

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 10 April 2008 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present : Cllrs K H Armer (in the Chair), W F Brown, R P Johnson, B F Plummer, J Pope, and J R Shears, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), Miss Rachel Prior (Head of Spaldwick School) Mrs Traynor (School Governor) and three members of the public.

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr R W Wooddisse.

2. **Rachel Prior, Head of Spaldwick School**

addressed the meeting on the following subjects

Results of recent residents' school transport survey

In order to encourage children to walk to school, the possibility of introducing a walking bus from the vicinity of The George was proposed, with children brought by car from outlying areas being dropped off there. The proposal was taken to the residents of Spaldwick via a questionnaire which sought their comments on the scheme and on related safety matters.

Among the suggestions received were -

A one way system for parents bringing children to school by car - from Stow Road via Royston Avenue, Ferriman Road (drop off) to Stow Road - this to be achieved by parents agreement.

Traffic calming measures along Royston Avenue and Ferriman Road.

Yellow lines around the Royston Avenue / Ferriman Road junction.

Need to reduce speeding through the village, possibly with interactive flashing signs.

Comments were made by members of the Parish Council as follows :-

Cllr Armer - no one wanted speed bumps in Royston Avenue and Ferriman Road when the matter was raised a few years ago, chicanes may be acceptable. The consensus is that there is very little speeding in the village, but when it does occur it is often caused by the parents of school children. The Parish Council has made several bids to the jointly funded County and District Councils' Minor Improvement Scheme for a footway along High Street from Ivy Way to make walking safer, and for traffic calming measures at the entrances to the village. It seems that we will not get anything effective until someone is injured. To add strength to the Parish Council's proposals, members of the public have been asked to put pressure on their County and District Council representatives.

Cllr Shears expressed the view that the most dangerous area is around the Royston Avenue / Ferriman Road corner and queried whether a 20 mph area and/or orange flashing lights when children are going to and from school might help.

Local community use of school grounds as public play space.

With the exception of the younger children's play area the school grounds are available for use out of school hours by older children and young people from the village. This creates problems for the school as the additional use inevitably causes increased wear and tear and occasional damage which increases the cost of maintenance which has to be met by the school. Miss Prior suggested that the Parish Council might consider making a financial contribution to the cost of maintenance and / or provision of some additional facility, such as a wall against which a ball can be kicked. Recently windows have been broken due to balls being kicked against the school wall.

Cllr Armer queried whether it might be preferable for a target wall to be built, elsewhere - possibly in the public open space behind Ferriman Road. Miss Prior said that the school would like such a facility in the school grounds in addition to anything the Council provided in the public open space.

Cllr Armer also said that it was his understanding that, when the additional land was given to the school at the time of the adjacent housing development, a fullsize junior football pitch would be provided, but the one provided was smaller. Miss Prior said that she was not aware of this requirement.

Finally Cllr Armer thanked Miss Prior for coming to the meeting and assured her that the Parish Council would investigate the possibility of contributing to maintenance and of providing a target wall.

Miss Prior and Mrs Traynor then left the meeting.

3. **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held 28 February 2008** were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising**
Esso Service Station - It was noted that the area to the rear of the building is still covered with litter. The Clerk reported that he had received no comment from the ExxonMobil territory manager. This is to be followed up.
5. **Finance**
The following payment was approved :-
Cheque 100356 CPALC Affiliation Fee - £146.11
Small Scale Environmental Improvement Bid - SPC has been awarded a grant of up to 75% of £3000 towards the cost of a street light in Church Lane. The Chairman and Clerk are to meet with the HDC Conservation Officer and the CCC Lighting Engineer to produce a costed scheme for submission to the Parish Council for approval.
Accounts for year ended 31 March 2008
The Clerk presented the Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary to the meeting together with supporting cash book, bank statement, and quarterly budget review. Following detailed examination it was resolved that the accounts be accepted.
Annual Return for 2007 / 2008
Section 1 - Statement of accounts .
The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the certified statement of accounts to the meeting. It was resolved that they be approved. The Chairman then signed the statement confirming the Council's approval.
Section 2 - Annual governance statement.
The Council considered the statements in this section and resolved that statements 1 - 9 each be agreed without reservation. The overall statement was then signed by the Clerk and Chairman.
6. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer said that the Steering Group hoped to publish the questionnaire around the end of April.
7. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**
Children's Play Equipment - Cllr Shears said that the temporary repairs using ordinary bolts are holding up. Cllr Armer said that he will change them to tamper proof ones in the summer. Cllr Shears pointed out that the paintwork is starting to degrade. It was suggested that we contact SMP when work becomes necessary.
The Clerk was also asked to contact Wicksteed again with a view to establishing whether the old village hall equipment in store at West Lodge Farm is suitable for re-use.
Annual Playground Inspection - It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Wicksteed Leisure to carry out an unaccompanied inspection at a cost of £40.00 + VAT.
8. **Planning**
The following new planning application 0800344FUL was considered
Extension and alterations, Threeways, 4 High Street - resolved to recommend approval because the proposed development will have no adverse effect on the streetscene or any surrounding properties.
The following HDC was noted
0800163FUL - West lodge Farm, Erection of grain store building - permission granted.
9. **Correspondence**
Compost Giveaway - HDC are offering to deliver a quantity of bags, normally sold for £1 each, for Parish Councils to give away - quantity and point of delivery required by 30 April. It is suggested that they are distributed at a compost giveaway event preferably during Environment Week (2 - 8 June). It was agreed that we should initially ask for 220 (one per household)
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Biological Records Centre are co-ordinating a pond survey. The aim is to map all ponds in the area (including as many garden ponds as possible) and gain some

information regarding the species present. Survey postcards are available from the Clerk - one per pond.

Speeding through Spaldwick - letter from Michael & Louise Smith, 49 High Street, also sent to CCC, Police & MP. Copies of replies from CCC Area Traffic Engineer and Jonathan Djanogly MP to M & L Smith have also been received by the Parish Council. Mr Djanogly said he would ask the County Council what action they are taking. The County Council Area Traffic Engineer suggested that the Parish Council should be asked to submit a proposal for funding from the Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme.

Cllr Armer pointed out that the Parish Council had submitted bids for several years and that none had scored sufficient points for funding to be provided. Cllr Armer reported that he had already spoken to Mr & Mrs Smith about the matter, and that he would return to see them shortly to show them the results of the scoring scheme for the last four years.

10. Any Other Business

Open Gardens - The Clerk confirmed that the village grass will be cut immediately prior to 15 June.

Parish Newsletter - It was noted that Michael Townsend of King's Croft, High Street had agreed to agreed to consider the matter when cost estimates are available.

11. Meeting dates

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 9.52 pm