

Spaxton Parish Council – Meeting MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at 8:00 pm on Monday December 11th 2006 at Spaxton Village Hall.

i)	Members present: The Chairman – Mr D Jeanes, Mr M Stevens, Mr V Hughes, Mr J Edwards, Mr S Stretton, Mr R Adcock, Mr B Porter, MrsD Richards, Mr P Williams & Mr V Massey.	Action
ii)	District Councillors present: Mr K Dyer.	
iii)	Members of the public present: Mr P Stokes, Treasurer, Spaxton Village Hall.	
1.	Apologies for absence: Mr D Joslin, Mr J Edney & Mrs L Cartwright. In view of Mrs Cartwright's prolonged illness, the clerk was asked to arrange for flowers to be sent to her with members' very best wishes.	SK
2.	Declaration of Member's interests: Mr J Edwards declared his interest in Village Hall matters in respect of discussions regarding the disposal of the allotment proceeds.	
3.	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 th November 2006 were read and approved.	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>i) The Chairman welcomed Mr V Massey as a new Parish Councillor, and he was given the Statutory Declaration of Member's Interests form to complete.</p> <p>ii) The clerk was pleased to report that Chris Betty of Somerset Highways had finally agreed to re-instate the white lining at the junction of Four Forks Lane, although this may not be for 3 months or so. Whilst writing, Mr Betty also mentioned that he would not now be proceeding with the proposed traffic signs at either end of Courtway Lane.</p> <p>iii) Statutory Declaration of Interests forms were handed to Mrs D Richards and Mr S Stretton for completion and return.</p> <p>iv) Mr J Edwards mentioned that he had passed the Thankful Villages information to Roger Phipps, Treasurer of Aisholt & Merridge Village Hall, for action.</p> <p>v) Skateboard facility – Mr D Jeanes had spoken with Ken Edwards who advised that £7.5k had been raised including grant funding, but that some of the RLT2 funding had been delayed due to non-completion of the relevant building projects. However, work is expected to commence in the Spring of 2007.</p>	
5.	Footpath: SALC: QHJAC: Parish Cluster Reports (as appropriate) – see attached.	
6.	<p>Financial items:</p> <p>i) Statement of Accounts: Current account £1185.30 credit, Capital Reserve account £20217.14 credit.</p> <p>ii) There were no payments requiring to be made.</p> <p>iii) Allocation of allotment proceeds: Mr J Edwards left the room at 8.14pm. Mr P Stokes was then invited by the Chairman to give a brief resume of the current state of the Village Hall finances, from which members learned that income and expenditure are barely matching and a lack of support in recent months has meant that the Hall is struggling to make ends meet. Certainly, there is no money in the coffers for refurbishment or capital projects, and yet there is an urgent need to improve disabled access via a new, extended entrance porch. The Village Hall committee are addressing the issues by reviewing hire charges, promoting the Hall via a new website and generally trying to make the Hall more attractive as a venue. However, the Parish Council's help is now sought with regard to the new porch, for</p>	

	<p>which plans are being drawn by Duncan Anderson free of charge, and estimates for the building work are being sought. Other ideas for spending the allotment proceeds included cricket nets, and a Village information board. After a general discussion a show of hands was sought as to the support for the Village Hall project, and members were unanimously in favour, on the basis that the Village Hall is the very hub of the Village and must not be allowed to deteriorate – spending money in this way will potentially benefit all residents. A ballpark figure of £8k to £12k was quoted as the likely overall cost. Mr Stokes then undertook to obtain firm quotations and information on any further grants that might be available, upon receipt of which members will then discuss the amount to be allocated. Mr D Jeanes also undertook to contact the Cricket Club inviting them to attend a future meeting to discuss possible support for the installation of cricket nets. The clerk pointed out at this stage that she felt that the balances on the Council's bank accounts were far higher than the auditors would wish to see, and that concerted efforts should now be made to allocate some of the surplus funds wisely. Mr J Edwards rejoined the meeting at 8.57pm. iii) Precept 2007/08: Bearing in mind the funds being held at the bank, it was not felt appropriate to levy any increase in the precept other than a nominal 3% for inflation. (Mr P Stokes left the meeting at 8.50pm).</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 10px;">PS</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 10px;">DJ</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">SK</div>
7.	<p>Planning items: i) Applications decided since last meeting: None. ii) New Applications: 1/45/06/25 Mr G Harrison, erection of single storey extension to SW elevation on land to NW of Crossmoor House, Spaxton – no observations. 1/13/06/36 S Roberts & Sons Ltd, variation of planning permission 1/13/98/020 to allow the continued use of land for storage, crushing and recycling of hardcore at Spaxton Road Bridgwater. Also 1/13/06/37 S Roberts & Sons Ltd, variation of planning permission 1/13/01/021 to allow the continued importation of waste for site restoration purposes for a period of 10 years at Spaxton Road, Bridgwater – Mr B Porter, as an employee of S Roberts & Sons Ltd declared an interest and left the room; however, there were no observations, the general view being that the company provides a necessary service in an exemplary manner. Mr B Porter returned to the room at 9.00pm.</p>	
8.	<p>Correspondence received: Circulated at meeting other than: i) The letter from the Rights of Way team regarding establishing a Community Paths Partnership was handed to Mr J Edwards for action. ii) The letter re the special meeting of the Quantock Parish Cluster group was also handed to Mr J Edwards. iii) Invitations from Aisholt & Merridge Village Hall to their Christmas mince pie and punch evening were handed to Mr M Stevens and Mr V Massey. iv) An article from the National Trust seeking the greater involvement of young people was given to Mr V Hughes.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters of report & items for the next meeting: The clerk could not recall that a letter of thanks had been sent to Kit Barrington for his kind help with the sale of the allotment land, and she was therefore asked to compile and send a note of appreciation.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">SK</div>
10.	<p>Date & time of next meeting: Monday January 8th 2007 at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.</p>	