Spaxton Parish Council

**Minutes of meeting held on**

**Monday 11 October 2021 at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall**

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

**County & District Councillors present:** Cllr. M Caswell, Cllr. J Pay.

**Members of the public present:** Tim Roe, John Tomlinson.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session was held. John Tomlinson gave an update on progress in restoring the fingerposts, which had been slower than anticipated due to a shortage of volunteers. Members agreed that the work had been beautifully executed and the fingerposts that had been done were a credit to the Parish and to John and his team.

Tim Roe explained that the amended planning application for Swang Farm consisted only of a small height adjustment, as the previous roof height did not allow for vehicles to tip their loads.

There being no other public business, the formal meeting commenced at 8.13pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Josh Schwieso.
2. **Dispensation requests:** none.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 6 September 2021 were agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**
* Allotments – 1 allotment has changed hands, and there is 1 person on the waiting list. Di Wilson mentioned that Mr Carver had cut the grass at the S-Bend and it was agreed that she would invite him to submit an invoice for the work.
* SID device for Spaxton – no progress as the Chairman still awaits a response to recent correspondence.
* Safety mirror at the Peartwater junction – it was agreed that the best location would be on the telegraph pole, but that permission would be unlikely. An alternative will need to be decided.
* Disabled parking bays at the Village Shop – no feedback had been received.
* Fingerpost restoration – dealt with during the public session.
* Free tree offer – Spaxton has been awarded two specimen trees, with an option on a third, and members agreed that they would like to have the third one.
* Dog waste bins – further correspondence had been received, prompting the Chairman to seek definitive prices for installation and emptying. These had been requested by the clerk, but no reply had yet been received at the time of the meeting.
1. **Reports:** none. Cllrs. Caswell and Pay left the meeting at 8.27pm.
2. **Financial items:**
3. Statement of accounts –the statement of accounts as at 04.10.21 was agreed and signed – Current account £25681.13 credit, Business Reserve £9140.35 credit.
4. The following cheques were confirmed:

837 11.10.21 £300.00 SCN, printing

838 11.10.21 £288.00 S E Felstead, wages July - Sept

839 11.10.21 £72.00 HMRC, PAYE July - Sept

840 11.10.21 £48.00 PKF Littlejohn, audit admin fee

841 11.10.21 £36.00 Rosevean Bookkeeping, July-Sept

835 06.09.21 £20.00 Aisholt Village Hall, meeting hire

836 06.09.21 £106.00 M Carver, replacement gate post at allotments

1. **Community Land Trust** – the AGM and public meeting were held on 2 October 2021. The recommendation put forward following pre-planning advice was that the High Street site should be chosen by reason of its proximity and ease of access to Village assets such as the School and the Shop. The CLT will now progress the plans, which propose 9 houses on the site.
2. **Planning items:**

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

**New applications**:

**45/21/00030** Mr Coate, Listed Building Consent –proposed restoration of timbers in lounge, dining room and hall at The Cottage, Pightley Road, Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1AQ – members wished to support this application, pointing out also that the building was listed *after* the current owners took possession.

**45/21/00032** Mr Coate, Listed Building Consent - Proposed internal improvements to the lounge, stairwell, landing, main and third bedroom at The Cottage, Pightley Road, Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1AQ – members wished to support this application, pointing out also that the building was listed *after* the current owners took possession.

**45/21/00033** Gothelney Farm, erection of a butchery facility within existing steel framed barn, at Gothelney Hall, Charlynch Lane, Spaxton, Bridgwater, TA5 2PQ – support, on the basis supporting of promoting rural diversification, utilizing redundant farm buildings, supporting small businesses.

**45/21/00034** T W Roe, erection of an agricultural building and associated forecourt. Retention of existing western earth bank with associated landscaping planting scheme (revised scheme) at Swang Farm, Cannington, Bridgwater – support on the basis that this comprises a minor amendment that will have no adverse impact.

1. **Correspondence received**:
* Free bulbs – Spaxton has been given an allocation, and Mike Hodson volunteered to collect them. Shelly Duggan agreed to assist with the planting. One or two local residents in Four Forks who have cultivated the banks outside their homes will be asked if they consent to some planting being carried out there.
* A letter had been received suggesting the installation of a zebra crossing near the School. It was decided this would probably not be feasible, particularly as it would necessitate street lighting, which would be universally unpopular.
* The Chairman of Nether Stowey PC had written to local parish councils suggesting that the parishes previously forming the Quantocks Cluster combine to form a Local Community Network, as will be required under the single Unitary Authority for Somerset. Members agreed that this was a good idea.
* Members reported that works had been carried out in Barford Road to address flooding issues – which were now far worse.
1. **Matters of report** and items for the next meeting:
* Robert Adcock was pleased to report that flooding issues in Lower Merridge had vastly improved.
* It was observed that the car park at Hawkridge Reservoir had become muddy and almost inaccessible – the clerk was asked to alert Highways.
1. **Date & time of next meeting:** Monday 1 November 2021at 7.30pm at Spaxton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.