

**Minutes of Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting held at 8 pm
Thursday 22 April 2010 at Spaldwick Primary School**

Present: Cllrs. W Brown (Chairman), G Leach, B Plummer, G Rice, G Smith, R Wooddisse, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and six members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – R Johnson, work commitment.
2. **Declarations of Interest as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item.** Cllr Leach declared a personal / prejudicial interest in planning application 100485, item 7 as this relates to a property adjoining his own.
3. **Public Open Forum**
In view of the matters in which the members of the public were interested were contained in agenda items 7 and 8, the Chairman agreed that they could address the meeting immediately prior to the formal discussion of those items by the Council
4. **Minutes of Meetings held 25 March and 12 April 2010** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**
None
6. **Finance**
The following payments were approved:
100418 CPALC, annual membership fee, £165.12
100419 Jane O'Dwyer, Printing of flyers for youth meeting, £34.87
100420 NALC, Subscription Renewal, Quarterly Magazine LCR, £13.50
Accounts for year ended 31 March 2010
The Clerk presented the Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary to the meeting together with supporting cash book and bank statements. Cllr Smith confirmed that he had examined the documents prior to the meeting and considered them to be correct. Council then resolved that the accounts be accepted.
Annual Return for 2009 / 2010
Section 1 – Accounting statement
The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the certified accounting statement to the meeting. It was resolved that this 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.
7. **Planning**
Planning Applications
New planning application 1000485FUL (Cllr Leach left the room whilst this matter was considered.)
Extension and alterations to return to 2 dwellings & shop, 12 – 14 High Street
The applicant, Mr Hawkins, briefly explained the purpose of the application. Following examination of the plans it was resolved to recommend approval because it has no adverse effect on neighbouring properties or on the street scene, and by reason of providing the shop with separate living accommodation it improves the possibility of the shop being brought into use and hence adding to the village amenities.

To consider planning application 1000427FUL

Erection of single storey extension, 1 Littlecotes Close

As the application had only been received earlier in the day and therefore neighbours had not had time to consider its implications, it was agreed to defer the matter for 7 days and to convene a Special Meeting to discuss it following the Annual Parish Meeting.

To note reports of LPA decisions - none

Current enforcement cases – no new or outstanding cases in the last quarter.

8. Public Open Space as possible site for Village Hall**To consider response to Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)**

The Clerk reported that he had referred the question as to whether there are any legal restrictions on the use of the public open space at the rear of Ferriman Road as a site for the Village Hall to the NALC Solicitor. In response to his requests, documents and other information has been supplied, but to date no advice has been received. It was agreed that in the absence of this the Council cannot respond to the VHMC on the possible use of the site.

To note letter of 19 April from residents of Ferriman Road and consider response. This referred to the disclosure in the Parish Council minutes and in the April issue of Spaldwick News that the VHMC has declared the public open space next to Playtimes as the proposed site for the new Village Hall. The letter says that the residents would like to see the business case for a new village hall and the selection criteria for the proposed site/s. Several members of the public then addressed the meeting expressing their concern at the choice of this site without the reasons having been fully explained.

Cllr Rice (VHMC Secretary) outlined the process which had led to the choice of this site and said that when the VHMC has finalised its proposal a Public Meeting will be called and those present will be invited to discuss the proposal and to vote on whether to proceed.

The Chairman stated that the matters raised by the residents of Ferriman Road could only be answered by the VHMC. It was resolved that the Council should respond accordingly.

9. Parish Plan

Cllr Plummer stated that the next formal stage is for the Plan to be presented to the strategic stakeholders. It is now suggested that the North West Huntingdonshire Neighbourhood Forum, the next meeting of which is on 28th July, will coordinate the stakeholder support.

He also reported that progress is being made in the following areas highlighted by the Parish Plan:

Youth activities

Parish footpaths

Litter picking

Traffic monitoring

10. Environmental issues**Litter picking**

The Clerk reported that he had only had one response to his piece in Spaldwick News asking for volunteers to take part in a litter pick, but others have since expressed an interest and will be litter picking on an individual basis. It is anticipated that HDC will shortly be removing fly tipping in Cockway Lane, Long Lane and Barham Road.

Planting at village entrances

The Clerk explained that he had tried to identify the right type of containers to replace the old ones but would appreciate guidance from someone more knowledgeable. Cllr Leach agreed to discuss this with someone who could provide expertise, and to bring ideas to the next meeting..

11. Correspondence

CCC proposal to introduce electronic consultation for planning applications by 1 June was noted. As there are few (if any) planning applications received from CCC this proposal is unlikely to cause any problems. It was agreed not to object.

12. Any other business**Surface condition, Royston Avenue**

The Clerk will report the poor condition to CCC Highways.

Play area inspection

The Chairman pointed out that, following the resignation of Jason Pope, a replacement needs to be appointed. In the absence of any other offers he said that he would be happy to make the inspections himself.

13. Dates of future meetings

Thursday 29 April 2010 at 8 pm, Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 29 April 2010 at 9 pm, Special Parish Council Meeting to consider Planning Application 1000427FUL (1 Littlecotes Close)

Thursday 27 May 2010 at 8 pm, Annual Parish Council Meeting

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.44 pm