

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 15 May 2008 at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R P Johnson and R. Wooddisse

1. **Election of Chairman**  
Cllr K H Armer was elected unanimously.
2. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman** - was made by Cllr Armer and witnessed by the Clerk. In accepting office, Cllr Armer made it clear that this would be his last year as Chairman.
3. **Other Elections and Appointments**  
Vice-Chairman - Cllr W H Brown elected unanimously  
Representative to Village Hall Management Committee - Cllr J C Shears appointed  
Tree Warden - Cllr R P Johnson appointed
4. **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 10 April 2008** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising**  
**Esso Service Station** - The Clerk reported that he had again contacted ExxonMobil regarding litter on the site and had raised the matter of the missing entry and exit signs. The Clerk was asked to discuss the latter with the highways authority.  
**Matters raised by the Head of Spaldwick School** - The Chairman reported that a meeting with Miss Prior had been arranged for 20 May 2008 to discuss the proposals for a target wall. He would also raise concerns regarding safety in respect of the proposal to drop off children at The George to join the walking bus.  
**Street Light in Church Lane** - The Chairman reported that a meeting on site was held with a representative of CCC Street Lighting dept and the HDC conservation officer, who had no objection to the proposal. A quotation is now awaited from the Street Lighting dept. together with confirmation of CCC's position regarding adoption.  
**Speeding through Spaldwick** - The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Mr & Mrs Smith again. They understand the past efforts of the Parish Council in making bids to CCC for funding of road safety improvements, and will keep on plugging until something is done.
6. **Finance**  
**The following payments were approved :-**  
Cheque 100357 NALC - Subscription to Local Council Review £13.50  
Cheque 100358 Hazel Cooper - Internal Audit 2007/08 £50.00  
**Grant for Village grasscutting** - it was reported that CCC have offered £602.43 for 2008/09. It was agreed that this be accepted reluctantly.  
**The Internal Auditor's observations were considered, and actions agreed where necessary :-**  
"The accounts were presented in a very easy to follow fashion" - noted.  
"Declarations of interest should be an agenda item Any declaration made should be minuted with an explanation as to its nature". - no change to be made - declarations are made immediately prior to item in question being discussed. A councillor with a prejudicial interest will declare it and leave the meeting at that point.  
"Open Forum is not listed as an agenda item" - no change to be made. The Chairman uses his discretion at what point to allow comments from the public.  
Re Christmas Charity," it is not good practice to write cheques to cash". - not agreed, current practice of withdrawing cash from bank for distribution presents minimal risk of fraud.  
"Clerk's Contract of Service not included in audit pack" - Clerk to ensure that this is available in future.

"A review of internal audit should be carried out each year" - this will be covered in future.

"Declarations of Acceptance of Office in an election year should be signed before election of Chairman" - not agreed. Correct procedure was followed i.e. first item of business at annual meeting is election of Chairman; declarations of acceptance of office should be signed at or before the first meeting following the election.

7. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer reported that the steering group had met on 10 occasions since it was formed. The focus has been on the production of the questionnaire which is designed to trawl the views of residents on matters affecting the Spaldwick community. This work has been substantially completed and the questionnaire is expected to be ready for distribution to every household by the middle of June. The questionnaire will be preceded by a flyer explaining its purpose and that of the Plan itself. A schedule of work has been devised which should result in the draft plan being ready for exposure at a public meeting in mid-October 2008.
8. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**  
**Footpath Signs** - the Chairman reported that he had recently put up some small signs on several footpaths in the area. These covered keeping to footpath, leaving gates as found, and dog and litter control.
9. **Planning**  
**The following new planning application was considered :-**  
0801385FUL - Erection of dwelling, land rear of 47 & 49 Stow Road - approval recommended because the proposal does not adversely affect the street scene or any neighbouring properties.  
**The following HDC decision was noted :-**  
0800344FUL - Extension and alterations, Threeways, 4 High Street - permission granted.  
**HDC report on current enforcement cases noted - no current cases.**
10. **Correspondence**  
HDC letter re whistleblowing publicity - agreed not to display poster.  
CPALC Huntingdonshire District Association - Wednesday 21 May , 7.30 pm, St Ives  
CPALC EGM - Saturday 31 May at Impington 10.45 - 11.45.  
Neighbourhood Policing Panel - Tuesday 17 June, Ellington Village Hall @ 7.30 pm  
Report from PCSO Anna Holder 18/4/08 - 2 crimes from January to April - 1 Rowdy / Nuisance, 1 Taking Petrol without paying. Now starting speed checks in Spaldwick.
11. **Confidential Business**  
In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of its confidential nature, it was resolved that the Public be excluded from the Meeting for the duration of this item regarding possible traffic monitoring.  
Following discussion of several options, the Clerk was authorised to proceed with one option at an estimated cost of £825.00.
12. **Any Other Business** - none raised.
13. **Future meeting dates**  
Thursday, 19 June 2008 8 pm  
Thursday, 17 July 2008 8 pm  
Thursday, 4 September 2008 8 pm

In the absence of any other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.52 pm