

Spaxton Parish Council – Meeting MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at 8:00 pm on Monday 6th October 2008 at Spaxton Village Hall.

		Action
i)	Members present: The Chairman - Mr D Jeanes, Mr J Edwards, Mr S Stretton, Mr M Stevens, Mr B Porter, Mr P Williams and Mr V Massey.	
ii)	District Councillors present: Mr D Joslin.	
iii)	Members of the public present: Mr J Shattock, PC Lora Bray.	
	<p>Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session took place, at which Mr J Shattock gave details of the planning application submitted by Mr T Fear for 2 log cabins on land at Tuxwell Farm. He explained that his client was seeking to diversify from arable farming, and hoped to build 2 luxury holiday accommodation units to appeal to the upper end of the tourism market. Particular attention would be given to sustainability and energy efficiency, and the existing scrubland habitation would be transformed into attractive parkland.</p> <p>Mr V Hughes arrived at 8.07pm.</p> <p>Mr J Edwards queried the absence of the footpath on the map submitted with the application, and was assured by Mr Shattock that the footpath would be inserted correctly into the drawing and the revised drawing submitted to SDC.</p> <p>The formal meeting commenced at 8.14pm.</p>	
1.	Apologies for absence: Mr R Adcock, Mr J Edney & Mr K Dyer.	
2.	Declaration of member's interests: Mr V Massey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the planning application submitted by Mr & Mrs Millard, as their next-door neighbour.	
3.	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday September 1 st 2008 at Spaxton Village Hall were read and approved.	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>i) PC Lora Bray was invited to speak on the PACT (Partners and Communities Together) initiative, which is designed to give a voice to the local community and enable people to express concerns about a wide range of local issues. Thus, not just Police matters, but also anything to do with litter, anti-social behaviour, highways, footpaths etc. She agreed that in some ways this does duplicate the role of the Parish Council, but said too that PACT does have the distinct advantage of making the various agencies completely accountable to the communities they serve. The PACT initiative is to be discussed at the next Cluster meeting in November, and it was also suggested that a notice be put in Community News to raise awareness. The January Parish Council meeting is to be designated a PACT meeting, and the clerk is to contact PC Bray on 07825 125099 prior to the meeting to coordinate publicity etc.</p> <p>ii) Various responses had been received concerning litter and overgrown hedgerows at Hawkridge Reservoir, and members were satisfied that SDC, Wessex Water and the Highways Authority had now fulfilled their obligations to keep the area tidy.</p> <p>iii) Mr B Porter confirmed that Adrian Burland could be allowed to retain his late father's allotment, and asked the clerk to write to Adrian accordingly. He also asked Sue to obtain a list of current allotment holders.</p>	<div data-bbox="1350 1464 1447 1541" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">VH</div> <div data-bbox="1350 1615 1447 1691" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">SF</div> <div data-bbox="1350 1854 1447 1930" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">SF</div>
5.	Footpath: SALC: QHJAC: Parish Cluster Reports (as appropriate) – please see attached.	

6.	<p>Financial items:</p> <p>i) Statement of Accounts: current account £503.54 credit, capital reserve account £21921.75 credit.</p> <p>ii) The following payments were approved: cheque no. 441 for £13,865.00 to Barratt & Canniford Ltd in respect of the Village Hall building works, and cheque no. 442 for £300.00 to Mark Husband in respect of grasscutting for the year.</p> <p>A quote of £460.00 had been received from Ashley Gold for the new noticeboard at Merridge Village Hall, which included installation. Members unanimously accepted the quote and asked Mr V Hughes to place the order.</p> <p>Now that the building work at Spaxton Village Hall is almost complete, the erection of the new Spaxton noticeboard can also be arranged.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; width: 40px; margin: 5px auto;">VH</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; width: 40px; margin: 5px auto;">JE</div>
7.	<p>Planning items:</p> <p>Mr V Hughes asked Mr D Joslin to clarify the position regarding Cannington Cold Stores, and expressed deep concern at the protracted nature of this case. Mr D Joslin replied that there were complex matters outstanding, which are now in the hands of the case officers, but that he would investigate further and report back to the Chairman.</p> <p>Mr D Joslin left the meeting at 8.53pm, and did not return.</p> <p>i) <u>Applications decided since last meeting</u>: as per the agenda.</p> <p>ii) <u>New Applications</u>: 45/08/00021 Mr T Fear, erection of 2 log cabins for holiday accommodation on land at Tuxwell Farm, Tuxwell Lane, Spaxton – some members recognized that these holiday units would bring economic advantage to the Village and improve the landscape of the site in question. However, some felt that they were of a size so substantial as to constitute undesirable development in the open countryside. Policy RLT16 was quoted as allowing for a small number of holiday units to be sited unobtrusively in the countryside, but it was felt by some that the units in question would be highly visible from miles around and therefore contrary to that policy. There was also some doubt over whether a 4-bedroom, detached house – whether constructed of wood or not – could reasonably be referred to as a “cabin”. The matter eventually culminated in a vote, and 4 members voted in favour compared with 3 members against.</p> <p>Mr J Shattock left the meeting at 9.13pm.</p> <p>45/08/00022 Mr P Coles, use of land to site a mobile home on land at Lambridge Farm, Courtway, Bridgwater – again it was felt that clarification as to terminology was necessary, since this application also related to the siting of a log cabin holiday home! Again, the matter went to a vote, and 4 members were in favour, with 1 against and 2 abstaining.</p> <p>45/08/00023 Mr & Mrs S Millard, erection of extension & garage at The Bungalow, High Street, Spaxton – having declared a personal & prejudicial interest, Mr V Massey left the room. However, there were no observations and he returned shortly thereafter.</p> <p>45/08/00024 Mr S Franks, change of use and conversion of barn to dwelling (revised scheme) at Guards Hill Barn, Merridge – no observations.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; width: 40px; margin: 5px auto;">SF</div>
8.	<p>Correspondence received: circulated at the meeting other than:</p> <p>i) Quantock Hills Annual Event – 8th October 2008. Mr J Edwards will attend.</p> <p>ii) British Energy public events re potential new nuclear build at Hinkley Point – Mr J Edwards will attend, and Mr V Hughes will endeavour to attend also.</p> <p>iii) Driver Awareness Courses – an enquiry had been received as to whether we would be willing to host a Driver Awareness Course at the Village Hall, and members had no objections but felt that it was more a matter for the Village Hall Committee.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters of report & items for the next meeting: none.</p>	
10.	<p>Date & time of next meeting: Monday November 3rd 2008 at Aisholt Village Hall, and Monday December 1st at Spaxton Village Hall.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.43pm.</p>	