

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

Present : Cllrs K H Armer (in the Chair), W F Brown, R P Johnson, J R Shears, R W Wooddisse, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and one member of the public.

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr B F Plummer
2. **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 11 October and Planning Meeting held 21 November 2007** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising**
Public Meeting - A meeting was held on 18 October at which it was decided to proceed with production of a Parish Plan. Six of those present were appointed to join the 2 Parish Council representatives in forming a Steering Group. Subsequently the Clerk applied for a grant from Defra as agreed at the P C meeting held 18 October, ref minute 2(c).
Children's Play Area - Fuller Close - Cllr Shears reported that when examined last week he had found loose rivets / bolts on the multi-function unit. **Action : Cllr Armer will rectify if necessary**
4. **Finance**
The following payments made between meetings were ratified :-
Cheque 100346 HDC, recovery of Parish Council election costs, £426.68
Cheque 100347 Spaldwick School, room rental, £36.00
The following new payments were approved :-
Cheque 100348 F D Stowell, salary and expenses 3 months to 31/12/07, £496.63
Cheque 100349 SLCC, half clerk's membership renewal 2008, £35.00
Cheque 100350 Cash for Christmas Charity payments £120.00
Quotations for grasscutting 2008 season -- Three quotations were tabled which for 12 cuts totalled £1640, £2675 and £4740 respectively. These compare with last year's price which would have totalled £1742 had 12 cuts been carried out. Taking into consideration price, experience of similar work elsewhere, suitability of equipment and the need to improve reliability, it was resolved to accept the quotation of £2675 and to place next year's order with A C Summerfield.
Budget and Precept for 2008/09
The Clerk presented a summary of the 2007/08 accounts to date and an estimate of the balance to be carried forward at 31 March 2008, together with a draft budget for 2008/09. Following detailed discussion it was resolved to set a precept of £8900 for 2008/09. A revised budget is to be prepared for approval at the next meeting. **Action : Clerk**
Condition of Trees
A report on tree work considered necessary is to be presented to the next meeting.
Action : Cllrs Johnson and Wooddisse
5. **Parish Plan**
Receipt of the Defra grant of £1500 was noted.
6. **Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme** - The Clerk reported that the Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee met on 3 December to consider a recommendation that the conclusions of the report on the 2007/08 scheme be accepted. Both Spaldwick schemes - Speed reduction measures, village entrances (interactive signs) and new footway between Ivy Way and Beech House Farm were awarded 4 points. The five schemes proposed for funding, costing between £25K and £35K, got between 7 and 11 points, 7 got 6 points, 4 got 5 points, 9 got 4 points, 4 got 3 points, 1 got 2 points and 2 got 1 point. 21 schemes were not scored --13 because they exceeded £35K. 3 for footway improvements including dropped kerbs, were to be passed to the maintenance department.

7. Planning

Comments on Local Development Framework: Core Strategy: Preferred Options

The Clerk reported that HDC is carrying out a Public Consultation from 30 November 2007 to 11 January 2008. Documents can be viewed on HDC's Planning website. Hard copies are also available from Clerk. They comprise :-

Preferred Options - Volume One (The main document stating the proposals).

Preferred Options - Volume Two (how the preferred options in Volume One were decided on).

Draft Final Sustainability Report : Core Strategy 2007 Preferred Options.

The Clerk stated that he had read Volume One in detail and had found nothing which adversely affected Spaldwick. He had, however, submitted 5 comments highlighting possible errors. These, together with any submitted by other consultees, can be viewed on the HDC Planning website.

It was noted that the following application has been referred to the Development Control Panel meeting on 17 December :- 0703234FUL New dwelling, land at 11 Stow Road.

8. Correspondence

Contracted Bus Services Consultation

CCC is proposing to continue the following services with possible time changes to suit the operator :- 402 St Ives, Monday; 404 Bedford, 1st Wednesday; 405 Peterborough, 2nd Wednesday; 406 Kettering 3rd Wednesday; 407 Peterborough 4th Wednesday; 408 St Neots Thursday; 409 Huntingdon Friday Service 400 from Huntingdon at 11.45 (Sat), 15.30 (Schooldays) , 17.40 (Mon -Sat) remain unchanged.

Service 401 has two options - Option 1 is unchanged with services to Huntingdon at 8.15 (Mon - Sat) & 10.15 (Saturday) and services from Huntingdon at 12.50 (Saturday), 15.20 (Mon - Sat) & 16.40 (Mon - Sat). Option 2 would remove the Saturday services to Huntingdon at 8.15 and from Huntingdon at 16.40

Service 403 Thrapston, Tuesday - continues with possible timetable change to suit operator, and with option to extend journey allowing minimum of 1 hour at ASDA Corby.

The Clerk reported that he had replied as follows :- Option 1 preferred for service 401 (no change) as the services it is proposed to remove in option 2 provide an opportunity for passengers to connect with services to and from Cambridge on Saturday. Extension of Service 403 to ASDA Corby would be welcome. The proposals in respect of the other services which affect Spaldwick are acceptable.

Neighbourhood Policy Profile, September 2007 - One of 3 priorities tackled in the last 3 months was alleged speeding traffic and HGVs exceeding speed limit in Ellington, Spaldwick, Stow Longa and Catworth. To date there is no evidence of weight limit being exceeded; PCSOs are being trained to allow them to carry out speed checks.

Safe Neighbourhood Panel Meeting held at Sawtry on 3 December identified the following priorities 1 - Anti-social behaviour including with motor vehicles in Sawtry, 2 - Rural Reassurance checks ref Distraction Burglaries, 3 - Speeding in rural villages & HGV and the B1043.

Affordable Housing in Spaldwick

HDC's Rural Exception Policy allows sites that would not otherwise come forward for development to be considered for the provision of affordable housing if they meet an identified local need. The Parish Council's help is requested by identifying any potential sites and, if any are found, to help with carrying out a Village Survey to identify need. Council noted the request, but decided to take no action as it was believed that there was no unsatisfied demand.

Funding Opportunities - Small Scale Environmental Improvement Schemes

Bids are invited by 14 December for schemes which enhance, protect or repair areas or features in the village. A minimum PC contribution of £1 per elector is required, or 25% of scheme cost. It was resolved to submit a proposal for a street light in Church Lane. **Action : Clerk**

Revisions to mobile library service

From 9 January, the library will stop at Stow Road corner on alternate Wednesdays from 11.20 to 11.35. Notices will be displayed on parish notice boards.

Rural Services Survey

The Clerk reported that he had completed a Cambs ACRE survey of services available in the village, or distance to the service if not available in the village - subjects included Post Office, post box, telephone box, banking facilities, cashpoint, PayPoint, shops, mobile shops and delivery vans, pub,

petrol station , recycling facilities, doctor's surgery, dentist's practice, other health services, places of worship, meeting places, sports facilities, noticeboards, website, internet access for public and Broadband coverage.

Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum

Comments are invited on strategic access and recreation issues either in writing or at one of the meetings to be held in 2008 across the county, the nearest being Tuesday 29 January - Buckden Millennium Centre, and Tuesday 27 May - Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. Meetings start at 6.45 pm

Hunts Car Parking Strategy - Draft Action Plan Consultation

The Clerk reported that, as the consultation period was 12 November to 5 December and no comments had been received from members, he had responded on behalf of the Parish Council generally agreeing with the proposals.

Claimed Public Right of Way at Cherry Orchard Lane, Easton & continuation F P in Spaldwick

It was noted that the CCC Director of Highways and Access is proposing to make an Order to register the claimed route at Cherry Orchard Lane from the junction of Chapel Lane and The Lane, Easton to the Spaldwick Parish Boundary. He is also proposing that an Order should **not** be made linking this route to public footpath 12, Spaldwick.

CCC Consultation on Local Validation Criteria for Planning Applications and Electronic Consultation

(a) **Local Validation Criteria** are additional to the national requirements which cover the forms to be used, the scale of drawings, design & access statement, ownership certificate and agricultural holdings certificate. CCC propose that the local criteria should include some 32 subjects covering assessments of Air Quality, Daylight/Sunlight, Flood Risk Foul Sewerage, Lighting, Noise Impact, Transport and other similar matters.

The list being very comprehensive, it was agreed to accept CCCs proposals.

(b) **Electronic Consultation.** The Government is proposing that in due course all applications will have to be submitted electronically, including the plans and other drawings.

The following are questions posed by CCC and the answers the meeting agreed to submit : -

Is the PC willing and able to accept planning applications electronically? **YES**

Would you prefer to receive the consultation on a planning application by e-mail with file attachments, e-mail with links to the appropriate web site or CDs through the post with files and attachments? **E-mail with links to website**

What are your views on electronic consultation being made compulsory? **Acceptable**

The Clerk advised that the only problem with the proposal is that most parish councils can only print A4 copies. This is acceptable for most documents where A4 is the normal size of the original. Plans, however, are usually drawn at much larger sizes (A1 being common) and when reduced to A4 much of the detail is not clear. He said that when he had, occasionally, received the plans from HDC electronically, he had printed sections at the same scale as the original. This procedure could be followed if full size plans are not made available in future. He pointed out that whilst some larger councils do have A3 printers, which reduce the extent of the problem, they do not solve it.

9. Spaldwick Charity - arrangements for distribution

It was resolved to to use the income from the field rental (£120.00) to make Christmas gifts to an agreed list of 7 elderly and long standing residents of Spaldwick. In order to make gifts of £17.25 each the Chairman will round the amount up to £120.75 .

10. Any Other Business

Proposed amalgamation of parishes.

An elections panel meeting was held 20 November, which recommended to the District Council that the proposed boundary change between Spaldwick and Ellington be accepted, and that the proposed amalgamation of Spaldwick and Stow Longa parishes be dropped.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 24 January 2008 at 8 pm

In the absence of any other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50 pm