

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 16 July 2015 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Fane de Salis (Chairman, presiding), Johnson, Robinson and Smith and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell).

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer, Rice and Wakefield.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in an agenda item - none.
3. **Public Open Forum** – not held, no members of the public present.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 18 June 2015** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)**
Request for tree at rear of 28 Ferriman Road to be trimmed – On further investigation it was ascertained that the offending tree is on Playtimes property. The resident who reported the problem has been informed accordingly.
6. **Appointments, responsibilities**
Woolley Hill Wind Farm Community Fund – to note that Bernard Plummer has accepted the invitation to remain as the Spaldwick representative for the time being.
Village Hall Committee - Cllr Robinson, Parish Council representative on the committee, reported that amongst the matters currently under discussion is whether a Village Hall is still needed. They propose to ascertain the views of villagers in a new survey to be carried out shortly.
7. **Finance**
Quarterly Budget Review and bank reconciliation
The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 June 2015 and the bank reconciliation at 30 June, which had been checked by Cllr Smith prior to the meeting. 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: and the cheques signed by Cllrs Johnson & Smith.
100628 Grahame Leach, purchase of plants from B & Q, £29.34
100629 Fergusons, grass cutting to 24 June, £2080.92 (inc £346.82 VAT)
100630 Spaldwick Primary School, Room rental, April-July, £18.00
8. **Planning**
The following new Planning Application was considered
15/00956/HHFUL, Proposed alterations to existing frontage with single storey front and side extension & internal alterations, 4 Mount Pleasant.
There being no objections, it was resolved to recommend approval because the proposed extension is within the built-up area of the village and will have no adverse effect on the street scene or neighbouring properties.
To note any Local Planning Authority decisions / reports - none
9. **Assets – Provision / Maintenance**
Proposed re-location of the bier and documents recording its history and refurbishment
Cllr Smith reported that the Vicar is now dealing with this proposal and will respond in due course
War Memorial Refurbishment – Cllr Smith reported that Grahame Leach has asked the War Memorial Trust conservation officer for advice on the best way forward (email of 14 July refers)

Children's Play Area – Cllr Robinson stated that he is not involved with obtaining quotes for an alternative safety surface or repair of equipment, but has simply passed company names to Cllr Rice. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Rice regarding recommendations made by Wicksteed, with a view to making a proposal for consideration by Council.

To ensure that the play area with its surrounding trees and hedges remain presentable throughout the year the question of separating its maintenance from the grass cutting contract was discussed. The Clerk will obtain a separate quote when seeking quotations for 2016,

Public Open Space, Ferriman Road – replacement of bollard

The Chairman reported that, as requested at the last meeting, he had obtained 3 quotations for the supply of a Marshalls detachable Hoop Barrier at £345.60, £366.00 and £378.20 including VAT. It was resolved to accept the cheapest of these, from Brian S Pope Ltd, and to place a purchase order forthwith. It was agreed that it would be installed by members of the council.

Painting of Assets updates – the shed door painting has been carried out by Philip Johnson; painting of the seats at Village Green, Royston Ave and Children's Play area will start shortly. Cllr Johnson will arrange for the seats to be dismantled; and reassembled after being painted by Philip. It was agreed that the cost of materials and Philip's time be invoiced by Cllr Johnson on completion.

Other Assets – no problems were reported

10. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

Street Lighting PFI – The Clerk's email of 7 July to Alan Hitch, which was supported by Cllrs Jim White and Simon Bywater, was noted along with the response sent the same day to Cllr Bywater from Tom Blackburne-Maze, Head of Assets and Commissioning – CCC Economy, Transport and Environment: "Thank you for bringing this to my attention. As the Parish Council are unsatisfied with Mr Hitch's response, I shall review their concerns as a Senior Manager at stage 2 of the County Council's complaints policy and will aim to respond to Mr Stowell within 10 working days."

The Clerk reported that this response is awaited, but that in the meantime all the columns in High Street have now been fitted with the new lanterns as used in the side streets. CCC also wrote on 14 July to advise that at this time the County Council owned street lighting columns in Spaldwick will not be switched off at off-peak times or dimmed any further.

Following discussion, it was resolved that, having put on record in the email of 7 July to Mr Hitch that, in the opinion of the Council, this proposal is based on an incorrect perception of the function of High Street, the main point of entry from the A14 to Spaldwick and the nearby Bicton and Harvard Industrial Estates, and that the High Street scheme should be reconsidered and brought into line with the schemes for Stow Road and Thrapston Road, no further action be taken regarding the matter at this time. The Clerk will advise Mr Blackburne-Maze accordingly. The effectiveness of the new scheme will be monitored by members.

Bus Service changes – currently re-tendering for new service to be operational in October

Speedwatch – The Clerk gave the following report on behalf of Cllr Jackson-Rimmer: "Brian Robins (CSW organiser) provided the majority of the volunteers with excellent training on Thursday 9th July. I am in the process of getting three locations within the village designated as CSW areas: the entrance into the village near Ivy Way, the entrance and exit of the village near Pound Close and Stow Road. Once these areas have been approved by Brian then I am intending to arrange a CSW session as soon as possible."

Highway and street light problems – the Clerk gave the following updates:

Cover on the lamp of street light 3 outside 19 Littlecotes Close has fallen off – replacement completed

Manhole cover loose outside 23A Thrapston Road – replacement completed

Kerb outside 3 Stow Road to be replaced – work scheduled

Barrier at entrance to Uphorpe Farm, damage following its recent repair – CCC are aware.

Contact details of owners of animals kept in local fields – The owners of the horses in Bury Close have agreed to place a notice in the field giving emergency contact details. Similar requests will be made to owners of animals being kept in two other fields.

Verge outside 54 Stow Road – As requested, the long grass was cut by Fergusons on 29 June. The arisings have subsequently been removed by a volunteer to facilitate the next cut. The meeting confirmed agreement to this remaining part of Ferguson’s contract until the current house owner or their successor take the task over.

Street sign for Chandlers – Cllr Johnson reported that he had asked HDC to proceed with installation of the sign at a cost of £91. As the name, commemorating two villagers who lost their lives in the Great War had been chosen at his suggestion, he said that he had agreed to meet the cost himself.

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme Parish update – Cllr Smith gave a report of the meeting held 29 June 2015 at Marriott Huntingdon Hotel which he and Cllr Johnson had attended.

Footpaths, byways – The following new problems & updates on problems previously reported were noted:

Cockway Lane – the first section (Highway) from Mount Pleasant is heavily overgrown overhead and on both verges. The Chairman and Cllr Smith will investigate. In any event the area around the trees planted last year will be cut back.

Church Lane – Cllr Jackson-Rimmer has pointed out that hedges need trimming/tidying up – the Clerk has asked the owners of 1 Thrapston Road if they can do this.

Broken barrier over brook on concrete road – Martin Ayres will repair it shortly.

Ditch alongside A14 westbound off slip road – Amey, agents for Highways England, have visited site on 3 days this week and cleared the ditch of debris and vegetation and freed the non-return flap valves.

11. Training

Chairmanship – The Chairman reported that he had attended two of the training sessions at Hemingford Abbots. A further session is to follow.

Clerks catch up day changed to Friday, 2 October at Bluntisham. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend

12. Correspondence

CCC Key Issues June 2015 - Circulated by email July 8

Free Paint for Communities – details of scheme run by Cambridgeshire Community Reuse and Recycling Network (CCORRN) circulated by email July 15

District Councillor Update, July 2015 circulated by email July 15

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2016/17 – details circulated by email July 15.

In order to obtain the views of the public it was agreed to place an article in the August edition of Spaldwick News and on the PC website inviting villagers to send suggestions to the Clerk for consideration by the Parish Council. The Clerk will collate the suggestions, including those from members, to enable them to be discussed informally with local highways officers at a workshop being run by CCC on 1 September, before being submitted for discussion at the September PC meeting. No members present are able to attend the CCC workshop. If none of the remainder are available on that date, the Clerk will attend.

13. Any other business

Damaged Kissing Gate, Bury Close – it was reported that the wooden kissing gate opposite Royston Avenue is damaged, making it difficult for pedestrians to use. The Clerk will investigate responsibility and request it be repaired.

Items for next agenda were suggested – the clerk will take note

A) Parish Plan – to consider updating the plan published in 2009.

B) Village clear up day – to consider arranging a working party.

C) Donations to local groups – to consider allocation of budget.

14. Next Meeting – Thursday 17 September 2015

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm