

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 19 January 2012 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. B Plummer (Chairman), S Jackson-Rimmer, R Johnson, G Leach, G Rice, G Smith, S Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – none
2. **Declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item** – Cllr Johnson declared an interest in agenda item 7, 100497, refund of cost of purchase.
3. **Public Open Forum** . no matters were raised regarding items not on the agenda.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 15 December 2011** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising**
Winter gritting, Belton's Hill - No comment has been received from Barham & Woolley Parish Council in response to our email of 1 December 2011. The Clerk will ensure that Belton's Hill and Woolley Hill are included in the review of the CCC precautionary gritting schedule planned to take place in the summer.
Transport franchise pilot . the Clerk's meeting with Dan Clarke, CCC Future Transport Programme Manager is still to be arranged.
6. **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**
 The Clerk reported that he had carried out a review of these documents, as a result of which he made the following recommendations;
Standing Orders . no changes required to version adopted 25 March 2010
Financial Regulations . the following change to para 7.2 of the version adopted 14 October 2004 is proposed:
 %Deductions from salary for tax and national insurance contributions shall be made where relevant. In the event that the Clerk is taxed on another source of income under the PAYE system, the salary may be paid gross so long as Inland Revenue is informed annually of the amount paid+
to be amended to read:
 %Deductions from salary for tax and national insurance contributions shall be made where relevant in accordance with the PAYE system+
 It was agreed to accept these recommendations and to bring them to the next meeting for adoption along with any further recommendations arising from observations submitted to the Clerk by Councillors prior to the next meeting.
7. **Finance**
Quarterly Budget Review at 31 December 2011
 The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 31 December 2011 and the bank reconciliation at 31 December. These had been examined in detail by Cllr G Smith prior to the meeting who confirmed their accuracy. After discussion of the statement it was resolved that it be accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.
The following payments were approved:
 100495 SLCC, half clerk's annual subscription, £41.50
 100496 Cambs ACRE, Membership renewal, £30.00 (NB Renewal at £120 for 5 years was declined, it being agreed to consider membership on an annual basis)
 100497 R P Johnson, cost of wood for planting boxes, purchased from Huntingdon Timber & Roofing Supplies, £332.87 (inc. £55.48 VAT)
 100498 CCC Street light maintenance & energy £26.46

8. Planning

The following new planning applications were considered:

1102077FUL, Erection of replacement electrical sub-station and associated works, Land at 11 Stow Road.

The current owners of 13 Stow Road, on being invited by the chairman to do so, explained their objections, which they had also sent to the Local Planning Authority. The main points raised were

Electricity substations produce Electro Magnetic Fields, which have been linked with health issues such as cancer, infertility, miscarriage and heart problems. They should therefore not be located close to living areas or areas where children are likely to play. The proposed location is within 24 m of their main living area and 15 m of their patio and is adjacent to the boundary of their garden where children may be playing in close proximity.

Access is required to all parts of the substation 24 hours a day, which would include access to the rear of the substation through their land.

During Council's discussion of the application it was noted that the justification given by the applicant for moving the substation is that it would improve the street scene and allow for better visibility vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-pedestrian at the exit from the site into Stow Road. It is the Parish Council's view that similar improvements could be obtained by simply removing the low level wood fence on the two external sides of the triangular gravelled area in front of the door to the main substation enclosure. As well as addressing the neighbours' complaints, this would also remove the risk of disturbance which could be caused to the occupants of the new build and No.11 when access to the substation is required if it were to be located where the applicant proposes.

It was therefore **resolved to recommend refusal** on the grounds that there might be a radiation hazard to health and the maintenance access issues.

1102132FUL, 32 Ferriman Road, Extension to rear of garage incorporating garage into habitable dwelling. Following examination of the plans it was **resolved to recommend approval** as the development would have no adverse effect on the street scene or on neighbouring properties.

Local Planning Authority decisions – none reported since the last meeting.

The latest positions on the following applications awaiting decision were noted:

Appeal re application 1100849FUL, Erection of dwelling to rear of 33 Thrapston Road. Statement of case by applicant was posted on HDC website 10/01/12. Planning Inspector carried out site visit on 15 January and is expected to announce his decision within the next few weeks.

Retrospective application 1101444FUL, 4 houses currently being built adjacent 33 Thrapston Road . decision by HDC awaited.

9. Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Commemoration June 2012 . progress reports

1. Making Spaldwick Bloom . The wood for the planting boxes has been purchased and construction will start in the next two weeks. During discussion of the follow-on work, Julie Marshall suggested that, rather than buying them from garden centres, residents could be asked to cultivate some plants in their own greenhouses for use around the village. When the subject of maintenance came up she volunteered to help in this area also. Cllr Leach thanked her for her suggestion and offer of help.
2. Bench on Belton's Hill . no progress to report
3. Village Walks leaflets . Chris and/or John Saynor have been invited to a seminar on Thursday 23rd February 2012 on Promoting Parish Paths through the Press, Print and Other Media being held at Over, preceded by a visit to a Printing Company at Bar Hill.
4. Jubilee mugs . The Chairman has ascertained that 100 mugs would be required in order to give one to each child of Primary School age living in the village. The cost with custom marking would be around £450 - £500. This being considered to be acceptable, he will bring a proposal to purchase specific mugs to the next meeting.
5. The possibility of a beacon and/or other activities was raised. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with members of the Social Group.

10. Inspection / Repair / Replacement of Assets

Trees on Village Green . the following reply from HDC's Arboricultural Officer regarding the Parish Council's proposal to replace all 3 trees now was noted: "We would not be able to support the removal of all three trees, as this would have a significant impact on the amenity value of the area. No comment has been received from either Brian Ogden or Bridget Halford regarding the proposed replacement by Sweet Chestnut trees.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Brian Ogden pointing out that the Parish Council is of the opinion that removal of the three trees would clearly have a significant impact on the area, but to have a group of three new trees of the same size rather than 2 large and 1 small would contribute positively to a pleasant and geometrically attractive street scene to be enjoyed by residents and visitors. He will be asked to reconsider his advice to remove only one tree at this time. If he still feels this is the right action to take he will be asked for advice on a replacement strategy, possibly considering not immediately planting a replacement for the felled tree.

Children's play area, Gaps between tiles . The Clerk reported that Wicksteed's man had visited the site to carry out the wet pour filling of the gaps between the tiles under and around the shark / dolphin spring see-saw, but when he started to remove the grass from the gap around the edge of the tiles he found that the top of the edging stones is below the level of the tiles and hence it would not be possible to satisfactorily fill the gap between the tiles and the edging. With the tiles being higher than the edging and some being loose he considered that to proceed would not improve the situation and would be a waste of money and, after informing the clerk, left the site to report to his manager.

The Clerk reported that, on reflection, he could see no need to remove the grass currently growing in and over the gap between the tiles and the stone edging in order to fill it with wet pour. We might be introducing a trip hazard that did not exist because the surrounding grass currently fills the gap around the edge and masks the height difference, and by exposing the edge of the outer rim of the tiling the chance of lifting would probably be greater. He suggested that it might be wise to leave the grass around the perimeter in place, to lift any loose tiles and to stick them back to the concrete foundation with adhesive, and only to fill the gaps **between** tiles with wet pour.

This suggestion was accepted by the meeting and the Clerk was instructed to advise Wicksteed accordingly.

Children's play area, entrance footpath and edging stone repair

The Clerk reported that he had been unable to obtain a third quote to add to the two tabled at the last meeting, these being for £697.00 and £340.88 respectively. It was therefore resolved to accept the lower quote and to place an order with John Henry Group Ltd to take up and relay the entry slabs (including the renewal one) and to relay the raised edging stone on the surround to the large swing.

Bier / hand hearse . Cllr Johnson reported that Mr W Smith has now agreed to take on the refurbishment at his home subject to being allowed to purchase the paint etc himself, but with assistance from the Parish Council in obtaining more difficult items. Cllr Johnson confirmed that he would provide help where necessary and that whilst the bier was out of the shed he would liaise with Cllr Leach in assessing what can be done to ensure that the shed remains a satisfactory storage area.

The Clerk will notify Mr Smith that the Council is pleased to accept his kind offer, and to confirm that the cost of materials will be borne by the Parish Council.

11. Correspondence

CPALC / HDC Localism Forum, St. Ives Corn Exchange, 17 January 7 pm . circulated by email 05/10/12 - Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer, Plummer, Wakefield, Smith replied stating unable to attend. In the event the Clerk represented Spaldwick & Stow Longa PCs at the meeting.

NW Hunts Neighbourhood Forum, Sawtry Infants School, Wednesday 25 January 7 pm

The Chairman of HDC, Cllr Jeff Dutton is hosting a Holocaust Memorial Day service at St Mary's Parish Church, Huntingdon on Tuesday 24 January at 7 pm (to be seated by 6.45), followed by refreshments in the Civic Suite.

12. Any other business

Website developments . Mark Heath has confirmed that he will continue Spaldwick.com to the end of 2012 when he will review the situation. It was resolved to record the thanks of the Parish Council for this gesture and its appreciation of his efforts in creating an excellent website which has become a valued asset for the village. Cllr Rice confirmed that upgrading the Parish Council website will continue.

Protected roadside verge W16, Stocking lane - The Clerk reported that he had been asked by the CCC Ecology Officer whether the signs on this verge in Spaldwick Parish require any repair or replacement. Following a visit to the area he had replied stating that there are four signs in total - 2 at the ends in Spaldwick Parish and 2 at the ends in the Kimbolton and Stonely Parish and that all point in the right direction and appear to be in good order.

Spaldwick School parking restrictions . The Chairman reported that he had attended a site meeting at 9.30 am today along with County Councillor Viv McGuire, Richard Preston (Cambridgeshire Highways), Rachel Prior (Head Teacher) and David Hindmarsh (a School Governor). Ed Roughsedge had also sent a written statement of his reasons for objecting to the proposed road markings outside the school.

Having seen the site and having noted the comments of the Parish Council and of neighbours who are concerned that prohibiting parking between the entrances to the School and Playtimes will aggravate the problems outside their properties, the decision as to whether to apply the road markings will be made by the County Council.

Dog fouling . Chris Goddard mentioned that this is widespread on the local footpaths and byways. The Clerk was asked to put a note in Spaldwick News seeking co-operation from dog owners in reducing the problem.

13. **Dates of future meetings** . The following programme of meetings for 2012 was agreed. Meetings to be held on Thursdays in the Community Room at Spaldwick School commencing at 8 pm on February 23, March 22, April 26, May 24 (Annual Council Meeting), May 31 (Annual Parish Meeting), June 21, July 19, September 13, October 18, November 15 and December 13.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.54 pm