Spaxton Parish Council

**Minutes of meeting held on**

**Monday 5th September 2022 at 8pm at**

**Spaxton Village Hall**

**Members present:** Robert Adcock, David Jeanes, Pete Williams, Mike Hodson, Josh Schwieso and Alan Cable.

**County & District Councillors present:** Cllr. M Caswell.

**Members of the public present:** Phil Ham, Carol Harmon, Di Wilson, James Venton, Keith Bellinger, Ben Rich & Dan Andison.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session was held in which:

* Phil Ham asked that the Parish Council consider supporting the diversification of grass verges in order to promote local native species of wildflowers which has also been reported as having a positive effect on traffic speeds, as drivers slow down to admire the display.
* John Tomlinson reported that parking in Barford Road remains problematic, and it was pointed out that this is also the case at the junction of Splatt Lane and near Victoria Way. Members considered it unlikely that County Highways would be willing to install and ‘police’ double yellow lines, but that it was worth a try. The clerk was asked to make a formal application to County Hall.
* Mr Tomlinson also reported that the fingerpost at the Pightley junction has been damaged and he is in the process of arranging a repair.
* Ben Rich spoke on behalf of Spaxton Cricket Club to request financial support in connection with the installation of ball stop netting along the boundary of the cricket pitch and Splatt Lane. He explained that the Club has undergone something of a regeneration, with 26 new players last season and plans to introduce junior and women’s cricket. Standards generally have improved, leading to safety concerns for nearby residents as well as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Members felt that this might well be something they wished to support and requested that details costings and a list of funds raised thus far be submitted to the clerk.

The formal meeting commenced at 8.30pm, at which point Messrs Venton, Bellinger, Rich & Andison left the meeting. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman – Robert Adcock – took the Chair.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Simon Stretton, Martin Brown, Shelley Duggan, Cllr J Pay, Cllr. B Bolt, Cllr. Julie Pay.
2. **Dispensation requests:** none.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 1st August 2022 were agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**

* Highway issues – a response had been received from Highways regarding the various issues raised. Given budget limitations, it is not going to be possible to cut back hedges a second time, nor to clear the mud and silt from the public parking area at Hawkridge Reservoir; however, Highways might be prepared to facilitate the latter if the Parish Council is prepared to absorb the cost. The clerk was therefore asked to obtain a quote. Highways also asked the Council to contact Clean Surroundings regarding the overflowing waste bins at Hawkridge, and advised that senior management had been alerted in connection with overgrown hedges at the junction with Jack O’Knights Hill. The remaining two queries – namely signage to prevent HGVs using Courtway and the possibility of a disabled parking space at Gwent Cottage have been passed to Highways’ Traffic Management team.

1. **Reports:**

* CLT – unfortunately, the land at Four Forks earmarked for Affordable Housing has been withdrawn from sale due to Probate difficulties, and the team are now re-focusing on the disused allotment land owned by the Parish Council. Surveys will need to be re-done but funds are available for these, and the architect, builder and Housing Association are still on board. The aim now is to submit a planning application by March 2023, and the Parish Council was asked to re-instate the Heads of Terms previously agreed. This was unanimously agreed.

Simon Stretton arrived at 8.44pm.

1. **Financial items:**
2. Statement of accounts – current account £22211.38 credit, business reserve £9143.00 credit.

Cllr. M Caswell left the meeting at 8.46pm.

1. The following cheques were confirmed:

872 05.09.22 £279.80 SALC subscription renewal

873 05.09.22 £2526.76 Spaxton Village Hall – maintenance/insurance

874 05.09.22 £605.26 J Tomlinson, fingerpost expenses

1. c) Alan Cable presented ideas to the meeting in connection with using the Village Hall as a warm place for parishioners struggling to keep warm and fed in the face of the cost of living crisis. He volunteered to liaise with other organisations – such as St Margaret’s Church – to facilitate a ‘joined up’ approach that would maximise the resources available. It was agreed that ‘Emergency Planning’ would feature on PC agendas from October onwards.
2. **Planning items:**

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

**New applications**:

**45/22/00026** Mr T Roe, outline application with some matters reserved for, the demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of a new dwelling with garaging at Swang Farm and land off, Currypool Lane, Cannington. Members wished to object to this application, on the basis that whilst they could appreciate the need for the dwelling, they could see no justification for building on green field land in the open countryside. It was felt that the applicant – with the significant acreage available to him – might well be able to propose an alternative site that would find favour with consultative bodies.

**45/22/00027** Mrs A Nash, outline application with all matters reserved for, the conversion of doll factory to 1no. dwelling at Seven Oaks, Cuckolds Row, Spaxton. Members had no observations to make concerning this application.

1. **Correspondence received:**  The Parish Council has been asked to check the contents of its salt bins before the onset of winter, and Robert Adcock kindly agreed to do this.

A letter had been received advising that RLT3 monies were being held for the Quantock Parishes, and the clerk was asked to investigate whether an application could be made on behalf of the Cricket Club.

A parishioner had enquired as to the justification and lawfulness of hedge removal that had taken place along Bush Lane; the landowner advised members that this actually relates to a damaged metal fence which was falling down and had therefore been removed. The Enforcement Team had been alerted and had visited 3 or 4 months ago, since which time there has been no further correspondence or action.

1. **Matters of report** and items for the next meeting: around 30-40m of hedgerow has been removed at Sunnyside in Charlynch Lane, apparently without permission. The clerk was asked to check with the Enforcement Team.
2. **Date & time of next meeting:** Monday 3rd Octber 2022 at 8pm at Spaxon Village Hall. Alan Cable gave apologies in advance.

The meeting closed at 9.18pm.