Spaxton Parish Council

**Minutes of meeting held on**

**Monday 4 July 2022 at 8pm at**

**Spaxton Village Hall**

**Members present:** The Chairman – Simon Stretton, David Jeanes, Pete Williams, Mike Hodson, Martin Brown and Alan Cable.

**County & District Councillors present:** Cllr. Bolt, Cllr. Pay.

**Members of the public present:** Phil Ham.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session was held, in which Phil Ham asked who the new footpath officer was following Carol Harmon’s retirement.

There being no other public business, the formal meeting commenced at 8.01pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Josh Schwieso, Robert Adcock, Shelley Duggan and Cllr M Caswell.
2. **Dispensation requests:** none.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 6th June 2022 were agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**

* Hedgecutting – some clearance has been carried out by Highways, but signage is still being obscured, probably because no one knows it is there. The clerk was asked to let Highways know about signage in Bush Road and Splatt Lane.
* SID device for Spaxton – the device is now operational within the 20mph limit at the school. It currently operates during school opening hours only. There does seem to be some impact on traffic speeds, although it is too early to have gathered any meaningful data.
* Dog waste bins – now installed and being used. Currently about half full.
* Draft allotment agreement – the current tenant intends to relinquish his tenancy at the end of the agreed term, and an advertisement will be placed in SCN mid-Sept inviting would-be tenants to submit their tenders.
* Insurance – the Chairman has contacted other companies for quotes, but it does seem that Parish Councils are more or less forced to buy a packaged product that is far in excess of their needs. The Clerk was asked to contact SALC for advice.
* Hawkridge Reservoir – the Clerk had had a very positive conversation with a representative from Wessex Water, and an initial meeting has been scheduled for 29 July, which John Conder will also be invited to attend.

1. **Reports:**

* Allotments – two allotments are in a very tatty state and Pete Williams will therefore speak to the tenants. He suggested that for ease of reference infuture we number and label the plots, and it was agreed that Pete would source and install the signs.
* Footpaths – despite starting beyond the ‘Durleigh’ sign, it is deemed by Durleigh Parish Council that the bridleway leading from Crossmoor Hill to Gothelney is within Spaxton Parish. It was decided to ask Shelly Duggan to investigate this and the Halsey Cross footpath and report back to the August meeting.
* Hinkley SSG – nothing to report other than the decommissioning of A station is on track, and B station has commenced defuelling in preparation for switch off on 29 July.
* Local Community Networks – an initial meeting is scheduled for 5 September, although there are concerns that this is far too late in the day. Cllr. Bolt explained that the delay is due to uncertainty over ward boundaries.
* Community Land Trust – the public meeting took place as planned on 25 June. There was a good turnout and people were generally supportive of the plans. Their feedback is being incorporated into the architects’ plans

1. **Financial items:**
2. Statement of accounts – current account £28311.76 credit, business reserve £9140.81 credit.
3. The following cheques were confirmed:

862 04.07.22 £95.00 SALC subscription renewal

863 04.07.22 £296.00 Courtyard Press, Flower Show schedules

864 04.07.22 £300.00 SDC, uncontested election fee

865 04.07.22 £20.00 Richard Young, internal audit expenses

866 04.07.22 £31.50 Rosevean bookkeeping, payroll April – June

867 04.07.22 £97.57 S Stretton, reimburse SID and planter install costs

1. There was one matter brought to the Parish Council’s attention as a result of the internal audit, namely that donations to a Church for the upkeep of property may not be lawful. The actual position is far from clear, but the auditor felt that the Council should be aware.

Cllrs Bolt and Pay left the meeting at 8.40pm.

1. **Planning items:**

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

**New applications**:

**45/22/00015** Mr & Mrs Dillon, erection of first floor extension including the installation of front (SE) and rear (NW) dormers, raising of roof height and of front (SE) porch at The Paddock, High Street, Spaxton – no observations.

**45/22/00016** Mrs A Nash, erection of detached summerhouse at Seven Oaks, Cuckolds Row, Spaxton – no observations.

**45/22/00018** Mr R Chevis, conversion of loft to form living accommodation and erection of single storey rear (NW) extension on site of existing conservatory (to be demolished) at Morningside, High Street, Spaxton – no observations.

**45/22/00020** Mr Vickery & Mrs Bristow, erection of single storey front (North) extension and single storey open sided rear (South) extension at Merridge Croft Barn, Spaxton Road, Merridge – within AONB, but otherwise no observations.

**45/22/00024** Mr Osborne, erection of a two storey extension to side (SE) elevation and erection of a porch to front (SW) elevation, on site of existing (to be demolished) at 7 Peartwater Road, Spaxton – no observations.

1. **Correspondence received:**  a letter had been received from Somerset County Council detailing support available towards food and energy bills. A copy is to be put up on the Parish noticeboards, in the shop and on the website.
2. **Matters of report** and items for the next meeting: none.
3. **Date & time of next meeting:** Monday 1st August 2022 at 8pm at Merridge Village Hall, although if there are no urgent matters or planning to be discussed the meeting will be shelved. The meeting after that will take place on 5th September, for which Martin Brown gave his apologies in advance.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm.