

# Spaxton Parish Council – Meeting MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at 8:00 pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007 at Spaxton Village Hall.

i)	Members present: The Chairman – Mr D Jeanes, Mr B Porter, Mr J Edwards, Mr P Williams, Mr S Stretton, Mrs D Richards, Mr V Hughes, Mr V Massey & Mr R Adcock.	<b>Action</b>
ii)	District Councillors present: Mr D Joslin.	
iii)	Members of the public present: Mr N Wills.	
	<p>Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session took place, in which Mr N Wills was invited to speak regarding his planning application for the erection of an apiary shed and the change of use from field to garden at Swang Farm Cottages.</p> <p>Mr Wills explained that it is his wish to create a training apiary for the Quantock Beekeeping Association with a view to stabilizing a bee population that is under threat and eradicating various diseases that have been brought in by imported bees.</p> <p>He further explained that he already has planning permission to build the apiary, but that he now wishes to re-site it due to the fact that his neighbours have (illegally) sited 2 caravans close to the location originally proposed, thus rendering it unsafe.</p> <p>At this point members asked the clerk and Mr D Joslin to re-contact the Enforcement Team with a view to securing either the removal of the caravans or the submission of a formal planning application for their retention.</p> <p>The formal meeting then commenced.</p>	
1.	Apologies for absence: Mr M Stevens, Mr K Dyer & Mr J Edney.	<b>SF</b>
2.	Declaration of member's interests: Mr D Jeanes declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Mr Wills' planning application, as a close neighbour. Mr V Hughes declared a personal & prejudicial interest in the planning application submitted by Mr J Harriss & Ms C Chesher, as a close friend.	
3.	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday November 5 <sup>th</sup> 2007 were read and approved.	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>i) Allotments – Mr M Williams had expressed disappointment with the proposed location of the new fence and – having got rid of most of his sheep anyway - had surrendered his grasskeep tenancy. Members were concerned, but felt that if Parish Council funds were to be used to build new fencing, the interests of the allotment holders would have to take priority over the wishes of one individual. There is of course a possibility that someone else might eventually take it on. After further discussion, it was also decided to halve the proposed plot sizes, since new allotment holders may not fully appreciate the work involved in tending 1/8 acre. Mr B Porter will continue to liaise with those who have expressed an interest.</p> <p>ii) Storage of PC records – Mr J Edwards had prepared a list of the types of records that need to be kept, and wished this to be circulated with the next agenda for discussion at the January meeting.</p> <p>iii) Church Path, Spaxton – the need for repair works has been accepted, and this will be carried out within the next 3 months.</p> <p>iv) The clerk had contacted Felix Marsh re. affordable housing, and awaits his reply.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">BP</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">SF</div>
5.	<p>Footpath: SALC: QHJAC: Parish Cluster Reports (as appropriate) – Mr J Edwards reported that good progress is being made with the path survey, and the County Council are generally doing a good job. Mr R Adcock also advised members that the new owner of Luxborough Farm had undertaken to clear the footpath on his land.</p> <p>SALC – Mr J Edwards is unable to attend the meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and Mr V Massey agreed to attend in his place.</p> <p>There had been a recent QHJAC meeting, and Mr J Edwards gave a brief report.</p>	

6.	<p>Financial items:</p> <p>i) Statement of Accounts – current account £1565.48 credit, capital reserve account £20561.66 credit.</p> <p>ii) Cheque no. 419 for £59.00 in favour of the Society of Local Council Clerks re. subscription renewal was agreed.</p> <p>iii) Precept – it was felt that the Parish Council could perhaps be more proactive with regard to local projects, and the clerk had been told that around £2k had had to be spent at Aisholt Village Hall in connection with the provision of an accessible toilet facility for disabled people. It was suggested that the Council might reimburse some of that expenditure, and on the basis of a possible donation of £1000 it was unanimously agreed to submit a precept bid of £4500.</p> <p>iv) A request had been received for a donation of £2000 towards the provision of training facilities within Somerset for potential 2012 athletes. It was felt that the request was excessive in relation to the Council's income, and it was therefore declined.</p> <p>The next item being related to planning matters, Mr D Joslin left the meeting at 8.55pm and did not return.</p>		
7.	<p>Planning items:</p> <p>i) Applications decided since last meeting: as per the December agenda.</p> <p>ii) New Applications: <b>45/07/00027</b> Mr &amp; Mrs N Wills, erection of apiary shed and change of use from field to garden at Swang Farm Cottages, Currypool – Mr D Jeanes left the room at 9pm, and Mr P Williams took the chair. Some confusion was caused by the inclusion in the drawings of a proposed new house on the formerly-agreed site for the apiary. This new house was not mentioned in the written submissions, and indeed had already been refused permission some months ago. Nor could members see any justification for the change of use from field to garden. Further, it was felt that the entire application hinged on the unlawful siting of 2 caravans next door which, if removed, would render this application irrelevant! Surely, therefore, it would be simpler to simply deal with the Enforcement Team regarding the removal of the caravans, unless of course there remained the underlying wish to build the new house. In the light of these anomalies, members voted unanimously to object to the proposal.</p> <p>Mr D Jeanes returned to the room at 9.15pm and resumed the chair.</p> <p>As documents for applications numbered <b>45/07/00028</b> and <b>45/07/00030</b> had not yet been received, discussion was deferred to a later meeting.</p>		
8.	<p>Correspondence received: circulated at the meeting other than:</p> <p>i) SALC agenda – passed to Mr V Massey.</p> <p>ii) Invitation to Punch &amp; Pie Evening at Aisholt – passed to Mr V Massey, as Mr B Porter has already received an invitation.</p>		
9.	<p>Matters of report &amp; items for the next meeting:</p> <p>i) Mr R Adcock had completed the Waste Management Questionnaire.</p> <p>ii) Mr P Williams raised the issue of a new gateway that appeared to have been constructed overnight at Radlett. However, insufficient information was available, and discussion was deferred until the next meeting.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1353 1485 1447 1554">SF</td> </tr> </table>	SF
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10.	<p>Date &amp; time of next meeting: Monday January 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall.</p>		
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.20pm.</p>		