

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 19 July 2007 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present : Cllrs K H Armer (Chairman), B F Plummer, J R Pope, R W Wooddisse, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and nineteen members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs W F Brown, R P Johnson and J C Shears.
2. **Parish Plans** - a presentation was given by Mr Nick Ball, Cambridgeshire ACRE

Adjournment - The Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow Mr Ball to answer questions from members of the public. Following this, the Chairman asked councillors and members of the public to indicate by a show of hands whether they wished to proceed with production of a plan. The meeting was virtually unanimous in favour of proceeding and the Clerk was asked to take the first steps by applying for a grant and arranging a public meeting to form a steering group. Several members of the public then left the room and the Chairman re-opened the meeting.

3. **Minutes of Meeting held 14 June 2007** were approved and signed.

4. **Matters arising**

Bus Shelter outside The George - Andy Moffat, HDC Development Control Manager, has confirmed that, if the measurable volume is not more than 115 cubic metres, Conservation Area Consent is not required for its demolition. In fact the volume is approx. 14.5 cubic metres.

New Bus Shelter - Stuart Bell, HDC Transport Planning, has advised that of around 35 sites on the waiting list, 10 have been selected for installation this financial year. Our request for a shelter will be retained on the priority list and considered again in 2008/09 subject to a capital programme for shelters being approved.

HDC Seminar on Development Plan Documents Consultation - The Chairman gave a brief report on the meeting he had attended on 21st June - all the work done to date has been scrapped and re-started as a result of new government guidelines.

5. **Finance**

Conclusion of 2006/07 Audit

It was noted that the audit was concluded satisfactorily on 6 July 2007. The required notice together with copies of Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Annual Return are displayed on the notice boards.

The following payments were approved :-

Cheque 100337 DJ & JM Green, grasscutting 8 & 11 June £145.20 + £25.41 VAT = £170.61
Cheque 100338 Spaldwick Primary School, Room rental, March - July 2007 £26.00
Cheque 100339 Moore Stephens, Audit fee 2006/07 £285.00 + £49.88 VAT = £334.88
Cheque 100340 CALC, Code of Conduct advert £24.00

6. **Code of Conduct**

It was resolved to adopt the Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils 2007, which includes para 12(2), with effect from 1 September 2007 and to ask CALC to advertise the fact and to inform the Standards Board and the HDC Monitoring Officer.

It was further resolved to adopt the following rule for a trial period and review it in April 2008 :-

Subject to notification having been given to the Clerk by 6.00 pm on the day prior to a meeting, a member of the public whose name appears on the current Register of Electors will be given the opportunity to make representations, answer questions or give evidence in relation to any business on the agenda of that meeting. The time allotted to any elector shall not exceed 5 minutes and the total time if more than one elector wishes to speak in respect of the same business shall not exceed 10 minutes.

Councillors with a prejudicial interest in a matter will (via paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct) have the same rights as members of the public to speak on the matter, and then leave before the main discussion and vote.

The Clerk reported that the Monitoring Officer had arranged a number of training sessions in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots, but had also offered to visit individual parish councils for the same purpose. The Clerk has also discussed the possibility of sharing such sessions with other local councils. The meeting agreed with this approach and asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting in Spaldwick in October.

7. Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme

The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Plummer had carried out a traffic survey on Monday 18 June to obtain information to support our bid for this year's scheme(s).

It was agreed to re-submit the scheme for a footway on High Street to link up with the new footway recently constructed by the developers of the houses at Beech House Farmyard. It was also agreed to submit a scheme for traffic calming measures such as red zones on the approaches to the village, and interactive speed signs, but not speed humps.

8. Maintenance of Assets / Environment

Children's Play Area - The Chairman reported that shrubs are overgrowing the path into the area, and queried whether Greens are responsible for trimming them. The Clerk confirmed that the order covered maintenance of the shrubs. He is to inform Greens of the problem.

Grasscutting - The Chairman again expressed dissatisfaction with the standard of the grasscutting. He agreed to obtain a quote from another contractor.

9. Planning

The following new planning application was considered :-

0702135FUL - Alterations to barn used as office & to dwelling, 2-6 Thrapston Road.

There being no objections, it was resolved to recommend approval.

10. Correspondence

CALC - Bulletin June 2007-07 + Letter & attachment re Policy Development - copied to each member -- it was decided to offer no comment on the proposal.

CALC - Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership - thematic group nominations - letter copied to each member.

Cllr Pope expressed an interest in several themes

Circulated 3/7/07

CCC Trading Standards leaflet

Report of Safer Neighbourhood Panel held at Ellington 19/1/07.

HDC Public Meeting Schedule July 2007

HDC Standards Committee Agenda etc. 5/7/07

Shaping the Environment of Huntingdonshire - Wednesday 19 September at Pathfinder House - Cllr

Plummer agreed to attend.

Changes to mobile library routes - notification of proposals to change routes and reduce stopping points from January 2008 as a result of a reduction in vehicles from eight to six was noted. This will only affect Spaldwick in respect of the day and time of visits - users have been informed, and have been asked to comment also.

Proposed conversion of some A14 lay-bys to emergency use only - Carillion- URS, agents for the Highways Agency, have asked for comments on proposals to make alterations to some lay-bys between junctions 15 and 28. These include complete closure of one lay-by and conversion of ten to emergency use only, in the interests of reducing accidents associated with vehicles entering or leaving lay-bys. To compensate for this loss of use, eight other lay-bys on this stretch will be improved. It was agreed to support the proposals.

CALC Chief Executive - Keith Barrand has announced his resignation. Ian Dewar has been appointed interim Chief Executive in his place.

11. Any Other Business

Flooding - Several areas had suffered from flash flooding during the day at the bottom of Stow Road and outside 2-6 and 23 Thrapston Road. The Clerk said that he had reported the gully problem at 2-6 Thrapston Road to Tony King on 16/7/07 who had promised to have it dealt with. He also said that they have money this year unless things alter with budgets etc to lay a diversion drain pipe to the brook and take most of the surface water drainage the other way. This should ease the flooding potential in the region of 2-6 Thrapston Rd. Works to start within 8 weeks, hopefully.

Memorial to Francis Bradshaw - The Chairman reported that he had had a request from the Bradshaw family to plant a tree on the green outside Stanwell House in memory of Francis. The meeting agreed to this request and suggested that a flowering cherry would be suitable. The Clerk to write and inform the family.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 6 September at 8 pm

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.53 pm