

Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm Thursday 6 September 2007 at Spaldwick Primary School

Present : Cllrs W F Brown (in the Chair), R P Johnson, B F Plummer, J R Shears, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs K H Armer and R W Wooddisse.

2. **Minutes of Meeting held 19 July 2007** were approved and signed.

3. **Matters arising**
Leaking Refuse Vehicles

This problem, first reported at the meeting on 14 June, was again observed on 1 September, when a trail of foul smelling liquid was left throughout the village in the wake of the refuse collection vehicle into which the green bins were emptied. A complaint to HDC produced the following response from Nic Martlew. "The waste and recycling vehicles we operate are fitted with tailgate seals. The seals are checked at regular intervals for security and condition. Due to the nature of the collections we make they can become damaged. I will ask the vehicle workshop to check the vehicle for damage. Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention."

Grasscutting

The Clerk reported that Dave Green had rung to apologise for the grass not having been cut since 20/25 July, and had said he would do a cut this week, but this promise has again been missed and he now expects to do a cut next week (a gap of 7 weeks). He has been informed that this performance is not acceptable.

The meeting was adjourned after item 3 to allow members of the Public to Speak.

During this period Mr & Mrs Dearman said they had little to add to their recent e-mail to the Clerk regarding trees, hedges and weeds, except to emphasise that the grasscutting needs to be done more regularly than has been the case this year.

The meeting was then resumed.

4. **Finance**
Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk tabled a summary of the bank accounts as at 31/8/07 together with supporting bank statements and a printout of the current cash book. These were examined by the meeting and confirmed to be in order.

Budget Review

The Clerk presented a Quarterly Budget Review showing the anticipated position at 30/9/07. Copies will be sent to members with their copy of these minutes. **Action : Clerk**

Statement of A & L Grounds Maintenance Account - The Clerk tabled the statement dated 17 July 2007 which confirmed the balance at 31/3/07 as being £20464.86 as stated in the 2006/07 accounts. This cleared an action from the meeting held 14 June 2007 (minute 4 (f)) concerning the Internal Auditor's Report.

The following payments were approved :-

Cheque 100341 DJ & JM Green, grasscutting 20 & 25 July - £145.20 + £25.41 VAT = £170.61

Cheque 100342 F D Stowell, Salary & Expenses, 3 months to 30 September - £440.18 + £59.56 = £499.74

Cheque 100343 SLCC, Clerks' Manual Update - £10.00

5. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**
Report on Children's Play Area - Fuller Close

Cllr Shears reported that he had carried out inspections on 5 August and 2 September and had evolved a format which would be used for future inspections. There is a continuing minor problem with a few bolts which have apparently worked loose again. He will seek assistance from Cllr Armer in resolving this. On his last inspection the litter bin was overflowing and appeared not to have been emptied for some time.

The Clerk reported that he emptied the bin on 3 September and had found at the bottom a black plastic bag which he had put there when he last emptied it about 6 weeks ago. He then spoke to Pam Rook of HDC who advised that they are unable to empty litter bins in parish council controlled play areas.

After further discussion it was resolved that we try to obtain a metal inner container, the contents of which can be regularly emptied into a plastic bag and removed from the site for disposal. **Action : Cllr Shears**

6. **Planning**

The following new planning applications were considered :-

0702650FUL, Erection of garage and alterations to dwelling, 2 Mount Pleasant

0702516FUL, Infill openings of cart shed with garage doors, Oakwood 26 High Street

0702832FUL, Extensions and alterations to dwelling, 33 Thrapston Road

It was resolved to advise HDC that SPC has no objections and recommends approval of all three.

It was noted that the following application had been withdrawn :-

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

7. **Correspondence**

Refuse Collection & Recycling - Copy of email from Robert Ward to each member 1/8/07. All residents have subsequently been sent a letter by HDC informing them of the new arrangements from 10 September.

Cambs ACRE AGM - Tuesday 4 September at 5.30 pm Burgess Hall, St Ivo Leisure Centre

Parking Policy Review - Draft CCC policy document - no comments to be submitted.

Cambs & Peterboro Minerals & Waste Plan - revised timetable noted.

Dog Control Orders - circulated for comment - on return, reply to be sent to HDC. **Action** : Clerk

Local Development Framework - Core Strategy. Following the initial consultation in May / June 2007, HDC has drafted a number of spatial options for accommodating growth for the district. These options will be published for consultation in September - a representative is invited to a meeting on Wednesday 12 September, 7.30 - 9.30 pm where the main issues will be explained.

Polling Districts and Polling Places - HDC is required to conduct a review this year. The proposal is that the Polling District of Spaldwick Parish will continue to have a Polling Place in Spaldwick.

Brampton's bid for a non-motorist-user crossing of A1/A14 when re-alignment takes place - At the request of Brampton Parish Council it was agreed to write a letter of support to the Highways Agency.

Action : Clerk

HDC Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) - invites views on matters related to access for the disabled - e.g. dropped kerbs, public transport, employment opportunities.

Trees, Hedges and weeds in the village - an e-mail from Mr & Mrs Dearman expressing concern about these matters was circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the contents be noted and that, where appropriate, the Council should consider what action it could take to resolve the issues.

8. **Any Other Business**

Litter Bin on Village Green

The Clerk reported that he had complained to HDC that this bin does not get emptied every week. It seems that it has to have been overflowing for a week or so before it gets emptied. Pam Rook responded saying that the relevant refuse crews will be reminded about this bin.

Litter Bin at Mini Recycling Centre

In response to a complaint from the Clerk that this bin is full again within a few days of it being emptied, Pam Rook said that at the moment the bin is emptied on a Thursday by one of the street cleansing teams that maintain the A14 laybys. When the new rounds for refuse collection from the villages have settled down she will see if the refuse crew could do a second empty of the bin when they come through the village.

Redundant Road Sign

CCC has confirmed that the sign in Stow Road relating to the former children's playground at the old village hall will be removed.

West Cambs Weight Limit Zone

CCC Highways Department has confirmed that the "new" 18t signs on the High Street and Thrapston Road approaches to the village are in the wrong place. As the signs were put in by the Highways Agency, CCC have asked the Agency to remove them, and to replace the 17t sign at the bottom of Stow Road with one of the 18t signs they will be removing.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 11 October 2007

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.16 pm