

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 17 July 2008 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present : Cllrs K Armer (in the Chair), R P Johnson , B Plummer, J Shears, and R. Wooddisse, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and eight members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs W Brown and J Pope
2. **Minutes of Meeting held 19 June 2008** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising**
Esso Service Station - Sharon Piper has stated that CCC has no jurisdiction on private property., and suggests that the PC may wish to contact HDC planning to see if any conditions were attached to the original consent regarding access/egress. The Clerk was asked to investigate further.
4. **Public Forum** - at this point the Chairman invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern
Mrs Dearman raised the following matters :
Tree on green at Stow Road / Royston Avenue junction - complaint that this is growing rapidly and is a nuisance to people walking past. Cllr Johnson said that in his opinion there is no problem, but he agreed to look at the tree again.
Footpath across field to south of church is impassible - This matter is covered by the Clerk's report on footpaths later on the agenda.
Fallen tree blocking Long Lane - The Chairman agreed to investigate the problem.
Garden Refuse in Long Lane - The Chairman agreed to investigate the problem
5. **Finance**
The following cheques were approved for payment :-
100362 - Spaldwick Primary School - Room Rental - April to July, 4 meetings - £46.00
100363 - SLCC, clerk's attendance at annual policy and technical update, Chilford Hall, Linton 25/9/08 - £45.00 + £7.88 VAT = £52.88 (training budget)
Quarterly Budget Review - The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 June 2008 which were in line with the budget. He also tabled copies of the cash book, bank statements and a bank reconciliation at 30 June which were examined and accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.
6. **Street Light in Church Lane** - Regarding the request for a scheme meeting highway regulations Tony Hull has today reported that "it takes time to do a design and get the works priced , I have sent off the information but not yet received anything back. Going by the costs I have received for the one column, I can estimate that to install 2 columns to meet specification will cost £10,856.01". A formal response is awaited.
For comparison with the original CCC quote for one light, the Clerk will obtain quotes from two competitors.
7. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer reported that the questionnaires have been collected and the raffle drawn. The response was very good. The group is to meet next week to start analysing the results.
8. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**
Children's Play Area
Seesaw tail piece - Cllr Shears reported that SMP had quoted £60 to supply a replacement for the broken part. They offer a fitting service but this is subject to a minimum charge of £550. Cllr Armer said this was unacceptable and agreed that he would carry out the work. The Clerk to order the parts.
Notice detailing contact details - action by clerk to obtain quote continues.

Footpaths in Spaldwick - The Clerk reported that he had recently walked or attempted to walk footpaths 9 & 11 across Bury Close (field to the south of the church) and footpaths 6 & 17 across the field south of the school, these being paths the parish council had, in March, suggested be added to the CCC maintenance programme. The attempt to walk FPs 9 & 11 was abandoned due to the long grass concealing the surface and making it impossible to locate a safe route.

FP17 was walkable as previous walkers had formed a path. The stile into Three Shires Way was, however, difficult to negotiate - a lower bottom step would have helped.

Three Shires way was in excellent condition along the stretch to its junction with FP6. At that point an excellent new bridge and gate have been erected where the "path" crosses the field towards the school. The field had recently been sprayed and hence the thistles and nettles were dying. The long grass and dying weeds made walking extremely difficult, but with a struggle it was possible to cross in roughly a straight line.

The situation was reported to Robert Allen, of the CCC Countryside Access Team, who responded -

(1) Responsibility for maintaining "cross field" paths lies with the landowner. This is relevant to paths 9 & 11 south of the church and paths 6 & 17 south of the school.

(2) The council cut paths 8 & 10 north of the church (May, July & Oct this year).

In response to a further query regarding FP15 (which runs from the concrete road on the north side of the A14 in a northerly direction), Mr Allen said he was aware of the missing bridge across the brook, but that it would not be cost effective to replace it. The only suggestion he had would be to approach the land owner with a view to diverting the path onto the north side of the brook.

Mr Allen has been asked what action, if any, he proposes to take regarding these "problems".

Claimed public right of way, Cherry Orchard Lane, Easton - the Clerk reported that this matter is to be the subject of a public inquiry.

9. **Provision of Allotments** - Following his item in Spaldwick News, Roger Haines has now received expressions of interest from 9 residents, and asks that the Parish Council considers their request that allotments be provided. 300 sq yds is about the usual size but Roger says they would be happy to adjust that depending on what size site might be available. £20 pa is a typical rent - but this has not been discussed with Roger.

It was resolved that the question of availability of a suitable site be investigated further and that a meeting then be arranged with prospective allotment holders to consider how to proceed.

10. **Planning** - nothing to report

11. **Correspondence**

Local Development Framework : Core Strategy : Submission

This has been received in the form of a CD - agreed not to comment.

Post Office closure proposals - 7 offices in Huntingdonshire have been proposed for closure. Catworth, Great Gidding and Holme will receive an alternative mobile service; Great Gransden, Ramsey St Mary and Earith will continue in partnership with local businesses; Great Stukely will not be provided with an alternative service.

Accessibility Action Plan ; Parish Questionnaire - after a brief discussion, the Clerk's offer to complete the questionnaire was accepted.

Huntingdonshire Flood Forum : 15 October at Pathfinder House - Cllr Plummer will attend.

2009/10 Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes - It was agreed to submit bids as last year.

12. **Confidential Business** -- No confidential matters were raised.

13. **Any Other Business**

Items in July issue of Spaldwick News - the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Townsend pointing out that preparation of the Parish Plan is in the hands of a Steering Group, not the Parish Council; and that when giving dates for Parish Council meetings it should be pointed out that the dates are provisional and should be checked with the information displayed on the notice boards.

Manor House - in view of concerns about the deteriorating state of the building it was agreed that a formal letter regarding the matter be sent to the Conservation Officer.

14. Future meeting dates

Thursday, 4 September 2008 8 pm

Thursday, 16 October 2008 8 pm

Thursday, 4 December 2008 8 pm

Thursday, 15 January 2009 8 pm

Thursday, 26 February 2009 8 pm

Thursday, 9 April 2009 8 pm

In the absence of any other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.16 pm