

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 24 January 2008 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present : Cllrs K H Armer (in the Chair), W F Brown, R P Johnson, B F Plummer, J Pope, R W Wooddisse, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and three members of the public.

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr J R Shears
2. **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 6 December 2007** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising**  
The Christmas Charity gifts had been distributed, but without an accompanying Christmas Card. Hopefully, cards will be delivered with the gifts at Christmas 2008.
4. **Finance**  
**The following payments were approved:-**  
Cheque No. 100351 Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Subscription £25.00  
Cheque No. 100352 Spaldwick PCC - Contribution to churchyard maintenance - £357.81  
**2008/09 Budget**  
The budget as appended to these minutes was approved.  
**Council Tax** 2008/09 - The following figures in respect of the parish precept of £8900 were noted :-  
Tax Base (equated No of Band D properties) 225 (last year was 222); Band D charge £39.56  
**Transfer from Grounds Maintenance Account**  
It was resolved to transfer £800.50 from Grounds Mtce a/c to Current a/c (representing costs of maintenance of Ferriman Road play area and Public Open Space - 2006/07 £352.00 and 2007/08 £448.50) leaving balance at £20643.37 (originally £20070.00).  
**Appointment of External Auditor** - Moore Stephens confirmed for 2007/08  
**Appointment of Internal Auditor** - It was resolved to appoint Mrs Hazel Cooper on the same terms as last year.  
**Action : Clerk to send letter of appointment.**
5. **Parish Plan**  
Cllr Plummer gave a progress report which stated that the group has looked at possible elements of a questionnaire and at the next meeting in February the new ACRE representative, Philip Eden, would attend and hopefully bring some software which would assist in preparation of the plan. He also handed a "Draft List of Plan Topics" to those present.
6. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**  
**Children's Play Area** - The Chairman reported that he had examined the loose/missing bolts situation on the multi-function unit. He had moved one bolt as a temporary solution and had ordered some additional T nuts and bolts, at a minimum order charge of £28.00, which he would fit later.  
It was decided to look into the possibility of replacing the open litter bin within the fenced area with a bin similar to that in Royston Avenue but located on the grass verge outside the play area, so that it could be emptied regularly by HDC. It was also decided to investigate whether a dog litter bin could be provided.  
**Action : Clerk**  
**Tree Work** - Mr A Summerfield has started tidying up trees on the green outside the Manor and on the Stow Road verge.  
**Overhanging tree & hedge outside 27 High Street** - The owner is to be reminded that these need trimming.  
**Action : Clerk**
7. **Planning**  
**The following applications were considered:-**  
0800163FUL West Lodge Farm, Erection of grain store building - agreed to raise no objection, as it is contained within the group of farm buildings and will not adversely affect the surrounding countryside.

0704135CLED Stocking Barn, Stocking Lane, Easton - Certificate of lawfulness (existing) for continuation of use as dwelling - agreed to raise no objection.

**To note withdrawal of the following application :-**

0703621FUL New house to rear of 47 & 49 Stow Road

**To note the following HDC decisions:-**

0703234FUL New dwelling, land at 11 Stow Road - Refused

0703588FUL Extension to dwelling, 47 Stow Road - Permission granted

**8. Correspondence**

**Circulated 9/12/07**

CCC letter 5/12/07 re P3 2008/09. Application Forms to be submitted by 29 February 2008 - it was resolved not to apply to join the scheme.

**Circulated 21/1/08**

Report from Hinchingsbrooke PPI Forum regarding transport to the hospital.

Matthew Taylor Review on Rural Economy and Affordable Housing.

**Other items**

Cambs ACRE email 6/12/07 re Strategy for the Third Sector in Cambs & Peterboro - return of questionnaire requested by 21 December. Clerk "agreed" all points and returned forms on 9 December.

Substation Watch - the public is asked to keep an eye on electricity sub-stations and to report any damage.

Draft East Midlands Plan - following consultation ending in December 2006, an independent panel examined the responses and made recommendations for changes. The Panel's Report is now available.

Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority members in England - A consultation document has been received. This largely relates to the workings of Adjudication Panels and duties of Monitoring Officers. The Clerk has a copy which is available for examination.

HDC Standards Committee agenda of mtg to be held 31 January - it includes a proposed response to the above consultation and little else - no action to be taken.

HDC Overview & Scrutiny Panel Study on access for those with disabilities to public areas - further to SPC response the panel has requested further information re dropped kerbs & parking. It was resolved to accept the Clerk's proposal to inform HDC that the Parish Council is satisfied with its direct relationship with the County Council and does not wish HDC to act as an intermediary. **Action : Clerk**

HDC Consultation on Parish Charters - response required by 15/2/08 - NB the draft was considered by Huntingdonshire District Association of CPALC last year and substantially agreed. It was resolved to offer no objection to the proposed charter. **Action : Clerk**

Copy of Email from Mike Shellens, Chairman of Brampton PC to HDC complaining of short time scale. Thank you card from Vivian Jackson re Christmas Charity gift.

**9. Any Other Business**

**Marksman 500 installed in High Street and Thrapston Road** - The Clerk reported that he had been unable to ascertain who had installed this vehicle monitoring equipment, and hence could not obtain access to the information gathered.

**Litter on verge between Spaldwick and Stow Longa** - it was suggested that HDC be asked to carry out a litter pick. **Action : Clerk**

**Litter on Public Open Space south of Ferriman Road** - This is Christmas paper which is believed to have come from Playtimes site. **Action : Clerk to ask Playtimes staff to remove it**

**Esso Service Station** - a discussion took place regarding the state of the site - 2 lamp posts down and lots of litter. **Action : Clerk to write to manager with copy to Esso**

**Petition to Government to exempt small parish councils from excessive bureaucracy** - The Chairman asked councillors to consider signing this petition, details of which the Clerk had sent to all with email access on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. **Action : Clerk to re-issue this information by email**

**Speed Limit Sign, High Street** - It was noted that the sign on the north side of High Street is leaning over.

**Action : Clerk to report to CCC**

**Speed reduction** - There having been no response from the PCSO regarding measures taken by the police, the Clerk was asked to escalate the matter to a higher level.

**Action :**

**Clerk**

**Open Gardens** - Cllr Plummer reported that the Spaldwick Social Events Group is proposing to hold an Open Gardens Day on 15<sup>th</sup> June from around 12.00 noon. Provision of suitable insurance is, however, a problem. The Clerk has received advise from Suffolk ACRE that the Parish Council insurance would cover such an event if organised by the Council. Due note is being taken of this.

**Matters raised by members of the public at the invitation of the Chairman**

Mr Dearman raised the following matters :-

(a) The tree on the green at the junction of Stow Road and Royston Avenue still presents a hazard and nuisance factor to passing pedestrians. Cllr Wooddisse agreed to look at the problem and make a recommendation (including the possibility of removing it completely)

(b) Has the parish council responded to the proposal to close the Brampton Waste Recycling Centre? The Clerk confirmed that the council had not submitted an objection to the closure.

**10. Dates of Future Meetings** - the following dates (all Thursdays) were agreed :-

28 February 2008

10 April 2008

15 May 2008

19 June 2008

17 July 2008

4 September 2008

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