

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 21 January 2016 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Fane de Salis (Chairman, presiding), Harriman, Robinson, Smith and Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and 8 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer and Johnson
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item – Cllr Robinson declared an interest in item 7 (15/02271/HHFUL) which related to his residence.
3. **Minutes of Meeting held 17 December 2015** were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising from minutes** - The Chairman reported that along with County Councillor Bywater he had attended the meeting of the CCC Highway Improvement Panel and had put the case for a footway in Thrapston Road beyond Pound Close.
5. **Public Open Forum**
 - (i) Mrs Clarke and Mrs Black informed the meeting that Whippet bus services are no longer going along Royston Avenue due to parked vehicles obstructing their passage. The only bus stops now being used are High Street and Church Lane. They asked the Parish Council to try to resolve the problem as these stops are too far from the homes of many bus users.
 - (ii) Mr Holman informed the meeting that some school buses are unable to turn round at the allocated area after delivering children in the morning and are instead turning at Burton Way. He suspected that one of them was recently responsible for having overrun the verge and pushing over an Anglian Water sign.
 - (iii) Mrs Traynor thanked the Council and the Clerk for their support in presenting the case for approval of application 15/01928/FUL to the Development Management Panel.
6. **Finance**

Quarterly Budget Review and bank reconciliation

The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 31 December 2015 and the bank reconciliation at 31 December 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.

To approve any payments due - none

2016/17 Council Tax it was noted that the tax base has increased from 243 to 245 hence there will be a slight reduction from £41.45 to £40.82 in the Band D parish council share.
7. **Planning**

The following new planning applications were considered

15/02271/HHFUL, Proposed conversion of garage to habitable annex including first floor extension, 27 Thrapston Road. (Note: Cllr Robinson left the room whilst this was discussed). It was resolved to recommend approval as the proposal will have no detrimental impact on neighbours, the immediate street scene or the Conservation Area in general.

15/02282/HHFUL, Reconstruction of one dilapidated outbuilding (retrospective), Manor Farmhouse, 15 High Street.

It was resolved to respond as follows: Prior to its reconstruction, the dilapidated outbuilding had a significant detrimental impact on the adjacent listed building, Manor Farmhouse. The Parish Council is of the opinion that its restoration as closely as possible to its original state has corrected this adverse impact on the Farmhouse and the surrounding Conservation Area, and therefore recommends approval.

The following changes regarding planning applications in progress were considered

15/02039/FUL, Detached dwelling on land adjacent to 19 Littlecotes Close - Roof changed to hip design as suggested by Planning Officer, who has asked Parish Council to reconsider its

decision to 'recommend refusal on the grounds that the proposed dwelling will appear too bulky on this small site.' Prior to this matter being discussed by the council, the Chairman invited the applicant, Tom Allen and an objector, Ian Hanks, to explain their cases and answer questions. Following the discussion, it was resolved to respond as follows: The parish council accepts that the reintroduction of a hipped roof as referred to in HDC's letter of 13 January will reduce the massive appearance of the proposed dwelling, but it remains of the opinion that the site has insufficient depth to adequately accommodate any form of dwelling, and continues to recommend refusal.

Since the parish council made its initial observations on this application it has come to light that the statement that it is a minor amendment to 1201357FUL is not wholly accurate. The location of the proposed dwelling on the site has been moved closer to the adjoining footway; and further from the existing dwelling (No.19) thus providing a third parking space. A 1.8m close boarded fence has been added along the footway boundary of the patio and grassed area of the side garden.

Should the Planning Authority continue to accept the principle of this development, the Parish Council requests that the building be moved back from the edge of the footway to provide a gap no less than that shown on the plan of the approved application 1201357FUL.

15/01824/FUL, Three new gas compressors and enclosures etc., Huntingdon Compressor Station, Bigrams Lane, Stonely. HDC Planning have advised that the condition requested by the Parish Council regarding adherence to the transport plan cannot be imposed. As an alternative National Grid have, at the request of the planning officer, issued an assurance that they will enforce adherence to the stated routes. HDC request confirmation that this is acceptable to the Parish Council.

It was resolved to advise the Planning Officer that the Parish Council has reconsidered its response of 20 November 2015 and wishes to make the following amendment to it. Replace "The Parish Council recommends approval subject to these concerns being addressed" with "The Parish Council, having been informed that the requested condition could not be applied; and having received an assurance from National Grid that they would manage the construction traffic to ensure compliance with the Transport Plan, recommends approval."

The following decisions by the Local Planning Authority were noted

15/01217/TREE, Felling and removal of four ash trees, 5 Pound Close - Refused.

15/01928/FUL, new dwelling on land at 2-6 Thrapston Road - Refused. (N.B. The Clerk had written to the DMP confirming the Council's recommendation that the application be approved, and questioning the Planning Officer's decision to recommend refusal).

It was noted that the following applications will be considered at a Planning Meeting on 11 February.

15/02372/FUL, Demolition of existing fire damaged sales building and replacement with new larger unit Removal of HGV fuelling facility and refurbishment of site area to provide increased customer parking. Reduction in size of existing forecourt canopy, Spaldwick Service Area.

15/02396/FUL, Proposed development to provide two residential dwellings, Land West Side of Long Lane. Cllr Smith drew attention to the fact that some excavations had already taken place on this site; and to a statement by HDC Planning on 28 April 2011 in response to a preliminary enquiry relating to the dilapidated farm buildings on this plot of land to the rear of The Gables that "development of the paddock land at the rear with a residential scheme would not receive the support of the Local Planning Authority."

8. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

Proposed re-location of the bier and documents recording its history and refurbishment – no progress to report.

War Memorial Refurbishment – It was reported that the War Memorials Trust (WMT) Conservation Officer has endorsed the proposal for 2 or 3 tablets of a material compatible with the original memorial and replicating the original inscriptions. On receipt of revised quotations an application for a grant will be prepared for submission to WMT.

Children's Play Area – awaiting action by Clerk to consult the neighbour regarding the high hedge on the eastern boundary of the site; subsequently to obtain quote for this work if

requested and for the shrubbery within the parish owned area. The Clerk reported that due to a computer problem the order for a new seat for the large swing had only just been received by Wicksteed. The painting of the wooden steps of the climbing frame which are slippery due to wear and weather is also outstanding.

Painting of Assets – Notice board at Village Green has been re-erected following painting.

Planting box around jubilee plaques – awaiting Clerk's action to obtain details of tree work proposed by Mr Leach.

Village Cross base – To note that the Clerk is awaiting advice from the HDC Conservation Officer regarding the Parish Council's responsibilities in safeguarding / insuring this stone.

Other Assets – to receive reports of any new problems – none.

9. **Highways, footpaths, byways etc.**

Winter Gritting, Belton's Hill – site for bin agreed with Mrs Ivell.

Bus Service changes – a decision is awaited from CCC following receipt of tenders.

Speedwatch – more volunteers are required.

End of weight restriction sign, Stow Road – awaiting action by new Local Highway Officer.

Pothole in entrance to Spaldwick Service station – Further repair completed

Contact details of owners of animals kept in local fields – to note no progress has been made in displaying information – replies are awaited from animal owners.

Damaged Kissing Gate, Bury Close – awaiting Clerk's investigation into responsibility for repair.

Verge in Stow Road – response to request for help in cutting back the hedge etc is awaited from Martin Eayrs.

Footpath signage at Bury Close – Clerk will obtain new signs shortly.

Parking on grass verge in Stow Road opposite Royston Avenue – the question of what can be done to stop parking on this verge is to be referred to County Councillor Bywater

Obstruction to traffic in Royston Avenue & Ferriman Road– Problems caused by a large vehicle delivering goods daily in Royston Avenue and by other vehicles causing obstructions resulting in buses not serving Royston Avenue will also be referred to Cllr Bywater.

Street light fault in Stow Road – this has been repaired.

10. **Village Hall Committee** - Cllr Fane de Salis stated that he attended a meeting of the Committee to hear their response to the letter received from The Parish Council. They assured him that their intentions were in line with the Trust Deed and they would not use the results of the recent survey to make any decisions.

11. **Parish Plan** – nothing to report

12. **Village clear up day** – CCC have advised that a course of some description to certify that volunteers can carry out the task of cleansing signs is being considered. Details later. In the meantime the local Highways Officer will arrange for the cleaning of any dirty signs reported to him. Members were asked to notify the Clerk of any such signs.

13. **Correspondence** – the Clerk will arrange a draw to select a nominee for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 19th May.

14. **Any other business** - none

15. **Next Meetings**

Planning meeting 11 February 2016

Ordinary meeting 25 February 2016

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm