Spaxton Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on**

**Monday 19 August 2019 at 8.00pm at**

**Aisholt & Merridge Village Hall**

**Members present:** The Chairman – Simon Stretton, Robert Adcock, Peter Williams, Mike Hodson, David Jeanes, Alan Cable, Josh Schwieso, Carol Harmon, Shelley Duggan and Di Wilson.

**County & District Councillors present:** Cllr. Julie Pay, Cllr. Mike Caswell.

**Members of the public present:** John Tomlinson, Sarah Upfield.

A public session was commenced at 8.00pm, during which Sarah Upfield gave background detail to her planning application. She also confirmed that she had sustained injury whilst attempting to navigate the overgrown footpath at the back of Dobbie’s Barn.

John Tomlinson asked whether the strimmer volunteer could strim around the newly-renovated fingerposts to improve the overall appearance, and Carol Harmon offered to make the request – although the actual strimmer has yet to be delivered by the Council.

Cllr. Julie Pay expressed the view that the parking issues in Barford Road constitute a police matter, and the Parish Council has every right to expect the police to deal with those responsible.

There being no other public business, the formal meeting commenced at 8.15pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** none.
2. **Dispensation requests:** none.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 29 July 2019 at Aisholt & Merridge Village Hall were accepted as a correct record and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**
* Allotments - the available quarter plot has been taken up. No progress has been made with the installation of a second water supply and the Chairman indicated that he would talk to a couple of possible contractors to see if this work could be expedited.
* Affordable Housing update – the first meeting of the interim steering group is scheduled for 22 August. The proposal is that the Affordable Housing Working Group should now stand down in favour of the steering group, although it will have representation on it. The group has put forward three draft proposals for the Parish Council to consider at its September meeting.
* Parking issues in Barford Road – there has been a flurry of emails, mostly concerned with tackling the perceived problem of the blue barrels rather than addressing the inconsiderate/illegal parking that is the root cause. It was proposed by David Jeanes, seconded by Mike Hodson and carried by a majority vote that the barrels would only be removed *after* a successful prosecution for breach of the Road Traffic Act had taken place.
* Hedgecutting – County Highways have confirmed that only a single cut will be carried out this year, and that further works are the responsibility of landowners. There followed some debate about whether the Parish Council should step in and organize its own hedgecutting, although this is potentially an open-ended expense. It was eventually decided to mark-up key routes on a map and ask Malcolm Williams for a quote in the first instance.
* Community Electric Vehicle Scheme – feelings about this were mixed, and members were aware that the proposal was also being considered by the Village Hall Committee. It was decided to await their response before considering further.
* Telephone reception in Four Forks – the clerk had not managed to find a route to contact Openreach by phone or email, but it was suggested that Chris Knight might know of a point of contact.
* Overhanging trees at the cemetery – this protracted matter is not yet quite resolved and the Church Warden has suggested a meeting between the Vicar, the Parish Council and the Diocese, to which the Chairman agreed.
1. **Reports:** Carol Harmon reported that some of the footpath issues will be resolved when the crops are harvested, although the aim must be to prevent a recurrence next year by encouraging landowners to meet their responsibilities in terms of ploughing, sowing and maintenance. She had reported several issues to the County Council but, disappointingly, they seem generally unconcerned.

No one was able to attend the QHJAC held this month, and no Cluster or Hinkley SSG meetings had taken place.

1. **Financial items:**
2. Statement of accounts –the statement of accounts as at 05.08.19 was agreed and signed – Current account £26210.02 credit, Business Reserve £9122.35 credit.
3. The following cheques were confirmed: cheque no. 763 for £10.00 in favour of Aisholt & Merridge Village Hall in respect of meeting hire; cheque no. 764 for £237.41 in favour of John Tomlinson in respect of expenses incurred during the restoration of the fingerposts.
4. The funding request from the Cricket Club could not be considered as no Cricket Club member was in attendance to formally present their case.
5. The approval of the Risk Management Report, Statement of Internal Control and privacy statement was deferred to the September meeting to allow time for the clerk to circulate revised documents.
6. **Planning items:**

**Applications decided** since the last meeting: as per the published agenda.

**New applications**:

**45/19/00014** Mrs Upfield, removal of conditions 5 and 6 of planning permission 45/12/00033 (change of use and conversion of barn and outbuildings to form a single holiday let) to allow use of barn as a residential dwelling at Dobie’s Barn, Splatt Lane, Spaxton – members wished to support this genuine proposal to downsize and release housing for larger families, which is totally in accordance with the principles contained within Spaxton’s Neighbourhood Plan.

**45/19/00015** Mr Dyer, erection of garage with office and craft room above, including balcony. Existing garage to be demolished, at Wyches Barn, Elliss Lane, Merridge – no observations.

**45/19/00016** Works to trees in conservation area – pollard 1 no. multi-stemmed field maple back to main fork area at Peart Hall, Church Road, Spaxton – no observations.

1. **Correspondence received**: the clerk had received further representation regarding the Lych Gate memorial at Charlynch Church. Members were adamant that it wasn’t sold with the Church, nor was it in the ownership of the Parish Council, and that its upkeep may now reasonably lie with the Diocese.
2. **Matters of report** and items for the next meeting:
* Spaxton ‘twinning’ – a sign has mysteriously appeared at the entrance to the Village, celebrating its ‘twinning’ with a French town. The general consensus was that this appeared to be a prank or a mistake, the wording suggesting that it might belong to Goathurst. It was decided to let matters run their course in the short term.
* An enquiry had been received regarding maintenance of the verges at the S-bend, and it was decided to ask what the price of regular upkeep would be if this work was added to the contract for the maintenance of the top field at the Village Hall.
1. **Date & time of next meeting:** Monday 30 September 2019 at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall, for which Pete Williams and Alan Cable gave apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.22pm.