

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 15 December 2011 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), R Johnson, G Leach, G Rice, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Cllrs S Jackson-Rimmer, G Smith, and S Wakefield
2. **Declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item** – none.
3. **Public Open Forum** . no matters were raised
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 17 November 2011** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**
Winter gritting, Belton's Hill . the clerk has been informed by CCC that it is not possible to change the precautionary gritting schedule to include Belton's Hill or Woolley Hill this year, but when the schedule is reviewed in summer 2012 these additional routes will be considered. CCC has said that the option of using a towed spreader behind a 4WD is something worth considering (and they would be happy to make a contribution to its cost). Barham & Woolley PC has been informed, but has not yet commented.
6. **Finance**
A letter from J Blatch regarding Church finances was noted. The accounts show that the Garden Fund received interest of £70 and spent £610 on maintenance (including £70 for the cost of the gravel laid recently). Council resolved to donate £540 to the PCC to cover the net cost.
To approve the following payments:
 100488 Fergusons, grass cutting, cycles 7-12, £1422.72 (inc. £237.12 VAT)
 100489 SLCC, Clerk's Manual Edn.4, £32.00
 100490 F D Stowell, salary and exp, Oct-Dec 2011, £453.56 (inc. £6.14 VAT)
 100491 HMRC, PAYE, £91.80
 100492 Spaldwick School, Room rental, £54.00
 100493 Spaldwick PCC, Maintenance of churchyard, £540.00
 100494 Cash to cover Christmas Charity gifts, £120.00
Distribution of Christmas Charity gifts: It was agreed that £20 each be given to the same 6 recipients as last year. Cllr Johnson kindly agreed to distribute the gifts.
Budget and precept for 2012/13 . It was resolved to set the budget as appended to these minutes and to set the precept at £10300 which, due to an increase in the tax base from 230 to 235, would result in the Band D Council tax attributable to the Parish Council increasing by only 79p to £43.83 per annum.
7. **Planning**
To consider any new Planning Applications . none received
To note the following Local Planning Authority decision:
Applications 1101343FUL and 1101344LBC, Conversion of stables and hay barn to residential etc, Long Lane, to rear of The Gables . Permission granted subject to conditions. related to trees. A new structure on the existing Nissen hut foundations is acceptable, but nothing more than this, as the roots of existing trees could be damaged.
Appeal re application 1100849FUL (1100030NONDET), Erection of dwelling to rear of 33 Thrapston Road . statements of both parties were exchanged by the deadline of 30 November. Copies will be available from the Clerk or HDC website. The application remains to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

Latest position of (part retrospective) application 1101444FUL, 4 houses being built adjacent 33 Thrapston Road . it was noted that this application remains undetermined by the LPA.

8. **Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012**

Making Spaldwick Bloom . Cllr Leach reported that, in addition to the box which is to be placed around the Village Sign, it is proposed to place a U-shaped box around the Silver / Golden Jubilee plaques. Cllr Johnson has kindly agreed to make the boxes and intends to start work shortly. Council confirmed its agreement to the location of the boxes and to cover the cost of the wood and soil mix at an estimated total cost of £500.

Other commemorative possibilities

1. Commemorative tea towel . The Clerk, having discussed this matter with Stuart Dixon, said that one option would be for the Parish Council to order and pay for the tea towels and then hand them over to say the Open House Group to sell and for the proceeds to be split as the Group would decide. If the PC placed the order the VAT would be recoverable so long as it didn't sell them itself.

Following discussion, it was resolved to drop this as a Parish Council project and to consider procuring commemorative mugs to be given to children under secondary school age living in the Village. The Chairman agreed to find out the number required and to obtain a quotation for mugs inscribed to indicate that they are gifts from Spaldwick Parish Council

2. Bench on Belton's Hill . Clerk is obtaining the necessary approvals for its location and the costs of procuring a three seater bench with arms and installing it on site.

3. Definition of Village Walks . cost of leaflets to be obtained from Mr & Mrs Saynor.

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

War Memorial Renovation. Three quotations were considered. It was agreed that the preferred one is £2912 from Brown & Ralph of Longstanton. The Clerk is to submit this to The War Memorials Trust in support of an application for a grant of 50%.

Trees on Village Green . Three quotations for the removal of one tree and removing dead wood etc from the other two trees, and a report from Bridget Halford (HDC landscape Officer / Tree Warden Coordinator) regarding the supply of replacement trees were considered.

Following discussion it was agreed that Council would prefer to fell all three trees now and replace them with a suitable alternative species of reasonable size. It was agreed that Sweet Chestnut is the preferred species.

The Clerk is to inform Brian Ogden, HDC Arboricultural Officer, and Bridget Halford of these preferences and, if they support them, to obtain appropriate quotations.

Children's play area . Two quotations to remove two trip hazards (loose edge stone on safety surface of large swing; and uneven paving stones on entry path) were considered. It was resolved to defer a decision regarding placing an order until further quotations had been obtained.

10. **Correspondence**

Proposed parking restrictions outside Spaldwick School

November 18, email to the clerk from the project officer reporting that she had received objections from 3 residents, which she would pass on to the area engineer.

November 26, email to the Chairman from Eddie Roughsedge with copy of the comments he had sent to the project officer.

December 15, email to the clerk from the project officer reporting that Richard Preston, Head of Road Safety Service at CCC is proposing to hold a site meeting with the objectors, the school, the Parish Council and County Cllr McGuire to discuss the issues. This will be arranged in the New Year.

Village History

Mark Heath has emailed the clerk suggesting that the information could be provided in electronic format for example as a standalone PDF ebook. This could then be accessed on the Spaldwick website, the Spaldwick Parish Council website, Facebook, the Spaldwick

School website and many other sites and online document directories. It could also be distributed by email easily. Compared with print, there would be no cost, and the approach would be environmentally friendly. People would have the option of printing out their own version at home if they really wanted to (at their own cost).

The Clerk reported that he had discussed this matter with Stuart Dixon who stated that he was not against an ebook but it is not something with which he would wish to be involved. He would be content to compile a booklet at some stage.

Council discussed these emails and concluded that a printed booklet which could also be published on the Spaldwick website would probably be best way to make the history available to the public.

Street Lighting PFI

CCC report that the replacement of street lights has started across the County. The programme will be made known about 3 months before work starts in Spaldwick. Overall 10% of lights will not be replaced but Parish Councils will have the option to adopt lights which it is proposed to remove. The Parish Council is asked to let CCC know now whether, in principle, it is happy with the standard street lighting column and the fact that, as part of the project, there will be a reduction in some lighting or, if not, whether it would want to take over some of the lights or have alternative columns. Any additional capital or maintenance costs in these cases would have to be borne by the Council. The contractor Balfour & Beatty will keep the Council and the public aware of the proposals as they are developed.

Council discussed this and agreed to inform CCC that, in principle, standard columns (rather than say heritage style columns) are acceptable and it would not wish to fund the provision and maintenance of columns that B & B might propose to replace. It would, however, wish to be consulted during the planning stage and to be assured that any reduction in the number of street lights would not present unacceptable risks.

Transport franchise pilot

Dan Clarke, CCC Future Transport Programme Manager is currently working with Nene and Ouse Community Transport on the feasibility of running a franchise pilot. The area identified to run this pilot includes Spaldwick and Stow Longa. The proposal is to run services along the A14, picking up from the villages either side and into Huntingdon. CCC would like to hear the views of the community and to see whether this would be a useful service. Mr Clarke suggested meeting to discuss. It was agreed that the Clerk should meet Mr Clarke and get more information before reporting back to the Council.

CPALC Training sessions 2012

A new schedule has been published. Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know what sessions they are interested in.

11. Any other business

Following a statement by the Chairman regarding a letter he had received from Mr William Brown, it was resolved to record the appreciation of the Council to David Stowell for clearing up much of the litter exposed in the ditches along Stow Road following the recent cut of the roadside verges, hedges and ditches.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday 19 January 2012 in Spaldwick School Community Room commencing at 8 pm

In the absence of any other business, the meeting closed at 9.53 pm

Appendix

**Spaldwick Parish Council
Budget 2012/2013**

EXPENDITURE	£
Grass cutting village	1750.00
Grass cutting churchyard	600.00
Insurance	500.00
Audit fees	200.00
CPALC/ACRE/SLCC/NALC	300.00
Donations	650.00
Rent of meeting room	200.00
Clerk - Salary	1900.00
Clerk - Exs	300.00
Training	200.00
Maintenance of play area & Public Open Space	1100.00
Maintenance of war memorial & other assets	2000.00
Diamond Jubilee	1000.00
Misc/contingencies	1600.00
To election cost reserve	160.00
Total expenditure	12460.00
INCOME	£
Precept	10300.00
CCC Grass cutting	470.00
Interest on deposit accounts	50.00
From Play area & POS maintenance reserve	1100.00
From reserves	540.00
Total income	12460.00