

Spaxton Parish Council – Meeting MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at 8:00 pm on Monday June 8th 2009 at Aisholt & Merridge Village Hall.

i)	Members present: the Chairman – Mr D Jeanes, Mr B Porter, Mr R Adcock, Mr V Massey, Mr M Stevens, Mr J Edwards & Mr V Hughes.	Action	
ii)	District Councillors present: Mr K Dyer.		
iii)	Members of the public present: Ms Alison, Mr G Richards.		
	<p>Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session was held. Alison gave a short explanation of the sorry state of the Village Hall finances, in which she revealed that during the year to date, a shortfall of income over expenditure of almost £1500 had arisen, due to the loss of the playgroup and the after school club in 2008.</p> <p>One of the key issues has been the maintenance of the top field, from which no income is derived., and although drastic cost-cutting measures have been implemented, there is still going to be a deficit of around £1800 for 2009. Alison therefore asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to fund this deficit, which effectively means paying for the maintenance of the top field.</p>		
1.	Apologies for absence: Mr S Stretton, Mr P Williams, Mr J Edney & Mr D Joslin.		
2.	Declaration of member's interests: Mr J Edwards declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any discussion that might ensue regarding the Village Hall, as a Village Hall committee member.		
3.	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday May 11 th 2009 at Spaxton Village Hall were read and approved, although an amendment was made to reflect the fact that Mr D Joslin was present at that meeting.		
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>i) Parish Council vacancy – the statutory notice is now being displayed, and we will be advised in due course whether an election needs to be held or whether we may co-opt.</p> <p>ii) Mr R Adcock asked the clerk to pursue the matter of a member of the Development Control committee coming to a Parish Council meeting to speak and to respond to questions.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>SF</td> </tr> </table>	SF
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5.	<p>Footpath: SALC: QHJAC: Parish Cluster Reports (as appropriate) – Mr J Edwards attended the SALC meeting but had nothing material to report. Mr V Hughes attended the Cluster meeting, and distributed a written report at the meeting. He did comment that Ken Edwards might need to be reminded to submit the application for the RLT3 monies if Spaxton were not to miss out on a share of this money. Another matter that arose concerned the potential closure of the A39 in the event of serious road traffic accidents, and Mr J Edwards wished to propose a one-way diversion scheme in order to prevent lorries becoming stuck on minor roads and lanes. A letter had been received from SDC asking whether we felt that we had been assigned to the correct Cluster group, and everyone agreed that we had. Mr J Edwards distributed copies of the Quantock Hills update and calendar of events.</p>		

6.	<p>Financial items:</p> <p>i) Statement of Accounts: current account: £1063.11 cr, capital reserve account £9447.84 cr.</p> <p>ii) The following payments were agreed: cheque no. 453 in favour of S E Felstead for £37.77 in respect of ink for the Parish Council's printer, cheque no. 454 for £10.00 in favour of Richard Young in respect of expenses in connection with the external audit of the Annual Audit Return, and cheque no 455 in favour of Spaxton Village Hall for £1836.08 as a grant towards the upkeep of the top playing field. This followed a brief discussion, during which Mr J Edwards left the room at 8.45pm. Members unanimously voted to help out this year, but wished to review on an annual basis rather than be drawn into a binding commitment for future years. A suggestion was also made that grant monies should be investigated as a way of financing the future purchase of a new mower. Mr J Edwards returned to the room at 8.56pm.</p> <p>iii) It was resolved that the Natwest Bank in Bridgwater should be given a new bank mandate authorizing any two of the nine current Parish Council members to sign together on the bank account, namely Mr D Jeanes, Mr P Williams, Mr J Edwards, Mr B Porter, Mr S Stretton, Mr M Stevens, Mr V Massey, Mr R Adcock and Mr V Hughes. All members signed a new mandate form which is to be submitted to the Bank by the clerk.</p>	
7.	<p>Planning items:</p> <p>i) Applications decided since last meeting: as per the published agenda. The clerk explained that application no. 45/09/00010 in the name of Mr G Porter had been a Notice of Intent only, and an application for full planning permission would need to follow.</p> <p>ii) New Applications: 45/09/00006 Mr R Foster, resurfacing of driveway at 109 Swang Farm Cottages, Currypool – no observations. 45/09/00016 Mr A Irvine, erection of detached double garage with games room over at Padnoller Cottage, Keenthorne – no observations. 45/09/00012 Mr S Read, erection of two-storey extension to east elevation at Parish Land farm, Merridge – members did not object in principal, but wished to see the doors and windows re-designed to be in keeping with the rest of the house. 45/09/00014 Mr J Knight, erection fo extension to SW elevation to form garden room on site of conservatory and sun room (to be demolished) at Jack-O-Knights, Spaxton – no observations.</p>	
8.	<p>Correspondence received: circulated at the meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters of report & items for the next meeting: more complaints had been received about the overhanging hedge at The Old Smithy. Complaints had also been received about the parking of 2 motorbikes by the Village pump at Wayside, and the owners had advised the clerk that the bikes would be moved back onto their property as soon as building work there had been completed. Mr M Stevens mentioned that there was a dangerous pothole in the road outside Lower Halsey Farm.</p>	
10.	<p>Date & time of next meeting: Monday July 6th 2009 at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.20pm.</p>	