Spaxton Parish Council

**Minutes of meeting held on**

**Monday 26 July 2021 at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall**

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

**County & District Councillors present:** none.

**Members of the public present:** J Tomlinson.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session was held in which John Tomlinson updated members on the fingerpost restoration works, which are continuing albeit at a slower pace than envisaged due to a combination of Covid-19 and there being more extensive corrosion than originally thought. He felt that it would be beneficial to the project overall if some work could be passed to a local blacksmith, and the Chairman asked him to prepare an approximate schedule of costs for the next meeting.

Mr Tomlinson also mentioned that he is trying to engage more volunteers for the maintenance work at the Barford Road junction, as it is proving to be more than he can cope with alone.

The formal meeting commenced at 8.11pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. M Caswell, Cllr. J Pay, David Jeanes.
2. **Dispensation requests:** none.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 21 June 2021 were agreed and signed, although it was noted that the MOU in respect of the SID was a sample document only, not for signature.
4. **Matters arising:**
* Allotments – there was nothing to report.
* SID device for Spaxton – an appropriate device has been identified, and the Chairman awaits confirmation from Highways that it meets their specification.
* Safety mirror – a suitable location for the second mirror has been identified and an appropriate size mounting post is on order. The PC will need to seek permission from the owners of the nearby cottage to attach it to their external wall, and the Clerk was asked to contact them.
* Disabled parking bays at the Village Shop – Simon Stretton has mentioned this to the Village Hall Committee and awaits their decision.
1. **Reports:** issues at The Gallops, Twinnell have been resolved. The footpath along the S-bend is very overgrown and in need of attention.

There were no other reports.

1. **Financial items:**
2. Statement of accounts –the statement of accounts as at 30.06.21 was agreed and signed – Current account £24339.09 credit, Business Reserve £9140.13 credit.
3. The following cheques were confirmed:

827 26.07.21 £274.98 SALC subscription renewal

828 26.07.21 £20.00 R Young, internal audit expenses

829 26.07.21 £290.22 J Tomlinson, fingerpost restoration expenses

1. The internal audit had been completed, and there were no matters to bring to the attention of the Council.
2. Review of internal controls – this should also include a review of the Council’s insurance policy, as there seem to be provisions therein that are not relevant to Spaxton PC.
3. Clerk’s salary – it was decided to make enquiries of other Parish Councils as to comparable rates of pay and hours allocated to the role, in order to arrive at an informed decision regarding future salary.
4. **Community Land Trust** – Planning reports have been commissioned and financed through funding grants, and these will be shared with the preferred Housing Association. An AGM is scheduled for 18 September, which will include a public meeting at which firm recommendations regarding the proposed site, number of dwellings etc will be put forward.

There is to be a new CLT website, which will link directly to the PC website.

Mr J Tomlinson left the meeting at 8.45pm.

1. **Planning items:**

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

**New applications**:

**45/21/00013** Messrs P & B Coles No observations

**45/21/00019** Mr A Palmer No observations

**45/21/00020** McClennan & Bamber No observations

**45/21/00021** Mrs H Hill No observations

**45/21/00023** S Owens No observations, other than within AONB

**45/21/00024** Mr & Mrs Johnson No observations

**45/21/00025** Mr Rolfe Within AONB, should be in keeping.

1. **Correspondence received**:
* Platinum Jubilee Beacons – the Clerk was asked to circulate the correspondence so that this can be discussed at the next meeting.
* Litter bins at the Community Shop – the issue with litter bins is always the cost of having them emptied. There is already a litter picking rota, and members wondered if signs asking customers to take their litter home might suffice.
* Fingerpost restoration – the CPRE are struggling to allocate their grant monies, so Spaxton are being encouraged to proceed with works so that the full quota of grant monies can be allocated on a match funded basis.
* Junction of Four Forks Lane and Barford Road – local residents have expressed deep concerns over visibility at this junction, but after much discussion members were not confident that a practical solution exists. There is nowhere suitable to attach a mirror, even assuming the landowner were to agree in principle, and doubt was expressed as to whether a proliferation of mirrors in the countryside is desirable. On balance it was felt that local people are aware of the hazards and take appropriate care – a fact which is backed up by the fact that there has not been an accident at this location for over 30 years. However, the Chairman did agree to obtain a quote for a small mirror, in the event that agreement can be reached as to its location.
1. **Matters of report** and items for the next meeting:
* A local resident had observed that the Parish Council has not been publishing meetings agendas on its website in a timely way. The Chairman is already aware of this, which is due to unfamiliarity with the new website and its editing processes, and the Clerk undertook to seek further training in order to overcome the problem.
* It was noted that a second cut of hedges is required in order to protect walkers and cyclists from overhanging branches and brambles. The Chairman offered to contact the portfolio holder at SDC.
* Free trees – members were in favour and will consider possible locations prior to the next meeting.
1. **Date & time of next meeting:** Monday 6 September 2021at 8pm at Merridge Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.