

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 28 February 2008 at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs W F Brown, R P Johnson and J R Shears
2. **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 6 January 2008** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising**
Petition to Government to exempt small parish councils from excessive bureaucracy - 377 have signed to date; deadline is 4 April 2008.
Speed Limit Sign, High Street - CCC has been informed.
Speed Reduction Report - A further request for a report has been sent to PCSO Anna Holder - if no response, the Clerk will speak to CI Steve Lodge about the matter on 13 March.
4. **Finance**
The following payments were approved:-
Cheque No. 100353 Spaldwick School - Room Rental £32.00
Cheque No. 100354 F D Stowell - Salary & Expenses, 3 months to 31 March - £509.41
Cheque No. 100355 SMP Playgrounds - nuts, bolts for repairs - £16.76 + £2.93 VAT = £19.69
5. **Parish Plan**
Cllr Plummer reported that 2 meetings of the Steering Group had been held in February. Work continues on the proposed questionnaire. It is hoped to have it ready for distribution early in April.
6. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**
Children's Play Area
Equipment with loose / missing bolts - Cllr Armer reported that he had obtained some spare nuts and bolts from the play equipment supplier, but the bolts were not long enough, hence as a temporary measure he had fitted ordinary bolts where necessary. Their effectiveness will be monitored.
Litter Bin - Cllr Armer stated that he had a large can which could probably serve as a removable liner. If so, this will be inserted to ease emptying.
Provision of alternative Litter Bin / Dog Bin - no progress to report
Tree on green at junction of Stow Road and Royston Avenue - Cllr Wooddisse reported that he and Cllr Johnson had examined the tree, but in their opinion no action is required at the present time. Three branches may need removing next year. They will, however, review the matter when in flower.
Tree on green outside Stanwell House, Thrapston Road - It was noted that the tree in memory of Francis Bradshaw had recently been planted.
Litter in POS Ferriman Road - all the Christmas paper has been cleared and most of the rest - still some litter along Long Lane boundary. Also some dog dirt has been left.
Overhanging tree & hedge 27 High Street - letter sent, but owner says work was done.
Eso Service Station - letters sent, matter has also been discussed with operator in London. Lamp posts are the subject of insurance claims and will be repaired in due course. When he last visited after hearing of the complaint he thought the site was one of the best in his control from the tidiness aspect. ExxonMobil say their Territory Manager has been asked to report on the site.
Laurel hedge outside the Manor House - W Brown says it will be cut back next week
Litter on Road between Spaldwick & Stow Longa - HDC have accepted request to carry out litter pick.

7. **Planning**
The Clerk's response to the following application was ratified :-
0800234S73 - Renewal of permission 0603645FUL for continuation of use of room as massage treatment room- The Old Rectory, Pound Close The Clerk reported that following consultation with residents of Pound Close, only one minor objection (relating to vehicles waiting at gate to obtain access) was received. He had, therefore, **recommended approval** and suggested to the LPA that the applicant be informed with a view to a possible change to the entry procedure.
The following HDC decision was noted :-
0800234S73 - (see previous item) - Permission granted.
8. **Correspondence**
Carillion-URS - A14 J15 Bythorn to J28 Boxworth - work to improve 8 laybays , convert 10 to emergency use only and to close 1 will be undertaken overnight from 3 March to 12 May.
HDC to Dept of Communities & Local Government - copy of letter 1/2/08 requesting intentions regarding Council Tax capping.
Kate Day, CCC Countryside Access Team - Offer to supply posts and waymarkers and practical assistance. Annual grass cutting of footpaths is undertaken through CCC contracts and Farmers' contracts in May and July. Are there any paths which the PC would like to be cut but have not been in the past?
It was agreed to respond suggesting that the footpaths in the following areas be added to the CCC contract :-
Bury Close, field to the rear of the school, and field between Thrapston Road and the Church.
NALC and ACRE "Parish Partnership Model" - a copy has been circulated to Cllrs for information.
9. **Any Other Business**
Street Lights - No2 Royston Ave (out) and No6 Stow Road (always on) - report sent to CCC 21/2. Reply 25/2 said action being taken.
Proposed light in Church Lane - Application for grant is being actively processed - response expected in a few weeks.
Children's Walking Bus Scheme - it was noted that the School had sent a letter and questionnaire to all households.
10. **Meeting Dates**
Next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 10 April 2008 at 8.00 pm
Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 30 April 2008 at 8.00 pm
Annual Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 15 May 2008 at 8.00 pm

In the absence of any other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 pm