

MINUTES

Spaldwick Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 19th October 2023** at 7.00pm in Spaldwick Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School.

Chair: Sharan Jackson-Rimmer

Present: Councillors, S Jackson-Rimmer (SJR- Chair), S Parfrey (SP), J O'Dwyer (JO'D), G Rice (GR), U Braun (UB), S Cardwell (Clerk) and two members of the public.

- 23/10/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance- S Fane de Salis (SFdS), R Johnson (RJ), District and County Cllr I Gardener.
- 23/10/2 Declarations of Interests for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)- the invoice for item 7.19 is from Cllr SP's company.
- 23/10/3 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 21st September 2023- Cllr JO'D proposed signing and approval of the minutes as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/4 Matters arising from those Minutes. To note: Parish Online subscription continues until 2nd June 2024- noted.
- 23/10/5 Public Open Forum: Each person wishing to address the council will be allowed to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes subject to the Chairman's discretion. This part cannot be longer than 10 minutes per item.
- The Chairman of Spaldwick Community Allotment Association (SCAA) addressed the Council to update them on the situation regarding an unworked plot which the tenant has been asked to vacate, and also to request support in carrying this out.
- A member of Friends of Spaldwick School (FOSS) addressed the Council to request financial support with a £13k project to provide a bike track for an area in the school's grounds which they believe would improve the aesthetics of the grounds in an eco-friendly manner, attract more pupils, provide a safe and enclosed area, help improve gross motor skills, particularly amongst Key Stage One students and allow pupils to practice road safety in an imaginative way.

23/10/6 **Planning**

To consider new planning consultations

None.

Determined by planning authority:

23/10/6.1 Reference 23/01521/PMBPA

Application Received: Fri 11 Aug 2023

Address: Stocking Farm, Stocking Lane, Easton

Proposal: Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling (C3).

Status: Refused

Decision Issued Date: Mon 09 Oct 2023

Appeal Status: Unknown- noted.

23/10/6.2 To note: HDC have organized a hybrid Town & Parish Council Development Management Training Event – on 30th October / 6th November- Cllrs SJR and SP to attend along with the Clerk.

23/10/6.3 To discuss HDC's Call for Sites- Cllr SJR updated the Council that four sites in Spaldwick have been put forward: Thrapston Rd (commercial), East Stow Rd (residential 80-100 houses), Church field (10-15 market/affordable housing and church carpark) and rear of Manor farmyard (15-20 market/affordable houses).

23/10/7 **Finance**

23/10/7.1 To note: Account balance at 05.10.2023: £58,343.77 (updated cashbook circulated)- noted.

23/10/7.2 Update regarding transfer of bank accounts to Unity Trust bank and signatories- The Clerk confirmed the transfer has been completed and the accounts are up and running. Cllr SJR proposed that Cllrs JO'D and GR are also added as signatories; this was seconded as Cllr SP and carried unanimously. Clerk to check regarding any restrictions on signatories.

23/10/7.3 Update regarding management of the Parish Council and Town and Poors finances in relation to the allotments site- Clerk confirmed this is still ongoing with the solicitor.

- 23/10/7.4 Update regarding insurance claim for the theft of the allotment gates- Clerk confirmed this is still ongoing, replacement and like-for-like quotes have been sent to the insurers.
- 23/10/7.5 To consider purchase of an additional defibrillator- awaiting further feedback from Punch Taverns regarding attaching a unit to the George public house.
- 23/10/7.6 To note and approve: Q2 Income and expenditure against the budget (file circulated prior to meeting)- Cllr SJR proposed approval, seconded by Cllr JO'D and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.7 To note and approve: Q2 Community room receipts and payments document (file circulated prior to meeting)- Cllr SJR proposed approval, seconded by Cllr JO'D and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.8 To note and approve Q2 financial reconciliation (file circulated prior to meeting)- Cllr SJR proposed approval, seconded by Cllr JO'D and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.9 To discuss next year's budget- the Clerk was requested to rework the figures in relation to LHI, assets and the War Memorial for further discussion next meeting.
- 23/10/7.10 To note the 2024/25 precept request form has been received from the District Council and must be returned by 15th December- noted.
- 23/10/7.11 To discuss grasscutting for the coming year- Cllr SJR confirmed an email had been received from Brookfield apologizing for the missed cut and confirming they are back to the 3-weekly cutting schedule. It was noted that otherwise the cutting has been of a good standard. The rate offered by Brookfield for the next season is the same as the current year. Following discussions, Cllr JO'D proposed Brookfield are asked to continue with the cutting for a further year, seconded by Cllr GR and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.12 To note: transfer from Town & Poors account to be arranged to repay the funds paid out for bills while the Charity account was blocked- The Clerk confirmed the payments have been set-up ready for approval.
- 23/10/7.13 To consider a grant request from Friends of Spaldwick School (FOSS) for funds to create a new outdoor space at the school- The Council discussed the project and were generally supportive of the idea. The Clerk was asked to write and request answers to the questions raised following the presentation (whether Playtimes would have access, VAT / Charity status of FOSS, % school contribution), for further discussion at the next Council meeting along with budget considerations.
- 23/10/7.14 To discuss an enquiry from the Common Ground group regarding a 'white goods fund'- Cllr SJR confirmed she had been contacted regarding this fund which had been allegedly set-up when the Village Hall fund had been set-up. The Clerk confirmed she could not find reference to a fund of that name but had found a letter to the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee from May 2015 referencing a fund of £38k raised through the village precept over multiple years initially for a Village Hall and Recreation ground but not exclusively for that purpose. Following discussions, it was then determined that at the point that the proposal for a new village hall was turned down (due to it being conditional on housing also being built), the Parish Council decided to reallocate the funds for alternative uses. Cllr SJR proposed that the Clerk compose a letter including these details to be sent to the Common Ground Group, Spaldwick Parochial Church Council and the Spaldwick Village Hall Committee; this was seconded by Cllr GR and carried unanimously.

Expenditure for approval 19th October 2023:

- 23/10/7.15 Clerk's wages (Sep-Oct) (S.Cardwell: **£355.14**, HMRC: **£0**)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.16 Total Energies invoices (Accounts 3006693866 & 3006693855) Sep-Oct- **£20.83** and **£12.90** (inc. VAT)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously. It was agreed that the ESPO contract should be left as it is currently, despite communications recommending early sign-up for the new tariffs.
- 23/10/7.17 A.Murphy invoice for cleaning of the Community Room (Sep-Oct): **£44.00** Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.18 R. Purser- West Farm invoice for installation of replacement allotment gates: **£703.08** inc. VAT- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.19 Jarrodean invoice: **£141.28**- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried; Cllr SP did not participate in the vote.
- 23/10/7.20 **£200** grant for the Social Group to go towards a Christmas tree for the village- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.21 Grafton invoices for cleaning products: **£82.18** (inc. VAT) and **£31.18** (inc. VAT)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously.
- 23/10/7.22 Reimbursement to Clerk for replacement defibrillator pads purchased (**£79.20** inc. VAT)- Cllr GR

proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously. The Clerk confirmed that there had been an issue with the delivery and a £10 credit would be issued subsequently.

23/10/7.23 Reimbursement to Clerk for 'no parking' signs purchased for the Village Green: **£19.99**- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously.

23/10/7.24 Ask IT invoice: **£234.98** (inc. VAT)- invoice to be received- deferred, not yet received.

23/10/7.25 September Brookfield Contracting grasscutting invoice: **£264.00** (inc. VAT)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously.

23/10/7.26 Remembrance wreath donation: **£20.00**- not yet received but Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously for once the invoice is sent given the wreath has already been delivered.

23/10/7.27 Elan City MVAS: **£2737.91** (inc. VAT)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr UB and carried unanimously.

23/10/7.28 Hags replacement playpark caps invoice: **£40.80** (inc. VAT)- invoice copy not yet received.

It was noted that the BHIB insurance renewal invoice from last month is still outstanding (£696.74)- the Clerk has set up the payment ready for approval.

23/10/8 **Assets – Provision/Maintenance**

23/10/8.1 Weekly Ferriman Road Play Area's Inspection & update. To note: a reminder has been received to book the annual Wicksteed inspection- Cllr JO'D confirmed all is ok and she'll replace the missing caps once they have been delivered. Cllr SJR will look at the broken spring again. Clerk to book the annual inspection (cost £158.40 inc. VAT).

23/10/8.2 Update regarding the Community Room and contents of the cupboards- no update.

23/10/8.3 Update from Cllr GR regarding The War Memorials Trust- A response has been received and a form to complete which Cllr GR will do and provide further feedback next meeting.

23/10/8.4 Update regarding the defibrillator and purchase of a new unit (update regarding Punch Taverns)- awaiting a further update from Punch Taverns / the George.

23/10/8.5 Update from Cllr UB regarding the Jubilee plaques outside The Manor Farm House- Cllr UB confirmed he has tried to clean them but they need re-inking. The Clerk was asked to try and find out what made the plaques initially.

23/10/8.6 To consider equipment options for the open space in Spaldwick to be presented by Cllr JO'D- ongoing.

23/10/8.7 Update from Cllr SJR regarding the MVAS Flashing Speed sign- Cllrs SJR and GR have downloaded the data and formatted it. It would seem people are getting used to the sign as speeds are going up. 26mph is the average speed and only 10% of people speed, however, among the 650,000 results there was a speed of 79mph. Another data download is to be completed shortly.

23/10/8.8 Update from Clerk regarding registration of the titles for the Village Greens in Spaldwick- deferred.

23/10/8.9 Further discussion regarding Church Lane (uneven road surface from tree roots)- deferred.

23/10/8.10 Update regarding installing a base for the Jubilee bench- Cllr RJ has provided a spec for the work and will also quote to complete it. Clerk to request a quote from R.Purser. Councillors to request one or two further quotes to be discussed next meeting.

23/10/8.11 Update regarding IT provision- no update.

23/10/8.12 Allotments update- Following discussions it was agreed that the Parish Council supports the decision of SCAA to terminate the tenancy of one plot holder, as they believe the tenant has had every opportunity to resolve the situation.

23/10/8.13 To discuss the village noticeboards- Cllr SJR to discuss the backboards with Cllr RJ and report back regarding repairs needed.

23/10/8.14 Update regarding any interest expressed for a flood group and additional defibrillator training- There have been two enquiries about defibrillator training. The Clerk was asked to arrange a Saturday morning slot for defibrillator training in the new year so the date can be advertised.

23/10/9 **Highways, footpaths, byways, gritting bin, trees, etc.**

23/10/9.1 To note: the bin bag flytipped in August has been re-reported to Highways, along with the pillow now there too. The soil in the High St has also been reported- Cllr SJR confirmed the pillow has been removed but the soil is still there (although the report has been acknowledged).

23/10/9.2 To note: the defects on the stone bridge at Thrapston Rd heading into the village from the A14

bridge (crack on the ground cobbled area and a crack in the bridge brickwork, also the gap between the cobbled area and the bridge wall at the other end of the bridge and corroded/ rusting metal barrier) have been assessed by Highways and they feel no action is required at this time- noted.

23/10/9.3 To discuss concerns raised by residents regarding the hedges along Long Lane- This has been rereported by the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to contact the local Highways Officer for an update.

23/10/9.4 Update regarding the garden waste subscription engagement session attend by the Chair & Clerk- Some key statistics provided at the training were shared with the Council. There was no consultation prior to the policy being implemented as they knew that that was the required cut they would inevitably need to make. A key focus of the session was on driving home-composting going forward and how best to communicate and engage with communities.

23/10/9.5 The letter to CCC objecting to their change in weedkilling policy has been sent- noted.

23/10/9.6 Update regarding work to be carried out on Stow Longa Hill- Cllr GR confirmed that the road has been patched but there were no white lines. It was noted that the road had been closed again earlier that day though for additional work.

23/10/9.7 Update regarding the tree growing in Ellington Brook- Cllr SJR shared an update from District and County Cllr Ian Gardener that the Internal Drainage Board have been granted permission to complete the work and hopefully will do so shortly; the banks of the brook are to be trimmed too.

23/10/10 To note: HDC Polling District Review 2023 is taking place. Any comments to be agreed and sent by Monday 27th November 2023- no comments raised.

23/10/11 Any items for the next edition of Spaldwick News- A reminder to residents to cut back trees, bushes and grass encroaching on paths and an overview of some of the speed sign statistics.

23/10/12 **Correspondence** (-previously circulated)- all noted.

23/10/12.1 Press Release – HDC: BIPIC Jumpstart Launch

23/10/12.2 CAPALC- For Circulation- September Bulletin

23/10/12.3 HDC- Funding available for activities to prevent frailty or cardiovascular disease in Huntingdonshire

23/10/12.4 CAPALC: Worknest - HR Support - Managing Menopause in the Workplace, AI in the Workplace Policy and much more!

23/10/12.5 CAPALC: October Training - Playground Inspections, Planning, S106 (CIL) Payments and Many More!

23/10/12.6 Greater Cambridge Partnership- Update on Making Connections

23/10/12.7 Cambridgeshire Matters - September 2023

23/10/12.8 Greater Cambridge Partnership- Papers published for Executive Board meeting on 28 September 2023

23/10/12.9 Highway events diary-Sept 23

23/10/12.10 Cambridgeshire Matters - September 2023

23/10/12.11 HDC: Christmas and New Year Waste Collection Arrangements

23/10/12.12 TMC Incident Report - September 2023

23/10/13 Councillors' questions- Items for the next agenda: Discussion of overgrown vegetation across paths in the village and the Rookery Solar Farm in Stow Longa. It was also noted that the protruding cable from the village phonebox has been reported to BT and is to be assessed by an engineer. Representatives for Bluefield Renewable Developments Ltd to be invited to the next meeting for a briefing about the extension to the Rookery Solar Farm, Stow Longa.

23/10/14 **Date of the next meeting:** Thursday 16th November.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Signed (Chair):

Date: