

SPALDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting** of Spaldwick Parish Council held at Spaldwick Primary School on Thursday 19 May 2011 at 8 pm.

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), S Jackson-Rimmer, R Johnson, G Leach, G Rice, G Smith, S Wakefield, the Clerk and 2 members of the public. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Sharan Jackson-Rimmer to the Council following her recent election.

1. Apologies for absence – none, all present.

2. Election of Chairman and declaration of acceptance of office

Two nominees, B Plummer and G Rice, were proposed and seconded. On the proposition by Cllr Leach it was agreed that the election be by signed ballot, the results of which were B Plummer 4 votes, G Rice 3 votes. B Plummer was declared elected, signed a declaration of acceptance of the office of Chairman and continued to chair the meeting.

3. (a) Declarations of acceptance of office from members recently elected.

All seven councillors signed declarations of acceptance of the office of member of the council, which were duly witnessed by the Clerk and received by the Council.

(b) Registrations of financial and other interests or declarations of no change

Cllr Jackson-Rimmer, having completed a form of Registration of Financial and Other Interests prior to the meeting, passed it to the Clerk. The remaining six councillors signed a Declaration of ~~No Changes~~. The Clerk will send the originals to HDC and retain copies.

4. Other elections, appointments, responsibilities

Vice Chairman . Cllr G Rice was elected unanimously.

The following, having confirmed their agreement were re-appointed:

Playground Inspection: Cllr Rice

Finance monitoring: Cllr Smith

Tree Warden: Cllr Johnson

Parish Paths Partnership Co-ordinator. John Saynor

5. Declarations of Interest as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item . none.

6. Public Open Forum . no matters were raised.

7. Minutes of Meeting held 21 April 2011 were approved and signed

8. Matters arising from minutes

Diamond Jubilee Commemoration - Faye & Alan Barnden have confirmed their interest in pursuing with the Parish Council their idea to provide a view of Spaldwick through the ages, in connection with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Hand Hearse (Bier) – Cllr Leach reported that he and Cllr Johnson had examined the bier and are of the opinion that it should, if possible, be restored and moved to a location where it could be seen by the public and where it would be better protected from further deterioration. He agreed to discuss the matter with experts and produce a report on its current condition and value and an estimate of the cost of refurbishment. The Clerk will email photographs of the bier to members and will inform Canon Young and the PCC of the situation.

It was also noted that the building housing the bier is in danger from an adjacent tree and the roof is in a poor condition.

Children's Play area – Cllr Wakefield will trim back the growth which is obstructing the entry pathway within the next few days. Fergusons will prune the other shrubs around the area. Cllr Rice reported that his May inspection highlighted gaps in tiles around climbing frame.

9. Finance

Bank mandates – As Robert Wooddisse has not been re-elected to the Council a replacement signatory is required. It was resolved that Grahame Leach would be the replacement and that the mandates for the Santander and Barclays accounts should be revised to name R P Johnson, E G Leach, and G S Smith as signatories with cheques being signed by any two of the three.

10. Planning

New Planning Application

H/05004/11/CC – Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission H/05014/09/CC to allow retention of mobile classroom until 31 August 2013, Spaldwick Primary School.

It was resolved to advise CCC that the Parish Council has no objections and recommends approval.

11. Village Hall site

The Chairman reported that HDC Planners are currently investigating various sites. Another meeting between HDC and Messrs Plummer, Rice and Roughsedge has been arranged for next month.

12. Environmental issues

Milestone (10 Thrapston, 7 Huntingdon) – A report from Cllr Leach following discussions with Cllr Johnson, which had been circulated to members, concluded that the Village Green is possibly a little crowded to accommodate the milestone. The report referred to a number of other possible sites and suggested a meeting with James Simmins of HDC at these sites to see if any are acceptable. A further communication from Mr Simmins proposed the grass verge in front of 2 Ivy Way / Ivy House which would meet the criteria . south side of road, visible to the public, no maintenance issues.

Following discussion it was resolved that the Council's preferred site is on the green in Thrapston Road facing No. 17, Walton House. The Clerk to inform Mr Simmons accordingly.

Tree on Village Green – Cllr Leach reported that a strip on the trunk of the horse chestnut tree behind the Village Sign is weeping. The Clerk is to seek advice from Brian Ogden, HDC Arboricultural Officer regarding any recommended action.

Trees on verge in Stow Road – Cllr Johnson reported that the view around the bend opposite the junction with Royston Avenue is being obstructed by low branches. On being advised by the Clerk that work on the trees is not covered in Ferguson's grass cutting contract, he agreed to carry out the work himself.

Making Spaldwick Bloom – Following discussion it was resolved that a piece on the lines of that circulated prior to the meeting on 24 March should be published in Spaldwick News

13. Correspondence . nothing of significance reported.

14. Any other business

Village Fete – The Chairman reported that the Social Group Committee has confirmed that the fete will be held on 9 July.

Thanks to Robert Wooddisse – It was unanimously agreed to record the appreciation of the Council for the work Robert Wooddisse had performed during his ten years service on the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks.

15. Date of next meeting

Thursday 23 June 2011

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.06 pm