

## MINUTES

Spaldwick Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024** at 7pm 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), W Burcham (WB), District & County Councillor I Gardener, S Cardwell (Clerk), two members of Spaldwick Community Allotment Association (SCAA).

24/2/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance- Cllr SJR confirmed she has received a letter of resignation from Cllr R Johnson. The Council expressed their thanks for Cllr Johnson's many years of service (almost 34) on the Council.

24/2/2 Declarations of Interests for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)- none.

24/2/3 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024- Cllr WB proposed signing and approval of the minutes as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.

24/2/4 Matters arising from those Minutes- none.

24/2/5 To receive and consider any applications for co-option- none.

24/2/6 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- District and County Cllr I Gardener addressed the Council, providing the following update: the lead flood authority has withdrawn its objection to the Ivy Way development as the proposals are deemed sufficient to manage flood waters. National Highways are looking to amend drainage on the A14; these may need to be considered together to ensure neither proposal affects the other's planned drainage arrangements. Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) are also looking at the footpath which would need to be diverted before they could commence building at Ivy Way. The new Planning Manager at HDC is happy to come and meet local Councils in the district to answer questions about planning matters. HDC are looking at civil parking enforcement and the proposed Council tax increase is £5 p/a. A 4.99% increase has already been agreed by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and the mayoral increase is £24 (for bus services only). Ting will become a rural bus service only. CCC have admitted the newly implemented weedkilling policy was a mistake (numerous complaints, additional road damage, blocked gulleys) so from 1<sup>st</sup> April they will revert to chemical weedkilling. The deadline for 20mph zone applications is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (only two available for Huntingdonshire). There will be a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March for Parish Councils only to discuss the proposed closure of Kimbolton fire station. There is a meeting on Monday with the new HDC footpaths coordinator in Spaldwick to discuss issues and a safety advisory group teams meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March with Alan Trille of National Highways. Details of the two dangerous potholes currently in Spaldwick are to be sent on to the Local Highways Officer with Cllr Gardener on copy for follow-up.

Members of SCAA spoke to clarify their understanding of the arrangements regarding running of the allotments site. Recommendations from the Parish Council's solicitor regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between Spaldwick Community Allotment Association (SCAA) and The Parish Council were raised, along with the differences between an Association or a Committee managing the day-to-day running of the allotments site. SCAA will discuss further and report back to the Council regarding their management decision.

### 24/2/7 Planning

#### To consider new planning consultations

24/2/7.1 Erection of Garage and realignment of new access and drive consented under application 21/00836/FUL. House On The Hill Stow Road Spaldwick Huntingdon PE28 0TE  
Ref. No: 23/02424/FUL | Received: Wed 13 Dec 2023 | Validated: Wed 17 Jan 2024 | Status: In Progress- Following discussions, Cllr SP proposed the Council recommend approval of the application because it is infill and will allow access as required to the two separate properties; this was seconded by Cllr JO'D and carried unanimously.

#### Determined by planning authority:

24/2/7.2 Extensions and alterations including double garage, single storey front extension, two-storey side extension, and single storey rear extension. Demolition of existing single storey garage and rear extension. 37 Stow Road Spaldwick Huntingdon PE28 0TE  
Ref. No: 23/02280/HHFUL | Received: Fri 24 Nov 2023 | Validated: Mon 27 Nov 2023 | Status: Withdrawn- noted.

24/2/7.3 G1 Group of four Elm trees - fell to near ground level. Reasons - causing shading and leaf drop. Poor specimens, hollow and brittle, our customer is concerned that if there was a storm there would be a risk to their house if the trees were to fall.  
24 Burton Way Spaldwick Huntingdon PE28 0YY  
Ref. No: 23/02271/TRCA | Received: Thu 23 Nov 2023 | Validated: Fri 24 Nov 2023 | Status: Withdrawn- noted.

24/2/7.4 To discuss the proposals for a 49.9MW solar farm ("Rookery Farm Solar Farm") along with a Battery Storage Facility on land at Rookery Farm, Stow Longa- it was noted that there had been an email from a resident concerned about HGVs going through the village, also regarding funding for the village (funding will not be dealt with in the application).

#### 24/2/8 Finance

24/2/8.1 To note: Account balance at 0802.2024: £51323.06- noted.

24/2/8.2 Update regarding bank accounts and signatories- Clerk had spoken with Unity Trust and the requested changes should be actioned imminently. Clerk now to commence the process of removing R Johnson from the mandate.

24/2/8.3 Update and discussions regarding management of the Parish Council and Town and Poors finances in relation to the allotments site- awaiting further update from solicitor.

24/2/8.4 Update regarding grass edging for the verges on High St- awaiting site visit from Brookfield.

24/2/8.5 To discuss an amended quote from GFS for the Jubilee bench installation which would reduce the amount of waste material incurred- The revised quote for alternative slabs (rather than Indian sandstone), reduces the initial quote by £80. Cllr SJR proposed the Council accept the revision to save on the cost; this was seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously. Installation to take place in Spring once the weather improves.

It was noted that the plaque from the Belton Hill Jubilee bench is missing. The Clerk was asked to look for details of the inscription in the 2012 minutes.

24/2/8.6 To consider a funding request for a Grafham Water project to provide free outdoor learning experiences for disadvantaged young people- deferred.

#### Expenditure for approval 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024:

24/2/8.7 Clerk's wages (Jan-Feb) (S.Cardwell: **£369.39**, HMRC: **£0.60**).

24/2/8.8 Total Energies invoices (Accounts 3006693866 & 3006693855) Jan-Feb- invoices to be received- Clerk confirmed the invoices have been received, £28.75 and £14.09 (including VAT).

24/2/8.9 A.Murphy invoice for cleaning of the Community Room (Jan-Feb): **£44.00**.

24/2/8.10 Grafton invoice for ink cartridges- to be received.

24/2/8.11 Reimbursement to Clerk for litter picking equipment ordered: **£58.65**.

24/2/8.12 Reimbursement to S. Jackson-Rimmer for wall clock purchased for Community Room: **£10.00**.

24/2/8.13 Surrey Hill Solicitors- legal advice regarding the Town and Poors Field: **£783.00** (inc. VAT).

-Cllr SJR proposed payment of all items, seconded by Cllr JO'D and carried unanimously.

#### 24/2/9 Assets – Provision/Maintenance

24/2/9.1 Weekly Ferriman Road Play Area's Inspection & update- Cllr JO'D advised nothing new to report.

24/2/9.2 Update regarding the Community Room (hire document, inventory, COSHH assessments, photos for website, PAT testing, fire safety)- inventory deferred, COSHH in progress, measurements and photos to be taken when inventory completed. Clerk to look into fire risk assessment. Following discussions, Cllr SJR proposed Cllr GR borrow a kit from work and complete the PAT testing; this was seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.

24/2/9.3 Update from Cllr GR regarding The War Memorials Trust- no new progress.

24/2/9.4 To agree changes to the fixed asset register- it was noted that the Belton Hill Jubilee bench is not listed; Cllr SJR proposed this also be added, seconded by Cllr GR and carried unanimously.

24/2/9.5 Update regarding the Jubilee plaques outside The Manor Farm House- Cleaning in progress.

24/2/9.6 To consider equipment options for the open space in Spaldwick to be presented by Cllr JO'D- ongoing.

24/2/9.7 Update from Cllr GR regarding the MVAS Flashing Speed sign- Cllr GR to complete a data download at the weekend and check the battery levels.

24/2/9.8 Update from Clerk regarding registration of the titles for the Village Greens in Spaldwick- ongoing.

24/2/9.9 Further discussion regarding Church Lane (uneven road surface from tree roots)- Site meeting to be attended with HDC footpaths coordinator. CCC Highways Officer has also agreed to visit the

site but no date confirmed.

24/2/9.10 Allotments update- The site is currently quite quiet.

24/2/9.11 To discuss the village noticeboards- Cllr SJR confirmed her husband has offered to renovate them. Cllr JO'D proposed an approximate budget of £100 be allocated for the materials for this to be completed; seconded by Cllr GR and carried.

24/2/9.12 Update regarding defibrillator training- the arranged date had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. A further date to be arranged if there is sufficient uptake.

24/2/9.13 To discuss a potential over 60's stay and chat group for the Community Room- Cllr JO'D updated the Council that she would like to run a monthly coffee and cake session in the Community room 10am-12 noon on the second Thursday of the month. Cllr GR proposed the Community room was offered free of charge for a 6-month trial period; this was seconded by Cllr WB and carried. Cllr JO'D to implement.

24/2/9.14 To note: a meeting has been arranged on Tuesday 19th March for Parish Councillors with Fire Authority Officers to discuss the proposed closure of the Kimbolton Fire Station- Cllrs SJR, JO'D and SP to attend.

24/2/9.15 To discuss the Annual Parish Meeting in May- Clerk was asked to send invites to multiple Community groups in February to allow time for people to arrange to attend or prepare a report.

24/2/10 **Highways, footpaths, byways, gritting bin, trees, etc.**

24/2/10.1 Update regarding the hedges along Long Lane- It was noted these have been partially cut but further work is required; Clerk has been in contact with the CCC Highways Officer about this.

24/2/10.2 Update regarding the LHI application submitted- no update.

24/2/10.3 Further discussions regarding litter picking in the village- The equipment has been ordered and extra bags requested from HDC. One volunteer has put herself forward to help.

24/2/10.4 To note: District and County Cllr I Gardener has confirmed the trees in the Ellington Brook will be removed prior to the financial year end; work was delayed due to high water levels within the brook- Not yet completed (as the morning of the meeting).

24/2/11 To note: Town and Parish Councillors have been invited to attend an online engagement session on 19th February to provide feedback on proposals for a Festival of Huntingdonshire; this has a focus on enabling community action throughout the year- noted.

24/2/12 Any items for the next edition of Spaldwick News- Missing sign from Jubilee bench, Annual Parish meeting, Councillor vacancies and thanks to R Johnson.

24/2/13 **Correspondence** (-previously circulated)- all noted

24/2/13.1 Cambridgeshire Matters – January 2024

24/2/13.2 CCC- Budget Seminar for Town and Parish Councils 11th January – meeting recording

24/2/13.3 Cambridgeshire ACRE - Staying in Touch - Jan-2024

24/2/13.4 Boost Your Skills with Our Dynamic Training Courses!

24/2/13.5 TMC Incident Report January 2024

24/2/13.6 Highways- Cambridgeshire Micro-Asphalt Phase1 Programme 2024

24/2/13.7 CCC- Feb Ask Me How I Am consultation workshops

24/2/13.8 CCC- Understanding self-harm film consultation workshops

24/2/13.9 Cambridgeshire County show

24/2/13.10 Highway Events Diary- Feb 24

24/2/13.11 Police Neighbourhood Team - Huntingdon

24/2/13.12 Fw\_ Your invite to the next Waste Minimisation Meeting

24/2/13.13 A14 Trunk Road (J13 Thrapston, Northamptonshire to J20 Ellington, Temporary Restriction

24/2/13.14 Funding for Learning and skills for adults aged 19+ Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

24/2/14 Councillors' questions.

24/2/15 **Date of the next meeting:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Signed:  
(Chair)

Date: