

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 21 April 2011 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), R Johnson, G Leach, G Rice, G Smith, S Wakefield, R Wooddisse, the Clerk and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** - none
2. **Declarations of Interest**, personal and/or prejudicial, in relation to any agenda item . none
3. **Public Open Forum** – not required
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 24 March 2011** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**

Bus services – details of services to be provided by Whippet from 18 April have been obtained from CCC and passed to most of the regular adult users.

Parish Council Assets - Cllr Leach has supplied the Clerk with a set of digital photos.

HDC Employment Land Availability Assessment – the only item relating to Spaldwick is that the land north of Thrapston Road between Agrovista and Barham Road has been discounted on the grounds that it is part of the wider countryside

Diamond Jubilee – No further ideas have been received since the last meeting. It was agreed, therefore, that the Clerk should ask Mr & Mrs Barnden whether they would be interested in pursuing their idea of something to provide a view through the ages based on the recent archaeological excavations on Thrapston Road,.
6. **Finance**

The following payments were approved:

100468 CPALC, annual membership fee, £180.24

100469 SLCC Enterprises, Regional Conference fee 29 March, £78.00 (inc. £13.00 VAT)

100470 Spaldwick School, Room Rental, Jan . March, £42.00

100471 R B Woodworking, 2 Notice Boards £1255.20 (inc. £209.20 VAT)

Accounts for year ended 31 March 2011 - The Clerk presented the Receipts and Payments Summary together with supporting cash book and bank statement. Following detailed examination it was resolved that the accounts be accepted.

Audit Commission Annual Return for 2010/11

Section 1 – Accounting statements - The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the certified accounting statement to the meeting. It was resolved that this be approved. The Chairman then signed the statement confirming the Council's approval.

Section 2 – Annual governance statement - The Council considered the statements in this section and resolved that each of the statements 1 . 8 be agreed and annotated YES. Section 9, relating to trust funds was marked N/A. The overall statement was then signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

Notice of date for Exercise of Electors' Rights in connection with the accounts (6 June 2011) has been posted on the notice board.

Progress in setting up PAYE system - The Clerk reported receipt of the new employer registration and reference numbers together with a disc containing Basic PAYE Tools and guidance. He anticipated having the system set up well before the end of the quarter.

Church Path Refurbishment – Dan Smith, HDC Community Manager has confirmed that no environmental improvement projects can be funded from the Capital Grant Aid Fund in the foreseeable future. The Clerk has advised Mr Blatch and suggested possible alternative sources of funding which may be available to the PCC for this purpose.
7. **Planning**

HDC decision noted – Application 1100210FUL, 9-11 Thrapston Road, Change of use including demolition of porch and alterations to rear buildings. **Permission**, following minor design amendments.

Woolley Hill Wind Farm proposal – Cllr Leach gave a report on the meeting of the Liaison Group held on 6 April at which it was reported that the period for commenting on the Supplementary Environmental Information has been extended. A summary of this document is currently on circulation to SPC members . any comments are now required by 20 May.

8. **Village Hall site** – The Chairman reported on a meeting that he, Greg Rice and Eddie Roughsedge had this week with HDC Planning Services, who were generally supportive of the requirement for a suitable site. They were not dismissive of any of the sites discussed, which included Bury Close and the Public Open Space East of Playtimes. They will consider the issues raised and will respond in writing. In response to a query, the Chairman confirmed that the original preferred site, southwest of the school, and other possible sites had not been ruled out.

HDC Planning Services also confirmed that the current policy to limit new house building in the village to infilling together with affordable housing (if proved necessary) on exception sites is expected to remain in place for the foreseeable future.

9. **Parish Plan**

Action Plan Review – The Chairman gave a review of the current position in respect of matters raised in the Action Plan. The updated pro-forma will be circulated to members.

10. **Environmental issues**

Milestone (10 Thrapston, 7 Huntingdon) – It was noted that HDC's proposal to re-instate this milestone on the grass verge north of Willow House has been dropped in view of objections by the owners of Willow House. HDC has, therefore, asked the Parish Council to recommend a site. Council agreed that the chosen site should be visible to the public and after a proposal by Cllr Leach it was agreed that Cllrs Smith and Johnson should investigate whether a suitable site could be found on the Village Green.

Making Spaldwick Bloom – Cllr Leach reported that he had opened discussions with several villagers with a view to making proposals for a sustainable planting scheme, but to date he had made no positive progress. When firm ideas are on the table he will liaise with the Clerk in producing a formal proposal.

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

War Memorial – visit of contractor to survey the memorial is expected shortly.

New Notice Boards – these are now with Cllr Johnson, who will arrange to apply protective coating, insert the glazing and erect the boards.

Inspection of Children's Play area – Cllr Rice reported no problems with the equipment at the inspection on 5 April. However, some thorn-bearing shrubs are growing through the fence and are a potential hazard to children. The Clerk pointed out that the entry pathway is partially obstructed with shrubbery. Cllr Wakefield volunteered to trim back where necessary.

Play equipment stored at West Lodge Farm – The Clerk reported that he had been advised by Wicksteed that the roll of safety surface will almost certainly still be suitable for re-use. In the circumstances Cllr Wooddisse said he would not press for its removal.

Hand Hearse (Bier) – It was agreed that Cllrs Leach and Johnson should examine the bier and report to Council on possible steps that could be taken to restore and preserve it and to make it available for viewing.

12. **Correspondence - Grass Cutting: Public Rights of Way** - CCC is asking the PC to monitor the contract for 2 cuts of the listed paths in May & July, and to report back if the first cut is not done by the end of May so that they can follow up with the contractor. John Saynor to be asked to respond.

13. **Any other business** – the proposed agenda for the Annual Parish meeting was accepted.

14. **Dates of future meetings**

Thursday 28 April 2011, Annual Parish Meeting,
Thursday 19 May 2011, Annual Parish Council Meeting