

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm  
Thursday 4 September 2008 at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **An apology for absence** was received from Cllr. J Pope
2. **Minutes of Meeting held 17 July 2008** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising**
  - Esso Service Station** - The Clerk reported that HDC Planning had advised that, as no condition was imposed regarding provision of entry and exit signs when permission was granted, they were unable to take enforcement action. In response the Clerk pointed out that the plans submitted in the planning application, and against which permission was granted, showed the entry and exit signs and hence they should be considered as a continuing requirement of the permission. HDC refused to accept this argument and confirmed that they could not take any action to have the signs restored. It was resolved that the Clerk should, therefore, refer the matter back to CCC Highways.
  - Tree on green at Stow Road / Royston Avenue junction** - The Chairman reported that following the last meeting a group of councillors had looked at the tree again and, whilst it was considered not to be a problem, it was decided to do some pruning. Some branches have subsequently been removed to give 6 inches clearance above a tall person. Since receiving an e-mail from Mrs Dearman earlier in the day, regarding the dangerous practice of young people climbing the tree, and the blocking of light from the footpath, the tree has been re-examined by PC members. It was agreed to respond stating that the Parish Council cannot accept responsibility for children climbing the tree, and do not consider the blockage of light to be a problem.
  - Fallen tree blocking Long Lane** - The Chairman reported that this has been removed.
  - Garden Refuse in Long Lane** - The Clerk reported that he had written to the people thought to have dumped the rubbish, stating that, if it was deposited by them, they should remove it and deposit no more garden refuse in the lane in the interests of local people who walk there.
4. **Public Forum** - at this point the Chairman invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern.
  - Hilary Shuker raised the following matters -**
  - Esso Garage** - asked if the Parish Council could make representations to the owners to repair the pot holes at both entrance and exit. The Clerk pointed out that some repairs had been carried out recently. Mrs Shuker was unaware of this and will re-examine the situation.
  - Long Lane** - The trees and hedges which border the village end of Long Lane need to be cut back. The Clerk will request action by the appropriate authority.
  - Littlecotes Close** - is it possible to put up signs in the entrance saying "Children Playing, Please Drive Slowly" ? The Chairman said that the Council will investigate. It was suggested that acceleration rather than speed might be the problem, and that a note in Spaldwick News might help.
  - Tree on green at Stow Road / Royston Avenue junction** - Mr Dearman said that he wished to make it clear that neither he nor Mrs Dearman wanted the tree to be removed, but only that it should be properly maintained.
5. **Finance**
  - The following payments were approved :-**
  - 100364 - Hilary Shuker - costs re Parish Plan Steering Group - £19.98
  - 100365 - F D Stowell - Clerk's Salary & Exs - July, Aug, Sept - £495.43
  - 100366 - Moore Stephens - External Audit fee - £135.00 + £23.63 VAT = £158.63
  - 100367 - SMP - dolphin tail - £70.00 + £12.25 VAT = £82.25

**Insurance renewal** - Legal expenses cover has been added by Suffolk ACRE at £23.50 pa, total £617.19 Cllr Shears agreed to review the cover and advise whether to accept.

**Donations to charities** - It was agreed to consider requests for financial assistance from Citizens Advice Bureau, Huntingdon and War Memorials Trust at the next meeting. In the meantime the latter will be approached for advice regarding cost of renovating the Spaldwick War Memorial.

6. **Street Light in Church Lane** - The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a formal response from Tony Hull of CCC for a system which will meet the required standards for adoption. In the meantime MHB Services have been asked for a quotation. It is anticipated that a costed proposal will be put to the next meeting.

7. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer reported that all the data is being put onto spreadsheets. It is proposed to make the information available to residents and stakeholders on 15 November.

8. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**

**Children's Play Area**- Mr Armer reported that he had fitted the new dolphin tail fin to the see-saw.. It was agreed that Wicksteed be authorised to carry out the remainder of the work recommended in the inspection report.

**Notice detailing contact details** - action by clerk to obtain notice continues.

**Footpaths in Spaldwick** - A reply is awaited from Robert Allen of CCC regarding problems reported at the last meeting

9. **Provision of Allotments** - Roger Haines has reported that, following his item in Spaldwick News, he has now received expressions of interest from 15 residents. He has applied online to the National Lottery Changing Spaces Fund for an initial assessment as to whether the project is fundable, but has had no acknowledgement so far. He has also contacted Anglian Water who have indicated that the provision of a stand-pipe to the Charity field, should this be chosen, would not be too expensive, probably under £1000.

The Chairman reported that it was quite likely that, given sufficient notice, the current tenant of the Charity field would be prepared to relinquish his tenancy. He pointed out that the Parish Council is only obliged to respond to requests which it has received - formal requests are needed from those who have only sent their expression of interest to Mr Haines.

The Clerk described two alternative options for managing the allotments should the Charity field be available.

(1) for the allotment association to rent the field from the Charity; to carry out the necessary work to create the allotments with fencing and water supply using grants; and to allocate tenancies and manage the allotments.

The Parish Council would have no role except as Trustee of the Charity, which would enter into a tenancy agreement with the association.

(2) for the Parish Council to rent the field from the Charity; to carry out the necessary work to create the allotments with fencing and water supply using its own funds augmented, if possible, by grants; and to allocate tenancies and manage the allotments.

As the Parish Council would be renting the field from an organisation of which it is trustee, it will be necessary to obtain a dispensation from the Standards Committee and to ensure that it treats both parties fairly.

After discussion it was agreed that, in the event that the project proceeds, option 1 is preferred.

10. **Planning**

**Application 0802108FUL** - Erection of storage building and hard surfacing to provide play areas, Spaldwick Primary School. The action by Clerk in reporting that SPC has no objections was ratified.

**Application 0802344FUL** - Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings. Erection of replacement dwelling and two new dwellings and garaging, Land at and including 55 Stow Road - It was resolved to advise HDC that Spaldwick Parish Council has no objections to the proposal.

**Application 0802547REM** - Land adjacent 33 Thrapston Road - approval of siting, design, external appearance and landscaping for the erection of 4 dwellings - it was resolved that details when received will be circulated for comment. Chairman & Clerk will take these into account and call meeting if considered necessary.

**11. Correspondence**

**Neighbourhood Policing Panel Meeting** - Stilton Church Hall, Thursday 18 September 7.30 pm

**CPALC Website** - Members whose email addresses were notified to CPALC have now been issued with user names and passwords to allow access to the members section of the website.

**HDC Capital Grants** - are available to provide a meeting place, playing field and safe play area in each Parish - includes additional play equipment in play area, replacement of equipment that no longer meets standards and possibly making an existing play area "safe". Applications required by 28 November 2008 for 2009/2010 programme.

**Notification of Road Closure** - Barham Road from 29 November for a period of 4 weeks to install sheet piles to repair retaining wall.

**12. Any Other Business**

**Bus Shelter** - Cllrs Armer & Johnson agreed to remove the shelter. The Clerk to obtain quotations for removal of the concrete base.

**13. 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. The members of the public then left the room for the duration of this item.

**14. Future meeting dates**

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 9.50 pm