

MINUTES

Spaldwick Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 16th November 2023** at 7.00pm in Spaldwick Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School.

Chair: Sharan Jackson-Rimmer

Present: Councillors, S Jackson-Rimmer (SJR- Chair), R Johnson (RJ), S Parfrey (SP), G Rice (GR), District and County Councillor I Gardener, S Cardwell (Clerk) and 31 members of the public.

Cllr SJR informed the council that she had received a letter of resignation from Cllr U Braun.

23/11/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance- S Fane de Salis (SFdS)- Cllr SFdS has now missed 6 months of meetings so will cease to be a Councillor, J O'Dwyer (JO'D).

23/11/2 Declarations of Interests for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)- none.

23/11/3 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 19th October 2023- Cllr SP proposed signing and approval of the minutes as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr GR and carried unanimously.

23/11/4 Matters arising from those Minutes- none.

23/11/5 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.

- Two members of the public addressed the Council to raise concerns about the planning application from item 23/11/6.1. These included the fact that there were insignificant changes to the concerns raised by the previous application, the fact that they would be affordable homes in an unaffordable location, significant concerns about the long-standing history of flooding at the site (the field being the lowest point in the village), the planned change of land use (including for a further field from the site), the fact that the proposed plastic mesh road surface is not suitable for clay soil and could result in unaffordable upkeep costs. Congestion and parking near to the garage were also raised along with Highway safety and speeding especially for young families. The inaccessibility of the village via various transport means was also flagged (unsuitability and distance for cycling to key amenities e.g. Hinchingsbrooke hospital and lack of a regular and reliable bus service, including issues with Ting being restrictive and often booked up). Morals and the culling of two healthy Ash trees prior to the first planning permission being submitted were also highlighted, along with the fact that the site is outside the village boundary and, therefore, outside of the Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan.
- The coordinator of Spaldwick's Neighbourhood Watch also spoke to request help promoting the service in the village and approaching those targeted by scams to gather and share information to help protect vulnerable residents. There is a link and there will be an article shared in the monthly newsletter; 250 Neighbourhood Watch stickers have also been ordered.
- District and County Cllr I Gardener addressed the Council updating them on his contact with the new Local Highways and Public Rights of Way Officers. HDC will review the decision to cease weedkilling on roads and pavements following numerous complaints and issues road sweeping. There will be an early bird offer for garden bin subscriptions (£50 rather than £57.50). The Local Highway Improvement bids scheme is now open and applications for 20mph schemes for villages will reopen in January (there will only be ten 20mph schemes available in Cambridgeshire and so only 2 in Huntingdonshire though). Cambridgeshire County Council have agreed a 4.99% increase in Council Tax. Those who receive 80% tax relief currently will receive 100% relief going forward; band D will increase. LED lights are to be introduced over the next two years to reduce energy consumption.

23/11/6 Planning

To consider new planning consultations

23/11/6.1 Reference 23/01948/FUL

Application Received: Fri 13 Oct 2023

Address: Land East Of Ivy Way Spaldwick

Proposal: Construction of 15 no. dwellings with associated access, car parking and landscaping (re-submission of 23/00649/FUL)

Status: In progress

To note: Extension for comments granted from HDC until 17th November.

- Following discussions Cllr GR proposed the Council recommend refusal on the grounds of flood risk of the area (recent flooding, impact from the Ellington Brook & the ineffective valve, nearby ditches not regularly cleared, the natural downhill slope of the site and it being at the lowest point in the village), insufficient surface water storage for the proposed site, the unsuitable nature of the proposed mesh surface (in relation to clay surface and for an unadopted road), increase in vehicular traffic and highway safety, and the fact that it is outside the village boundary so contradicts the HDC Local Plan. The proposal was seconded by Cllr SP and carried (one Cllr abstained).

Determined by planning authority:- all noted.

23/11/6.2 Proposal: Horsechestnut - Remove

Address: St James Church Church Lane Spaldwick

Ref. No: 23/01660/TRCA

Received: Tue 05 Sep 2023

Validated: Tue 05 Sep 2023

Status: Approved

23/11/6.3 Proposal: Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling (C3).

Address: Stocking Farm Stocking Lane Easton

Ref. No: 23/01521/PMBPA

Received: Fri 11 Aug 2023

Validated: Wed 16 Aug 2023

Status: Refused

23/11/6.4 Proposal: Re-roofing works, including insulation and the insertion of two dormer windows and rooflights. Repairs to chimneys.

Address: 38 High Street Spaldwick Huntingdon PE28 0TD

Ref. No: 23/01411/HHFUL and 23/01412/LBC

Received: Thu 27 Jul 2023

Validated: Thu 27 Jul 2023

Status: Approved

23/11/7 Finance

23/11/7.1 To note: Account balance at 09.11.2023: £54,362.50- noted.

23/11/7.2 Update regarding transfer of bank accounts to Unity Trust bank and signatories- The Clerk updated the Council that the request for Cllrs JO'D and GR to be added to the signatories has been submitted. It was noted that Cllr SFdS will also need to come off the banking. Clerk to check on the payment authorization permissions.

23/11/7.3 Update regarding management of the Parish Council and Town and Poors finances in relation to the allotments site- Awaiting further feedback from solicitor. The Clerk has not been able to trace any further information regarding the Charity's governing document.

23/11/7.4 Update regarding insurance claim for the theft of the allotment gates- The Clerk confirmed that £578.08 has been paid out by Aviva towards the metal gate installation (an excess was deducted).

23/11/7.5 To consider quotations for installing a base for the Jubilee bench- deferred pending additional quotes.

23/11/7.6 To discuss next year's budget and confirm the required precept- The revised draft of the budget had been circulated by the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Following discussions, Cllr SP proposed the draft be agreed and the precept set accordingly (£10,780); this was seconded by Cllr RJ and carried unanimously.

23/11/7.7 To further discuss a grant request from Friends of Spaldwick School (FOSS) for funds to create a new outdoor space at the school- deferred pending further details requested.

23/11/7.8 To note: The £12 reimbursement for the carriage on the defibrillator pads has been received-noted.

23/11/7.9 To note: Cambridgeshire County Council's Older Adults Social Inclusion Grants are now live (deadline for applications is Saturday 23rd December 5pm)- deferred.

Expenditure for approval 16th November 2023:

23/11/7.10 Clerk's wages (Oct-Nov) (S.Cardwell: **£529.69**, HMRC: **£9.67**) (To note: this includes

NJC agreed pay scale increase on hourly rate, backdated to April 2023- detail circulated- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.

- 23/11/7.11 Total Energies invoices (Accounts 3006693866 & 3006693855) Sep-Oct- invoices to be received (inc. VAT)- not yet received but it was agreed these should be paid when they come in.
- 23/11/7.12 A.Murphy invoice for cleaning of the Community Room (Oct-Nov): **£44.00**- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.
- 23/11/7.13 Grafton invoices for cleaning products: **£34.77** (inc. VAT)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.
- 23/11/7.14 Hags replacement playpark caps invoice: **£40.80** (inc. VAT)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.
- 23/11/7.15 Scribe Accounts annual renewal invoice: **£328.32** (inc. VAT)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.
- 23/11/7.16 October Brookfield Contracting grasscutting invoice (2 x cuts): **£528.00** (inc. VAT)- Cllr GR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.
- 23/11/7.17 Ask IT invoice: **£234.98** (inc. VAT)- invoice to be received- not yet received, Clerk to have IT meeting this week.

23/11/8 **Assets – Provision/Maintenance**

- 23/11/8.1 Weekly Ferriman Road Play Area's Inspection & update- Cllr JO'D had confirmed the park is all ok. The new caps have arrived, the gate spring has been repaired and the annual playground inspection has been booked.
- 23/11/8.2 Update regarding the Community Room (including hire document, inventory, uses of the room and cleaning product COSHH assessments)- The following were discussed: adding additional details to the hire document (Clerk to rework), completing an inventory of the contents of the room and cupboards (Cllrs SJR and JO'D- Feb time), fortnightly community sessions (Cllr JO'D), COSHH assessments (Clerk to investigate further).; all items to be discussed again next meeting.
- 23/11/8.3 Update from Cllr GR regarding The War Memorials Trust- Document to submit being compiled currently.
- 23/11/8.4 Update regarding the defibrillator and purchase of a new unit (Punch Taverns)- awaiting update.
- 23/11/8.5 Update from Clerk regarding the Jubilee plaques outside The Manor Farm House- The Clerk confirmed she has not been able to find details of the purchases. It was agreed she should ask fellow Clerks in the area for recommendations of reputable companies.
- 23/11/8.6 To consider equipment options for the open space in Spaldwick to be presented by Cllr JO'D- deferred.
- 23/11/8.7 Update from Cllr GR regarding the MVAS Flashing Speed sign- Cllr GR informed the council that the second speed sign is now up and running; he will take a download of the data shortly so the results can be analysed.
- 23/11/8.8 Update from Clerk regarding registration of the titles for the Village Greens in Spaldwick- no update yet.
- 23/11/8.9 Further discussion regarding Church Lane (uneven road surface from tree roots)- deferred.
- 23/11/8.10 Allotments update- Cllr SJR informed the Council that the plot holder who had their tenancy terminated has now vacated the plot and a new tenant is taking over.
- 23/11/8.13 To discuss the village noticeboards- Cllr RJ confirmed he would order some cork and renovate the boards.
- 23/11/8.14 Update regarding any interest expressed for a flood group and additional defibrillator training- Defibrillator training will take place in the community room on Saturday 10th February 2024 at 2pm; this will be advertised in the Spaldwick News.
- 23/11/8.15 To note: the 'no parking' signs on the village green have now been installed- noted, with thanks.

23/11/9 **Highways, footpaths, byways, gritting bin, trees, etc.**

- 23/11/9.1 Update regarding the hedges along Long Lane- Clerk awaiting feedback from the new Highways Officer for the area.
- 23/11/9.2 Further discussion of the LHI application (submission by Friday 12th January at 5pm)- it was agreed to submit the draft application circulated by Cllr SJR.
- 23/11/9.3 To discuss overgrown pathways in the village- It was agreed to monitor the situation. The Clerk was asked to get a quote from Brookfield for re-edging the verges on the High St.
- 23/11/9.4 To note: Huntingdonshire District Council have launched a Community Grant to boost biodiversity (expression of interest submissions are open in two phases, now until end of November 2023)

and from January to February 2024)- The Clerk was asked to pass details on to the Chair of the Allotment Association.

23/11/10 Update regarding Neighbourhood Watch in the village- The Council were pleased to receive the update during the public open forum and look forward to further news.

23/11/11 Any items for the next edition of Spaldwick News- Updates regarding defibrillator training and the MVAS units to be included, also suggestions for recipients of the Christmas payments.

23/11/12 **Correspondence** (-previously circulated)- all noted

23/11/12.1 Cambridgeshire Matters - October 2023

23/11/12.2 CAPALC- For Circulation- October Bulletin

23/11/12.3 CAPALC_ Member Benefit - HR Support – WorkNest

23/11/12.4 Highway events diary-Nov 23

23/11/12.5 TMC Incident Report - October 2023

23/11/12.6 CAPALC- For Circulation- November Bulletin

23/11/12.7 NALC Legal Update - October 2023

23/11/13 Councillors' questions-It was noted that there is a Village Christmas Carol Party at St James Church on Tuesday 19th December, 7:30pm. Litter picking to be discussed next meeting. Thanks were expressed towards Cllrs S Fane de Salis and U Braun for their time spent on the Council and their contributions to the village.

23/11/14 **Date of the next meeting:** Thursday 14th December.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Signed (Chair):

Date: