

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 17 March 2016 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs Jackson-Rimmer, Johnson and Smith, the Clerk and County Councillor Bywater. As both the chairman and vice-chairman of the council were absent from the meeting, members present chose Cllr Smith to preside in accordance with LGA 1972 Schedule 12 s.11(3).

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Fane de Salis, Harriman, Robinson and Wakefield.
2. **Declarations of Interest** as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item – none.
3. **Minutes of Meeting held 25 February 2016** were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)** - none.
5. **Public Open Forum** – County Cllr Bywater spoke about the demands on the budget and steps being taken to cut costs which had resulted in the decision to leave the rate of council tax required by the county council in 2016/17 to remain unaltered except for an increase of 2% which the government is allowing it to charge without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. He also was pleased to report that the mobile library service would continue to operate. Cllr Bywater then left the meeting.
6. **Finance**
The following payments were approved
 100653 F D Stowell, Salary Jan- Mar 2016, £379.10
 100654 HMRC, PAYE, £94.60
 100655 Spaldwick School, room charges, Jan - Mar 2016, £30.50
7. **Planning**
New planning application considered
16/00318/HHFUL, Extension to side and rear of existing property, 1 Mount Pleasant
 It was resolved to recommend **approval** because it has no adverse impact on neighbouring properties or on the street scene.
Response to HDC consultation on request for amendment to conditions
16/80046/COND, Change to the terms of a Guidance Note which forms part of noise conditions 15-18 of application 1001741FUL, Woolley Hill Wind Farm.
 It was resolved to respond that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposal and therefore recommends **approval** and to add the comment: 'given that the cost saving to RES in not providing the lattice framed meteorological mast plus maintenance costs for the life of the turbines is likely to be significant it is suggested that any approval should be subject to an appropriate increase in the annual fund which RES set aside for the benefit of local community organisations and cheaper electricity for the nearest residents'.
The following applications determined by the Local Planning Authority were noted
15/02396/FUL, Two residential dwellings, Land west of Long Lane – permission refused.
16/00136/HHFUL & 16/00137/LBC, Retrospective applications for conversion of garden outbuilding to hobbies/games room - permission granted.
8. **Assets – Provision / Maintenance**
To note updates on matters previously reported; to consider any further action regarding them; and to receive reports of any new problems.
War Memorial – Cllr Smith reported that in response to three requests for quotes only one has been received to date; one contractor has declined to quote; and the third is awaited. It was agreed that when all the quotes are available, the working group will apply for grants.

Proposed re-location of the bier into the Church– Cllr Smith reported that he had received a letter from the Vicar which states that the possibility of making radical changes to the church building to enable it to better meet the needs of the community is currently being explored and hence the PCC has to decline stewardship, at least until the way forward is clearer. He said the PCC agrees that the bier “should be seen by more people who can share an equal pride in this historical asset”.

9. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

There were no updates on matters previously reported

Litter bins – HDC recently carried out an audit of litter bins with a view to making an annual charge of £252.64 to empty any bin owned by the parish council which has previously been emptied free of charge by HDC. They confirmed that the 5 covered dog/litter bins in Spaldwick are owned by HDC and will continue to be emptied free of charge by the domestic refuse collection team. The audit erroneously suggested that the larger open bin on the former recycling bin site is no longer in use and should be removed. However, when the Clerk pointed out that this bin is often overflowing and is currently emptied weekly by a different HDC team, it was agreed that it would not be removed and there would be no charge to the parish council for emptying it. The meeting agreed with the Clerk’s suggestion that the parish council owned bin at the Children’s play area should continue to be emptied by volunteers.

10. Changes to bus routes arising from parking problems and retendering of subsidised services – The result of the bus service tendering process is awaited from CCC. In the meantime action which may be required to ensure a satisfactory outcome for local residents remains in abeyance.

11. Proposed conversion of Community Room to classroom –It was noted that no update is available subsequent to the letter dated 4 March from the Board of Governors stating that no changes in use will take place pending clarification from HDC and CCC with regard to any specific conditions of use that were agreed in 1989.

12. Anglian Water Pollution Watch campaign - To consider proposal that the parish council should work with AW to explore the general level of understanding of the sewerage network and its function; to identify the likely locations of discharges from the network; to discuss the wording for signs at these locations and to consider ways of working together to spread the word. N.B. This item was deferred from the previous PC meeting.

13. Correspondence- none

14. AOB

Speedwatch – Cllr Jackson-Rimmer reported that she and two volunteers held a community Speedwatch session on Friday 4th March between 8 am and 9 am. The speed of 122 cars, 2 buses and 4 HGVs were monitored. Four vehicles were reported for speeding. As she is finding it difficult to assemble a team of at least three from the present volunteers she will make another appeal for volunteers in the next issue of Spaldwick News.

15. Dates of forthcoming meetings

14 April 8 pm, Spaldwick School, Parish Council
21 April 8 pm, Spaldwick School, Annual Parish Meeting

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.