Spaxton Parish Council

**Minutes of meeting held on**

**Monday 9 May 2022 at 8.06pm at**

**Spaxton Village Hall**

**Members present:** The Chairman – Simon Stretton, Robert Adcock, Shelley Duggan, David Jeanes, Pete Williams and Martin Brown.

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

**Members of the public present:** Mr & Mrs P Harvey.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session was held, in which Mr & Mrs Harvey explained their views on planning application 45/22/00002.

There being no other public business, the formal meeting commenced at 8.23pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Alan Cable, Mike Hodson, Cllr J Pay, Cllr B Bolt and Josh Schwieso.
2. **Dispensation requests:** none.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 4th April 2022 were agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**
* Hedgecutting – there has been some discussion with landowners regarding the hedge opposite Jack O’Knights Hill, and it is hoped that the matter can be resolved shortly.
* Allotments – one allotment has changed hands, and all payments are up to date. The correspondence file was passed to the new allotment officer – Pete Williams.
* SID device for Spaxton – the device is due to arrive shortly, and Martin Brown offered to assist with installation and calibration.
* Dog waste bins – the new bin has yet to arrive.

The discussion regarding planning application 45/22/00002 was brought forward in view of the members of the public present. After careful consideration it was decided to object to the proposals on a number of valid planning grounds, including:

* Location within the AONB
* Size and scale
* Noise impact
* Loss of hedgerows
* Loss of productive meadow land
* Endangering wildlife
* Flood and pollution risk due to water run-off
* Highway safety
* Lack of detail regarding duration
* Lack of any topographical survey
* Inconsistencies within the application.

Members did, however, appreciate the need for woodland to be managed, and felt that an alternative location nearer to Hawkridge Reservoir might serve equally as well, with significantly less disruption.

Cllr. Caswell and Mr & Mrs Harvey left the meeting at 8.43pm.

1. **LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct** – it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman and unanimously agreed that the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct be adopted.
2. **Reports:** none, other than to report that new Councillor Martin Brown has enrolled on 4 SALC training sessions across the coming weeks.
3. **Financial items:**
4. Statement of accounts – current account £22307.67 credit, business reserve £9140.81 credit.
5. The following cheques were confirmed:

856 09.05.22 £96.00 M Williams, hedgecutting

857 09.05.22 £2000.00 Spaxton PCC, cemetery upkeep 2021/22 & 2022/23

It was also agreed to cover the cost of printing the Flower Show schedules this year, after a gap of 2 years due to Covid.

1. It was proposed by Robert Adcock, seconded by Simon Stretton and unanimously agreed that the Annual Audit Return and Certificate of Exemption be approved.
2. **Community Land Trust** – a brief update had been received from Mike Hodson via email, namely that the next CLT meeting on 18 May will incorporate a 30-minute public session, followed by a public meeting on 25 June at which the architect will present initial ideas for community feedback.
3. **Parish Council vacancy** – no one has yet come forward to volunteer to fill this vacancy, which will now be advertised**.**
4. **Planning items:**

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

**New applications**:

**45/21/00044** Mrs Hill, erection of 1no. dwelling and detached double garage with formation of driveway, access alterations and landscaping, and retention of polytunnel on land to the west of Splatt Lane, Spaxton – amended plans. Members saw no reason to alter their previous decision to object to these proposals.

**45/22/00002** Tilhill,Proposed improvements to existing access to allow for HGV access and stacking, also the formation of forestry track linking entrance/ stacking area to woodland on land to the south of Lawyers Hill, Spaxton – dealt with earlier in the meeting.

**45/22/00009** Mr & Mrs Burdett, erection of rear (SE) first floor extension at Hillview, High Street, Four Forks, Spaxton – no observations.

**45/22/00012** Mr T W Roe, removal of Condition 4 of Planning Permission 45/21/00034 (Erection of an agricultural building and associated forecourt. Retention of existing western earth bank with associated landscaping planting scheme (revised scheme)) to allow for agricultural uses other than storage at Swang Farm, Cannington. This application is to cover a technicality around the use of the building for agricultural purposes rather then simply ‘storage’ and members voted to support it.

1. **Correspondence received:**  there is a new ‘Homeshare’ initiative designed to encourage elderly people with mild care needs to offer lodging in their homes to a younger person in return for 15 hours’ help a week. The Quantock Hills are seeking input from the public regarding their favourite view of the Hills as part of a ‘View to a Hill’ conservation project. Concern had been raised by Nether Stowey Parish Council at proposals by Strongvox to remove affordable housing from the Cricketer Farm development, and the support of other parish councils in objecting to this was requested. However, the matter had been determined in the developer’s favour prior to the meeting.
2. **Matters of report** and items for the next meeting:
* Once again members expressed concern at inconsiderate and dangerous parking in Barford Road, but felt that in the absence of support from County Highways there was nothing that could be done. A
* A volunteer has come forward to assist with maintaining the verges at the entrance to the Village, and this news was very welcome. The Parish Council may be asked to fund some of the heavier work, and agreed in principle, subject to costings.
* The water leak in Barford Road continues to cause problems, although unfortunately Wessex Water decline to recognize it as such, so noting is likely to be done.
1. **Date & time of next meeting:** Monday 6 June 2022 at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.