

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 16 October 2008 at Spaldwick Primary School**

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

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs. R Johnson, J Shears and R Wooddisse
2. **Minutes of Meeting held 4 September 2008** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising**
 - Bus Shelter outside The George** - The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Johnson had removed the shelter. The Clerk said he was hopeful that CCC Highways would remove the concrete base. If not, he would try to obtain a quote from someone else.
 - Esso Service Station** - The Clerk reported that further repairs to the surface had been carried out by the owners.
 - Long Lane** - The Clerk reported that he has asked CCC Highways to cut back the trees and hedges which border the village end of Long Lane.
 - Littlecotes Close** - continuing action to consider request for signs to discourage speeding / acceleration and / or put a note in Spaldwick News.
4. **Public Forum** - at this point the Chairman invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern.
 - Mark Fox raised the following matters :-**
 - (a) Speeding in general is a problem throughout the village
 - (b) Parking outside 4 & 6 Stow Road is a hazard, either on the road or on the footway. Would yellow lines reduce the risk? A word with the residents asking them to park off road might be helpful.
 - (c) Can the green be mowed and tidied up for Remembrance Sunday. He offered his services if required.
 - (d) Can the Remembrance Day service be advertised in the Spaldwick News?

The Chairman thanked Mr Fox for these comments and the offer to help tidy the green, and said that the matters raised would, if not already being dealt with, be considered in due course.
5. **Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Schemes 2009/10**

It was noted that the Hunts Area Joint Transport Committee 6 October 08 had received a recommendation that 5 schemes in Bluntisham, Bury, Godmanchester, Great Gransden, and Buckden be approved. Schemes approved were marked between 8 & 11 points. Spaldwick got 5 pts for speed reduction measures and 4 for new footway in High Street.

The Clerk was asked to obtain an estimate of cost of the High Street footway, with a view to funding being sought from alternative sources.
6. **Finance**
 - Requests for donations** from two charities were considered. It was resolved not to make donations to War Memorials Trust (as the Parish Council takes responsibility for maintenance of the Spaldwick War Memorial) and Citizens Advice Bureau (as local residents already contribute to its running costs via a grant from the District Council).
 - The following payments were approved :-**
 - Cheque 100368 Suffolk ACRE, Insurance 2008/09 £586.59 (includes new cover - Legal expenses @ £23.50 which Cllr Shears, having examined the policy as requested at the last meeting, considered to be good value).
 - Cheque 100369 SLCC - "The Law of Allotments" Paul Claydon £15.20 + £2 postage = £17.20

2009/10 Budget - The Clerk presented an assessment of receipts and payments for the remainder of this financial year to 31 March 2009, and a draft proposal for the 2009/10 Budget. In view of the number of Councillors absent, it was agreed to circulate this information to all members of the Council and to defer a decision on the Budget and Precept until the next meeting.

7. **Street Light in Church Lane** - The Clerk presented two quotations for the installation of either one or two lights. After consideration, it was resolved that one lighting column be installed halfway along the lane and that the following quotations be accepted :
MHB Services - one 5 metre column painted black with 70 watt CDO-TT lamp (white light) controlled by a 1 part photo-electric cell £406.60 + VAT.
EDF Energy - connections to electricity supply £3820.00 + VAT
Action : Clerk to place Orders and to arrange up-front payment of £4480.50 to EDF
8. **Parish Plan** - Cllr Plummer reported slow progress in processing the data from the questionnaires. The presentation of the results to residents and stakeholders planned for 15 November has now been postponed until January.
9. **Maintenance of Assets / Environment**
War memorial renovation - The Clerk reported that the Memorial was last cleaned in 1995. This was arranged by the Chairman of the Brampton branch of the Royal British Legion at a cost to the Parish Council of £145. Following discussions with RBL and the War Memorials Trust, who themselves are unable to organise renovations, the Clerk has invited Peter Hibble, a stonemason who carries out work locally, to quote for cleaning and any other work he considers necessary to restore the memorial to an acceptable condition. The meeting agreed with this action.
Children's Play Area Risk Assessment - The Chairman reported that a document recently received from Cambs ACRE states that risk assessments are a legal requirement, and that he has spoken to a qualified person who would carry out an assessment for £150. It was agreed that should Cllr Shears feel that he himself is not sufficiently qualified to carry out a risk assessment, steps should be taken to obtain an assessment from a qualified person as soon as possible. A fee of around £150 would be considered acceptable
Action : Clerk
10. **Provision of Allotments** - The Chairman reported that a workable well has been uncovered in the Charity Field which will obviate the need for a water supply from Anglian Water.
11. **Planning**
Planning Application 0802457REM
Approval of siting, design, external appearance and landscaping for the erection of 4 dwellings, Land adjacent 33 Thrapston Road, Spaldwick. The Clerk's response that SPC recommends refusal pending clarification of 7 specified issues, was ratified.
To note the following HDC decisions :-
0704135CLED - Certificate of lawfulness (existing) for continuation of use as dwelling
Stocking Barn, Stocking Lane, Easton - **Refused** - applicant has not clearly demonstrated his intention with regard to the continued use of the building as a dwelling house. Taken together with the poor physical condition of building and the period of no occupation this shows there is no longer an existing residential use on site and that the residential use has been abandoned.
0802108FUL - Erection of storage building and hard surfacing to provide play areas, Spaldwick Community Primary School - **Permission granted.**

Chimney, barn / garage 2-6 Thrapston Road - The Chairman reported that the owners of 1 High Street were concerned that a chimney which had been erected on the roof of the building adjacent to their property might discharge fumes into their yard. They had made a complaint to HDC Planning that the chimney was not shown on the plans when planning permission for alterations to the premises was granted. Following prolonged discussions with HDC they have been informed that, if the owners of the barn / garage wish to retain the chimney, they will require retrospective planning permission. The Clerk was asked to find out whether such a planning application had been submitted and, if so, to arrange a meeting to discuss it.

12. Correspondence

Letter from Graeme Watkins (Parish Councillor at Farcet and parish councillor representative on District Standards Committee) - 2 vacancies on this committee to bring PC representation up to 3 - nominations to be sent to I Dewar at CPALC for consideration at Hunts Area Meeting on 17 November

CPALC Hunts Area Meeting - St Ives 17 November

HDC - Funding of Small Scale Environmental Improvement Schemes - applications invited by 12 December.

13. Any Other Business

Flood Forum - Cllr Plummer gave a brief report on the meeting he had recently attended.

14. Future meeting dates

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 9.25 pm