

Spaxton Parish Council – Meeting MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at 8:00 pm on Monday December 1st 2008 at Spaxton Village Hall.

		Action
i)	Members present: The Chairman – Mr D Jeanes, Mr B Porter, Mr J Edwards, Mr S Stretton, Mr R Adcock, Mr V Hughes & Mr V Massey.	
ii)	District Councillors present: Mr D Joslin.	
1.	Apologies for absence: Mr K Dyer, Mr J Edney, Mr J Edwards, Mr M Stevens & Mrs D Richards.	
2.	Declaration of member's interests: none	
3.	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday November 3rd 2008 at Aisholt & Merridge Village Hall were read and approved.	
4.	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>i) Planning – clarification had been sought with regard to policy being quoted in support of planning applications, and Mr D Joslin explained that it would suffice to state a belief that the application in question did not contravene policy in any way, rather than having to quote specific policy numbers. Mr V Hughes expressed the view that we should nevertheless quote policy numbers where known, for fear of appearing to lend support without foundation. Mr S Stretton remarked that surely sending an application to committee provoked a wider debate anyway, so was to be commended in certain circumstances.</p> <p>Mr P Williams arrived at 8.10pm.</p> <p>With regard to the recent applications from Mr Gillman and Mr Fear, Mr D Joslin undertook to look into them again to try and ascertain why the PC's responses had been so ill-received.</p> <p>ii) RLT3 funds – Mr G Richards attended the meeting, and learned that the RLT3 funds held by SDC now total £150k, which it is anxious to see disbursed. After a short discussion it was decided that the Village Hall Committee would be asked to make contact with Harley Cook at SDC with a view to requesting assistance with one of its projects, such as the construction of a play wall or additional drainage for the junior football pitch.</p> <p>iii) Code of Conduct consultation – Mr J Edwards had kindly prepared answers to the various points raised, and advised members he would be seeking ratification prior to submission. He would be seeking SALC's advice on the question relating to council employees.</p>	
5.	Footpath: SALC: QHJAC: Parish Cluster Reports (as appropriate) – see attached QHJAC report.	
6.	<p>Financial items:</p> <p>i) Statement of Accounts – current account £989.94 credit, capital reserve account £6921.75 credit.</p> <p>ii) Cheque no. 000442 for £300.00 in favour of Mark Husband had been debited to the Parish Council's bank account during October, although Mr Husband claims never to have received it. Enquiries by the clerk had failed to turn up an explanation, but the Natwest bank had been asked to try and trace the recipient. This, however, would take 6 – 8 weeks! In the meantime, the clerk's enquiries will continue.</p> <p>iii) Recreation & Amenity Grant – a letter had been received from SDC explaining that this grant should not be relied upon when preparing budgets, since it was unlikely to be possible to pay it in 2009.</p>	

	iv) Precept – the sum of £4500 was claimed in 2007/08 when the capital reserve balance was far higher than at present. It was decided to claim an additional £1000 to replace the Recreation & Amenity grant, plus a further £2000 towards the drainage of the football pitch, hence £7500 in all.	
7.	<p>Planning items: Mr D Joslin left the meeting at 9.06pm and did not return. A response from SDC regarding the query concerning log cabins was read out, which basically outlined the policies to be considered in applications of this nature, and sought to offer reassurances that there is no such thing as precedent in planning terms, since each application is considered on its own merits.</p> <p>i) Applications decided since last meeting: as per the published agenda.</p> <p>ii) New Applications: 45/08/00027 Mr & Mrs A Peppin, change of use and conversion of dwelling to dwelling and guest house, including conversion of double garage to disabled accommodation in connection with guest house – members were concerned for several reasons, namely over-development of the site, the increased need to travel due to the site being situated some distance from local amenities, and highway safety. For those reasons, it was resolved to object to the proposal. 45/08/00029 Mr J Knight, installation of flue in NW elevation at Jack O'Knights, Spaxton – no observations. 45/08/00030 Miss C Jenner, erection of 2-storey side extension, partly on site of existing (to be demolished), at 4 Stockholm Terrace, High Street, Spaxton – no observations.</p>	SF
8.	<p>Correspondence received: circulated at the meeting other than: i) Consultation on EDF's site at Hinkley Point – members felt that the consultations already carried out had been quite extensive and did not feel it necessary to request further consultation opportunities.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters of report & items for the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clerk was asked to liaise with Bridgwater Police re the PACT meeting in January. • Mr V Hughes asked the clerk to remind Felix Marsh that the Spaxton housing needs survey had been promised for January 2009. • Mr B Porter requested that meeting minutes and agendas be diligently posted on the Parish noticeboard each month, as their recent absence had been commented on. • Mr R Adcock enquired when the new noticeboard was likely to be erected at Spaxton, and was advised that this would be done as soon as the second coat of paint had been put on the new extension. 	SF SF SF
10.	Date & time of next meeting: Monday 12 th January 2009, at Spaxton Village Hall.	
	The meeting closed at 9.38pm.	

