order placed.

**Inspection of Children's Play area** – Cllr Rice reported that when he carried out a check on 20 February there were no problems. He confirmed that inspections will be repeated monthly. He reported that the %No Dogs+sign had been moved to avoid it being masked by the hedge. Alex Bromley was thanked for doing this work.

### **Play equipment stored at West Lodge Farm**

Cllr Wooddisse queried whether the large roll of safety surface could be re-used. If not, he suggested it should be scrapped. The Clerk is to ask Wicksteed for their comments.

## 13. Complaints Procedure – It was resolved to adopt the draft procedure circulated to members with the agenda.

## 14. Correspondence

**North West Hunts Neighbourhood Forum** will be held at Yaxley on 4 April.

**Sportivate** aims to get semi sporty people aged 14-25 years to complete weekly coaching sessions, with two in five to carry on playing sport regularly. The projects will run for 6 weeks and each session should be one hour in duration. The Clerk to pass details to the Youth Group

**HDC Employment Land Availability Assessment** – Consultation on the Draft will take place from 25 March to 26 April. The Clerk will inform members of any matters relevant to Spaldwick prior to the next meeting.

## 15. Any other business

**Asset Register** – In response to the Clerk's request for assistance Cllr Leach agreed to photograph the street furniture and other items listed on the register.

**Making Spaldwick Bloom** . Cllr Leach had circulated to members prior to the meeting a note outlining his proposal for planting in the village. After discussion it was agreed that he would seek further advice from interested villagers as to the most sustainable form of planting bearing in mind that maintenance would depend on volunteers. When a firm scheme has been agreed details will be published and volunteers will be invited to join a rota to maintain the plants.

## 16. Dates of future meetings

**Parish Council** - Thursday 21 April 2011

**Annual Parish Meeting** - Thursday 28 April 2011

In the absence of any other business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

<b>SPALDWICK PARISH COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET 2011/2012</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>
Grass cutting Village	1640
Grass cutting Churchyard	600
Insurance	500
Audit fees	200
CPALC/ACRE/SLCC/NALC	270
Donations	650
Rent of meeting room	150
Clerk . Salary	1900
Clerk . Expenses	300
Training . Councillors and Clerk	200
Contribution to minor improvement scheme	450
Maintenance of play area & POS (inc. Inspection)	1040
Maintenance of other assets (inc war memorial & lighting)	1000
Notice boards . supply & installation	1200
Election if contested (otherwise £105)	500
Misc / contingencies	2000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12600</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>
Precept (increase 5.32%)	9900
CCC Grass cutting	470
Interest on deposit accounts	50
<b>Total income</b>	<b>10420</b>
<b>Balance brought forward 1/4/2011</b>	<b>58018</b>
Plus income	10420
Minus Expenditure	12600
<b>Balance to carry forward 31/3/2012</b>	<b>55838</b>
<b>Reserves at 1/4/2011</b>	
Grounds maintenance reserve	18916
Village Hall & Playing Field reserve	28000
Charity fund	120
Parish Plan fund	176
Unallocated	10806
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>58018</b>