

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 14 July 2016 in the Community Room at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Harriman, Jackson-Rimmer and from County Cllr Bywater.
2. **Declarations of interest as to personal and prejudicial interest in any agenda item** - none
3. **Councillor vacancy** – it was noted that the Notice of Vacancy was posted on 30 June. If no request for an election is received by the Returning Officer within 14 working days the vacancy can be filled by co-option.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 16 June 2016** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda)** - none
6. **Public Open Forum** – not required
7. **Finance**
The following payments were approved
 100663 E G Leach, plants and compost for village planters, £43.98
 100664 HAGS-SMP Ltd, New step treads on slide, £297.60 (inc. £49.60 VAT)
 100665 RTC Safety Surfaces Ltd, Replacement surface at children’s play area, £6572.40 (inc. £1095.40 VAT), subject to guarantee of workmanship being received prior to posting.
Receipt noted: CAPALC £452 (laptop £292, software £100, scanner £60)
8. **Planning**
The following new planning application was considered
16/01260/FUL, Replacement of existing below ground fuel storage tanks with new, together with associated pipe work and renewal of fuel pumps on forecourt islands, Spaldwick Service Area.
 Members welcomed the statement that removal of the HGV refuelling facility “will benefit the site and nearby residents of Spaldwick as it is recognised that HGV’s are better catered for at nearby Brampton Hut Service Station”. It was resolved to respond to HDC pointing out that Drawing 516-HAZ-01, Hazardous Zones is not relevant as it relates to the existing tank, pump and pipe layout; that the reference in paragraph 1.3 of the Design & Access Statement to the relevant legislation should read section 62 of the Town and Country Planning Act.1990; and that the Parish Council has no objection to the proposal and recommends **approval..**
The following Local Planning Authority decisions were noted
15/02245/FUL, Subterranean 3 bedroom dwelling, Land at Chandlers, permission **refused**
16/01139/TREE, Re-pollard historic lime, Old Rectory Pound Close, **consent granted**
16/01050/HHFUL, Single storey extension to rear, Loft conversion of kitchen loft to a bedroom/study, Loft conversion of main loft to master bedroom suite, 39 Stow Road – **permission granted.**
Long Lane development – Headley Stokes Associates (Basil Samila) has told the Clerk that they are preparing a case for a re-consultation and asked whether they could discuss their proposal with the parish council informally prior to submitting it to HDC. The Clerk responded by suggesting they submit the modified proposal to HDC who will re-consult with the PC and other parties. If they wish they will be able to explain the proposal when it is considered by the council.

9. Assets – Provision / Maintenance

The following updates were noted.

Replacement of Playground safety surface – completed

Climbing frame steps – new anti-slip steps have been fitted

Playground Inspection – an examination by Cllr Fane de Salis was carried out on 8 July (after the installation of the new safety surface but before installation of the new climbing frame steps). Regarding other matters the report states: One bolt missing and two bolts loose on suspended floor of climbing frame, floor still secure.

Application for grant from Transparency Fund for computer, scanner and software – grant received July 7. Procurement will be deferred pending appointment of new clerk.

War Memorial refurbishment – Cllr Smith reported that the application for a grant from the War Memorials Trust would be submitted shortly. Copies of supporting photographs are currently awaited. It is expected that the grant will be for approximately two thirds of the total cost of £1750.00. The Clerk will place an order for the work on receipt of confirmation that the grant application has been approved.

10. Highways, footpaths, byways etc.

The following reports were noted

Provision of Gritting Bin at Belton's Hill – awaiting information from CCC on placing order.

Blocked drain east of Village Sign – reported to CCC by Clerk 1/7 – urgent work ordered 6/7 along with other nearby highway faults identified by the local Highways Engineer.

Bridleway 5 - Grass / weeds reported by a parishioner to M Ager 29/6 who reported it to CCC. They responded 14/7: "on programme to be cut but due to wet weather and prolific growth contractor is behind schedule. Hope to complete cut in 2-3 weeks."

Long Lane – arising from discussions about the proposed development, CCC Highways are arranging for the vegetation to be cut back and for road planings to be deposited to even out the surface in a similar way to work carried out in 2013. However this time the work is being restricted to the section up to the stable block. The Clerk pointed out to the District Highway Manager that there are 3 or 4 places along the whole length of Long Lane which get very muddy. She replied that it may be possible to do more later in the year if budgets allow.

11. Changes to subsidised bus services

– It was noted that new timetables which come into effect on Monday 25 July have been issued. Monday to Friday: to Huntingdon at 07:45, 11:05 & 14:25 and from Huntingdon at 10:40, 14:00 & 17:40.

The Clerk reported receipt of a copy of the petition sent to CCC signed by 17 residents of Spaldwick and 5 from Perry, Gt Staughton and Grafham. The petition welcomes the introduction of a more regular service to Huntingdon on weekdays but strongly objects to the withdrawal of Saturday services. Council resolved to inform Cambridgeshire Future Transport of its concern regarding the latter and to request that consideration be given to continuing a Saturday service.

12. Anglian Water Pollution Watch Initiative

– Cllr Robinson reported that he and the Chairman had recently met AW representative Victoria Wilkinson who gave them more information regarding the scheme and will arrange for a map to be provided showing the drainage systems around the village and the hot spots to be monitored.

13. Availability of the Community Room for Community Use

The Chairman reported that on 5 July, following a meeting with the school, County Council officers Jo German and Penny Price met with him, Cllr Robinson and the Clerk to discuss the impact of the Governors' statement that from August 1st community groups will not be able to use the school's community facilities during the day. The possibility of a compromise including arrangements for child safeguarding being tightened were discussed.

A meeting with the Head Teacher and a representative of the Governing Body is to be held on 18 July to work towards a solution for the school and community in terms of meeting both the

schools need to have additional class space and the community's needs to have bookable space for local groups.

14. Village Hall – No report received.

15. Correspondence

Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire – Consultation on Draft Recommendations

Details of the review which closes on 22 August were circulated to members by email 28 June.

Devolution - A consultation is taking place until 23 August on the proposal for a Combined Authority with an elected Mayor for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from May 2017 to administer matters being devolved by the Government – details were circulated to members 8 July. The Clerk agreed to publicise the consultation on the Parish Council notice boards and website

CCC Monthly Briefing July 2016 – circulated by email 8 July.

16. AOB

Church grass cutting – Cllr Robinson drew the attention of the meeting to Paul Clayden's reply to a letter in the July edition of Clerks & Councils Direct, which suggests that a parish council has the power to contribute to church grass cutting under S.137 of LGA 1972. The Clerk pointed out that he did not address the issues raised in the earlier letters – that LGA 1894 prohibits maintenance of Church of England property and that S.214 of LGA 1972 specifically permits councils to maintain cemeteries. These issues are still being investigated by DCLG and SLCC.

Dog fouling in churchyard – Cllr Robinson also drew attention to the problems which the grass cutting contractor has with dog excrement clogging his mowing machine. The Clerk will obtain a supply of signs to display in the area.

Trees on the greens outside Manor Farmhouse and Stanwell House – Cllr Johnson said he had been asked by Grahame Leach to trim the tree branch overhanging the plant containers around the jubilee plaques. The Clerk was asked to obtain advice regarding any formal permission which HDC may require.

Laurel Hedge adjacent to gate on footpath to Thrapston Road – it was reported that the overgrown hedge is making it difficult to open the gate. This will be investigated.

Due to the confidentiality of items 17 & 18, as full publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest, only summaries of the decisions taken are recorded below.

17. Appointment of new Clerk – It was noted that only one application had been received by the closing date. Cllrs Fane de Salis and Jackson-Rimmer had interviewed the applicant and were satisfied that she met the required criteria. Following discussion it was resolved that subject to receipt of satisfactory references the position of Clerk to the Council should be offered to the applicant at a starting salary of SCP25 £11.66/hr rising to SCP29 £13.35/hr after successfully completing a three month probationary period.

18. Town & Poors Charity

In response to a request from the tenant that the annual rent of the field in Stow Road be reduced from £752 to £300 per annum due to the collapse in wheat prices, it was resolved to inform him that the council, as trustee of the charity, is prepared to negotiate a revised rent to follow the current agreement which terminates on 29 September 2016, subject to the outstanding rent of £752 for the payments which were due on 1 August 2015 and 1 February 2016 being paid.

19. Date of next scheduled meeting

15 September 2016 8 pm at Spaldwick School

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