

MINUTES

Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 19th September 2024** at 7pm in Spaldwick Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School. Chair: Sharan Jackson-Rimmer

Present: Councillors S Jackson-Rimmer (SJR- Chair), W Burcham (WB- Vice-Chair), S Parfrey (SP), J O'Dwyer (JO'D), G Rice (GR), District and County Cllr I Gardener, S Cardwell (Clerk) and two members of the public.

24/9/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance- S Isaac (SI).

24/9/2 Declarations of Interests for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)- none.

24/9/3 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting on 18th July 2024- Cllr JO'D proposed signing and approval of the minutes as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr GR and carried unanimously.

24/9/4 Matters arising from those Minutes- none.

24/9/5 To receive and consider any applications for co-option (signing of acceptance of office if applicable)- no one presented themselves.

24/9/6 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- Two representatives of the over 60's group that meet in the Community Room addressed the Council providing an update about the twice monthly sessions. Currently attendance is 20+ people each time and attendees are provided with refreshments along with visits from various organisations, such as P3 Charity who help people complete various forms and the Police and Fire Services regarding safety and scams. To-date refreshments have been self-funded with some donations received from attendees and also people in the village. The Parish Council had previously agreed 6 months of free use of the Community room and an extension of this was requested at the meeting.

District and County Cllr I Gardener addressed the Council, providing the following update: Spaldwick Parish Council's LHI bid for an additional solar MVAS has been provisionally successful (must be finalised at the October meeting of the Highways and Transport Committee). Local Highways Officer Karen Southwell has moved area and her replacement is Sarah Budd (who has agreed to continue 6 monthly meetings with Cllr Gardener). The Barham white lining should be completed soon and the 'no entry' sign for the Green in Spaldwick is being chased. The Combined Authority has a consultation regarding bus services which is open until 20th November. Huntingdonshire District Council is consulting on the Local Plan from 18th September to 27th November; the key focus is on sustainability and feedback is being sought regarding key options (e.g. land availability). This can be done via the Huntingdonshire District Council website. Spaldwick is in Area 3 and 4 sites have been identified. There will be local drop-in events the nearest being 22nd October at Kimbolton Scout Hut (2-8pm). Cambridgeshire County Council is looking to recruit more school governors; applications can be made online through their website. Lithium-ion batteries are causing increasing numbers of fires when not disposed of correctly. These must be disposed of at household recycling centres or shops, and not in your bins. Devices that use these batteries should only be charged while you are awake and should have a CE or UKCA mark to signify they meet UK standards. Further details can be found on Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service's website. Cllr SJR raised the issues of the recent pavement slurring (messy, no notice, missed areas and weed growth), the significant potholes at the Easton central reservation gap, overgrown hedges and tree along local roads and weeds in gutters; Cllr I Gardener will raise these with the relevant people.

24/9/7 Planning

To consider new planning consultations

24/9/7.1 37 Stow Road Spaldwick Huntingdon PE28 0TE - 24/01345/HHFUL

Proposed extension and alterations including double garage, single storey front extension, two storey side extension and single storey rear extension and demolition of existing single storey garage and rear extension

- Comments requested by 23rd August 2024- extension applied for but no response received so any comments submitted now may not be taken into account. The existing comments still applicable were resubmitted.

24/9/7.2 Solar Farm Rookery Farm Kimbolton Road Stow Longa- 24/00883/FUL

Construction of a Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) together with all associated work, equipment and necessary infrastructure

- extension for comments agreed until 20th September- Following discussions Cllr JO'D proposed the Council recommend refusal on the basis of Highways Safety, namely:
 - concerns regarding school hours (multiple routes to multiple schools, buses and cars).
 - Exponential increase of existing industrial estate traffic
 - Listed buildings on the High St Spaldwick that would suffer increased damage from HGVs
 - The verges and curbs of the village Green where the (listed) War Memorial is sited have already been damaged by large vehicles cutting the corner (High St / Stow Rd junction) and the buildings and memorial are in a conservation area.
 - The Spaldwick Rd into Stow Longa is narrow and vehicles passing at busy periods (especially buses, HGVs and farm vehicles) could cause damage to gardens, overhanging trees in the conservation area and particular people on the footpath, including children.

This was seconded by Cllr WB and carried unanimously.

Determined by planning authority: none

24/9/7.3 Update regarding the planning complaint submitted to HDC for the Land East of Ivy Way application- the response from HDC had been circulated by the Clerk. The developer's appeal has been successful and planning permission granted.

24/9/7.4 To discuss the email received from Leighton Bromswold Parish Council- Cllr SJR will make contact to see whether a meeting can be arranged to discuss further, in particular to find out further details and implications regarding the suggestion to propose a change of classification of the local road network for villages near the A14 such as Spaldwick and Stow Longa to 'temporary link roads', which receive a 4 times higher inspection rate.

24/9/7.5 To note: The HDC Local Plan Update is approaching the next stage of public engagement – this will take the form of a consultation, scheduled to take place between 18th September to 27th November (10 weeks). HDC are holding a Town & Parish Councils Briefing Update on the 24th and 30th September (6pm) online and in person that Parish Councils are invited to attend- Cllrs SJR and WB, also the Clerk to attend virtually on the 30th.

24/9/8 Finance

24/9/8.1 Accounts update. Balance at 12.09.2024: £53,502.68- noted.

24/9/8.2 To discuss ESPO contract and quotations received for streetlighting (current contract expires 30th Sep) and to agree which provider to use going forward- Following discussions Cllr SJR proposed the Council accept the quotation received through Clear Utility Solutions (in partnership with CAPALC) for Tomato to take over the supply due to there being no standing daily charge. This was seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously.

24/9/8.3 Update regarding maintenance of the Town & Poors field- It was noted that the field had been cut by Cllr WB's son and thanks was passed to him for completing this work. Cllr SJR proposed that an additional cut should be made before winter and that the hedges cut at the same time to be completed by the Wyton Mower Centre; this was seconded by Cllr GR and carried. Cllr WB did not participate in this item.

24/9/8.4 To discuss the insurance renewal, consider quotations received and select a provider for the coming year or longer-term- The Clerk confirmed quotations had been received from Clear Councils for a renewal and an alternative quote from Gallagher; Zurich declined to quote based on the details of assets sent to them and no response was received from Ansvar. Following discussions, Cllr SP proposed the Council renew with Clear based on their handling of the previous claims made. This was seconded by Cllr GR and carried unanimously.

Expenditure for approval 19th September 2024:

- 24/9/8.5 To ratify retrospectively the Clerk's wages (Jul-Aug) (S.Cardwell: **£468.82**, HMRC: **£48.40**).
- 24/9/8.6 To ratify retrospectively the Total Energies invoices (Accounts 3006693866 & 3006693855) Jul-Aug: **£44.86 & £14.04** (inc. VAT).
- 24/9/8.7 To ratify retrospectively A.Murphy invoice for cleaning of the Community Room (Jul-Aug): **£45.76**.
- 24/9/8.8 Clerk's wages (Aug-Sep) (S.Cardwell: **£564.75**, HMRC: **£48.60**).
- 24/9/8.9 Total Energies invoices (Accounts 3006693866 & 3006693855) Aug-Sep: **£23.18 & £14.04** (inc. VAT)- The Clerk advised she had raised a query on the account about a payment made but not allocated. It was agreed to hold payment until this is resolved and for the outstanding balance to then be paid once the deduction has been applied.
- 24/9/8.10 A.Murphy invoice for cleaning of the Community Room (Aug-Sep): **£57.20**.
- 24/9/8.11 Brookfield Contracting: Village grasscutting (August): **£264.00** (inc. VAT)- Clerk advised no invoice received.
- 24/9/8.12 Grafton Projects- cleaning supplies for Community Room: **£43.46** (inc. VAT).
- 24/9/8.13 Signs of the Times: replacement Jubilee bench plaque for Belton's Hill: **£76.79** (inc. VAT).
Cllr SJR proposed ratification or payment of all items (including Total following resolution of the issue), apart from item 8.11 as an invoice has not been received. This was seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously; payments to be authorized by Cllrs GR and SJR.

24/9/9 **Assets – Provision/Maintenance**

- 24/9/9.1 Weekly Ferriman Road Play Area's Inspection & update- Cllrs JO'D and SJR raised the issue of the wetpour shrinking at the sides- the Clerk was asked to contact the installer with photos for advice. It was agreed to order 2x replacement swing clips and a pack of replacement caps. An email from a resident requesting additional equipment for the playpark and offering help with this, was read out. The Clerk was asked to reply confirming the park could not be expanded due to the lack of space, however, that the Council is looking into options for equipment for older children in the remainder of the allotment field on Stow Rd.
- 24/9/9.2 Update regarding the Community Room- The Clerk was asked to contact regular users to remind them not to remove any items from the kitchen cupboards without checking first.
- 24/9/9.3 Update from Cllr GR regarding The War Memorials Trust and grant application- Cllr GR has been trying to get in contact with the War Memorials Trust. Cllr SJR proposed four quotes are requested for the work in the meantime; this was seconded by Cllr JO'D and carried unanimously.
- 24/9/9.4 Further discussion of the equipment for the open space or Town and Poors Field in Spaldwick- deferred.
- 24/9/9.5 Update from Cllr GR regarding the MVAS Flashing Speed signs- Cllr GR is attempting to limit the distance for readings to support data analysis.
- 24/9/9.6 Update from Clerk regarding registration of the titles for the Village Greens in Spaldwick- no update.
- 24/9/9.7 Allotments update and discussion of the SCAA meetings going forward- The most recent SCAA meeting and AGM minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr WB confirmed that the National Allotment Society membership and insurance for plot holders has recently been finalised; as such, the Council noted that the updated SCAA regulations should be circulated asap to plot holders now this has been completed. Additionally, it was noted that clarification should be made that the request for rent to be charged for plot 27 if used as a community orchard was for the purposes of covering the maintenance of the site and the Christmas payments to the vulnerable and that any empty plots pending a tenant should be maintained by SCAA ready for them to be rented. It was noted that the Council was pleased to see the amendment to the SCAA minutes correcting the detail about the annual Christmas payments made to the vulnerable from the allotment rents received. It was also noted that clarification should be made in relation to site inspections which will need to be completed bi-annually by the Council of the whole allotments site including all assets, as SCAA are responsible for the day to day running of the allotments but the Parish Council has overall responsibility for the allotments and site.
- 24/9/9.8 Update regarding the village noticeboards- no update.
- 24/9/9.9 Update regarding the defibrillator- the September maintenance report has been received.
- 24/9/9.10 IT Update from Clerk including the new minimum accessibility standard for all UK Government public sector websites and mobile apps (WCAG 2.2) starting from October 2024- deferred pending further information.
- 24/9/9.11 To discuss the well near to the Jubilee bench- Clerk to contact Sarah Budd to see whether the well

belongs to Highways and Easton Parish Council's Clerk to find out details of the renovation of their well.

- 24/9/9.12 To discuss grasscutting in the village- the cutting specification for the year ahead was discussed and also potential local contractors for the Clerk to contact for a quote.
- 24/9/9.13 To discuss the over 60s club- following discussions about the group's request for additional use of the Community room and the feedback provided during the public open forum, Cllr GR proposed the free use of the Community Room be extended until the January meeting when the matter can be discussed again. This was seconded by Cllr SP and carried; Cllr JO'D did not participate in the vote.
- 24/9/9.14 To consider what action to take for biodiversity- It was noted that facilitating the allotments helps biodiversity. Clerk to investigate costs of a bug hotel for the site.

24/9/10 Highways, footpaths, byways, gritting bin, trees, etc.

- 24/9/10.1 Update regarding Long Lane, Church Lane and the 'no entry' sign at the Green- it was noted that Long Lane has been trimmed and the gate is open. Church Lane and 'no entry' sign to be followed up with the new Highways Officer.
- 24/9/10.2 To discuss litterpicking in the village and consider the draft risk assessment circulated- Cllr SJR proposed adoption of the draft risk assessment, seconded by Cllr SP and carried unanimously. The assessment will be put on the website and shared with interested parties.
- 24/9/10.3 To discuss a request from Ellington PC for Support for Dedicated Cycle Route from Ellington to Brampton- the Clerk was asked to reply stating the Council would be happy to support if the plans can include a safe cycle route to and from Spaldwick that doesn't mean going via the A14.
- 24/9/10.4 To note: the consultation on Cambridgeshire Highways' proposed Active Travel Hierarchy has been extended (revised closure date: Monday 30th September)- noted.
- 24/9/10.5 To discuss the potential closure of the Grafham to Brampton road- it was discussed that there is significant local opposition to the proposal, with 200+ attendees to the extraordinary meeting of Grafham Parish Council held to discuss the matter.
- 24/9/10.6 To note: in advance of the 25/26 LHI application round which opens in November, CCC Highways are asking for Expressions of Interest (survey deadline 11th October 2024) and to consider potential applications- Cllr SJR updated the Council that the solar MVAS can no longer be installed on a lamppost. Highways will assess the site for suitable positions and report back regarding this and costings.
- 24/9/10.7 To discuss the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Bus Franchising Consultation Stakeholder Email and any comments to be submitted (consultation for statutory consultees: 14th August – 20th November 2024- deferred).

24/9/11 To discuss Staff training- Cllr SJR read out the dates but no training was requested.

24/9/12 Any items for the next edition of Spaldwick News- Dangers of lithium batteries to be highlighted.

24/9/13 Correspondence (-previously circulated- see attached list)- all noted.

24/9/14 Councillors' questions- the budget is to be discussed next meeting.

24/9/15 **Date of the next meeting:** Thursday 17th October.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: