

## PARISH OF SPALDWICK

### Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at 8 pm Wednesday 25 April 2007 at Spaldwick Primary School

**Present** Councillors K H Armer (Chairman), W Brown, R Johnson, B Plummer, J Shears, R Wooddisse and one member of the public.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr P N Racey and Mr Graham Smith.

1. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 26 April 2006** - were read, approved and signed.

2. **Matters arising** - none

3. **Annual Report by Chairman of Parish Council**

Mr Armer reported as follows :-

The Council held 11 meetings in the year, 10 full and the Annual Parish Meeting. Members of the public attended 4 of those meetings. The Council also held a public meeting to get opinions about HDC proposals to merge Stow Longa and Spaldwick. The proposal was rejected by the meeting and later by the Council.

The Council dealt with 16 matters of planning over the year.

The Council is still liaising with the Village Hall Management Committee in trying to purchase or lease land for the new hall.

The standard of grasscutting was very poor over the year, and we have received a large number of complaints. The contractor will try to do better this year. The contractor is much cheaper by far than any other quote received.

The Council raised the precept to £8500 for 2007/08. This was to allow a balance to be carried over to 2008/09 to finance futures projects, and also to allow for a donation of 50p per elector to the East Anglia Air Ambulance.

There is a big problem with flytipping within the parish and we report this as soon as it is reported to us. Also there have been large amounts of litter deposited within the parish. We have arranged litter pick ups with HDC, but it is almost impossible to keep up with, as is dog fouling, not only in the village but also in adjacent fields.

We distributed the Christmas charities to 7 residents of Spaldwick.

Councillors have attended a number of external meetings in the past year, but overall it has been a quiet year.

Peter Racey will not be standing for election this coming year. He has been on the Council for 31 years and was Chairman for 8 of those. He will be sorely missed. He helped me a great deal when I joined the Council in 1990. I would like to thank him on behalf of the Council and the village for his service, and wish him all the best for the future.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Stowell for all his work keeping us abreast of all matters and for his skills in the treasury department; Mr Brown and Mr Johnson for delivering the charities; Mr Johnson for his work as tree warden; Mr Shears for inspecting the play equipment and all the Councillors for their hard work in the past year.

4. **Parish Council Financial Report**

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year 2006 / 2007, summarised as follows :-

	General Fund	Charity Fund
Balance brought forward at 1/4/06	£19180.09	£120.00
Receipts	£29968.23 *	£120.00
Payments	£ 5140.79	£120.00
Balance carried forward at 13/3/07	£44007.53	£120.00

\* includes a commuted sum of £20070.00 for maintenance of play area and POS Ferriman Road

5. **Reports from other village organisations**  
**Mr B Plummer reported on the following :-**  
**Village Hall**

Until the difficulties in obtaining a suitable site have been resolved little progress can be made. The possibilities of purchasing land behind the school are continuing to be negotiated but the question of vehicle access remains difficult to resolve.

Alternative options for sites around the village have also been reconsidered, but so far without an acceptable result.

Meanwhile the investment of the Village Hall funds continues to draw interest and the total now stands at: £218000.

The furniture and crockery from the old Hall remain in store and are available for use by the village members.

**Carpet Bowls Club**

The club has enjoyed another successful year, regular club nights being held in the school hall every Tuesday evening during term time.

Although membership is currently sufficient, new members would be most welcome, particularly from this village. Some 50% of matches with surrounding village clubs have again been won and successful club league and President's Day competitions have been held.

Social events have included the annual Christmas dinner and President's Day lunch and more events are planned for the rest of the year.

**Spaldwick Community Room Users Association**

The Community room at Spaldwick School has continued to function smoothly though it has been somewhat under-utilised.

It is a village facility which includes both the meeting room and kitchen catering for up to 50 people and is available for hire for both group and private functions.

6. **Open Forum**

**Availability of Community Room during School holidays** - Mr Plummer stated that the room can be used during holidays if arrangements are made with one of the key holders. He said he would provide the Clerk with a notice regarding use of the room, which could be displayed on the parish council notice boards.

**Jubilee Plaque** - the possibility of holding an unveiling was discussed. Mr Plummer agreed to consult the Fund Raisers.

**Interactive Speed Limit Signs** - In response to a question as to how Ellington's signs had been funded, the Clerk agreed to investigate and report his findings to the Parish Council.

**Trees in Public Open Space, Ferriman Road** -- a question was raised as to whether some of the trees had not "taken". This will be investigated by the Parish Council and appropriate action taken.

**Tree on triangle at Royston Avenue / Stow Road junction** - the Clerk was asked to thank Mr Dearman for making a good job of trimming it.

**Neighbourhood Watch** - the scheme appears not to be working at the moment. The feeling of the meeting was that it should be re-activated.

7. **Thanks to Chairman and Clerk**

Mr Brown expressed thanks on behalf of the village to Mr Armer, Chairman of the Parish Council and Mr Stowell, Clerk for the the work they had done during the past year.

In the absence of any other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.47 pm