

Spaxton Parish Council – Meeting MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at 8:00 pm on Monday February 4th 2008 at Spaxton Village Hall.

i)	Members present: The Chairman – Mr D Jeanes, Mr J Edwards, Mr V Hughes, Mr S Stretton, Mr B Porter, Mr P Williams and Mrs D Richards.	Action
ii)	District Councillors present: Mr J Edney & Mr D Joslin.	
iii)	Members of the public present: Mr J Deeks, Mrs J Hill, Ms K de Groot, Mr M Maddison, Mr M Roe, Mr T Roe, Mr & Mrs P Thomas, Mr T Moore and Mrs C Jones.	
	<p>Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session was held. On behalf of several members of the public, Ms de Groot opened by expressing disappointment with the way that the land for the new allotments had been allocated and fenced, since it appeared to be inadequate for the number of people wishing to take on an allotment. Mr B Porter explained that in the past there had been problems with a) finding allotment tenants and b) ensuring that the allotments were well-maintained, with the result that the Parish Council had decided to allocate half-plots rather than full plots. Ms de Groot understood the principle behind this, but went on to explain that this decision meant that people opting for a half-plot in the first place had now been cut down to a quarter plot, which would be inadequate for their needs. After further discussion, it was decided that Mr B Porter would liaise with Malcolm Williams to ascertain whether he would be prepared to sacrifice some of his grasskeep land; otherwise, the situation would have to remain until Malcolm Williams' tenancy has expired, namely November 2008. New fencing will be required to accommodate additional plots, and the prospective tenants agreed that this would have to be at their own expense. As an additional point, Mr B Porter asked the tenants to park considerately, bearing in mind that no turning circle is available at the site.</p> <p>Mr R Adcock arrived at 8.18pm, and those members of the public who had attended in order to discuss the allotment issue left the meeting at 8.20pm. Mrs M Thomas then asked to speak regarding the Cannington Cold Stores planning application at Swang Farm. As the closest neighbour to the site, she had objected to the original proposal for various reasons, but was pleased to see that the applicants had made significant amendments as a result of the lobbying made by those opposing the development. She went on to express her support for the new scheme, albeit that such support would be conditional upon certain conditions, such as there being no further development at the site, that feedstock for the generator would not be transported between the hours of 8pm and 7am daily, and that the generator be moved further to the west of the development to reduce noise.</p> <p>Tim Roe was given an opportunity to speak, but had little further to add, although he was pleased that the two sides had reached a consensus.</p> <p>The formal meeting commenced at 8.29pm.</p>	
1.	Apologies for absence: Mr M Stevens, Mr K Dyer.	
2.	Declaration of member's interests: Mr D Jeanes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the planning application at Swang Farm as a friend, close neighbour and Mr T Roe's godfather. In view of the interest of several members of the public present, it was decided to deal with the application straight away, and Mr D Jeanes	

	<p>and Messrs Joslin and Edney left the room at 8.30pm, with Mr P Williams then taking the chair.</p> <p>Mr J Edwards asked that maximum screening be requested in order to minimize the overall visual impact, and it was pointed out that the latest proposals included increased provision for this. Mr V Hughes said that he would like to see the feedstock for the generator coming from local sources, and it was decided to support the scheme, as before, subject to those points being addressed.</p> <p>Messrs Jeanes, Joslin and Edney rejoined the meeting at 8.40pm and Mr D Jeanes resumed the chair.</p>	
3.	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on Monday January 7th 2008 were read and approved.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>i) Affordable Housing – no reply yet from Felix Marsh, and the clerk will therefore email him again.</p> <p>ii) Enforcement matters – the clerk had written as requested to the Enforcement Team regarding the new gate at Radlet and the unauthorized caravans at Currypool, and their reply is awaited.</p> <p>iii) SDC Workshop February 21st – with both the clerk and the Chairman away, Mr P Williams offered to attend.</p> <p>iv) Spaxton Charities – Mr R Adcock reported that the Vicar had located evidence of a suspended bank account with the Charities' funds in it, and is investigating where the account is held. As soon as this is ascertained, a meeting of the trustees will be convened and the Parish Council representatives will be invited.</p> <p>v) Parish Cluster Meeting – this is to be held at Spaxton Village Hall on March 11th. It is expected that the PC will cover the hall hire cost and provide refreshments. The clerk will arrange. Messrs. Williams, Stretton and Edwards advised that they would not be able to attend.</p> <p>vi) Storage of PC records – Mr J Edwards has destroyed all records that do not need to be kept, but has not yet arranged for the storage of the remainder at the Somerset Records Office.</p> <p>vii) Water quality – some other residents have also noticed a problem, although Wessex Water are adamant that it must be due to problems with individual plumbing systems.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">SF</div>
5.	<p>Footpath: SALC: QHJAC: Parish Cluster Reports (as appropriate) – no formal footpath report, although the officers are continuing to patrol the parish footpaths to identify maintenance requirements. Cluster meeting 11/3/08, QHJAC 8/2/08.</p>	
6.	<p>Financial items:</p> <p>i) Statement of Accounts – current account £685.21 cr, capital reserve account £20680.05 cr.</p> <p>ii) To agree payments as necessary – the following payments were agreed: cheque no. 422 for £400.00 in favour of Notice-It Ltd in respect of the new Village noticeboard, cheque no. 423 for £124.50 in favour of Spaxton Village Hall in respect of the hire fee for meetings, cheque no. 424 for £74.96 in favour of S Felstead in respect of new printer cartridges and cheque no. 425 for £75.39 in favour of Wessex Water in respect of the supply to the allotments. This amount is, however, about ten times higher than normal, suggesting perhaps that a water meter is installed, although no one is aware of its location. The clerk was asked to make enquiries of Wessex Water.</p> <p>Mr D Jeanes advised members that he had received a request for financial assistance from Glyn Richards on behalf of the Village Hall committee. At this point Mr J Edwards declared a personal & prejudicial interest as a member of that committee, and left the room at 9pm. Mr Richards' request stems from the fact that once the half-pipe is installed, the Village Hall insurance costs will increase by £300, and he wondered whether the Parish Council would be willing to cover this</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">SF</div>

	<p>increase for the first year. It was proposed by Mr P Williams and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should contribute this sum as a one-off payment, and Mr J Edwards returned to the meeting at 9.03pm.</p> <p>A request had also been received from Aisholt Village Hall for a contribution towards the installation of a disabled toilet at the hall costing in the region of £2500. It was decided to defer this until the March meeting, and in the meantime the clerk was asked to make enquiries as to whether any other grant funding had been sought and, if not, why.</p> <p>Messrs. Joslin and Edney left the meeting at 9.10pm.</p>	SF
7.	<p>Planning items:</p> <p>i) Applications decided since last meeting: as per the agenda.</p> <p>ii) New Applications: 45/07/00022 – Mr & Mrs R Price, internal alterations and replacement windows at Gothelney Hall, Charlynch – no observations.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to ascertain the state of play with regard to the Certificate of Lawfulness at Swang Farm</p>	SF
8.	<p>Correspondence received: circulated at the meeting other than:</p> <p>i) Sedgemoor Area Working Panel – Mr J Edwards is unable to attend and it was decided to ask Mr V Massey if he might be able to go.</p> <p>ii) Parish Flood Fair, February 21 & 22 – Mrs D Richards will try to attend.</p> <p>iii) Appointment of representative to the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group – Mr J Edwards was asked if he wished to stand, and upon his confirmation of the fact was unanimously elected.</p> <p>iv) A letter regarding a Somerset Heritage Event was passed to Josh Schwieso of the Spaxton Society via Mr J Edwards.</p>	
9.	<p>Matters of report & items for the next meeting: Mr D Jeanes reported that the Flower Show committee wished to purchase new trestle tables, and wondered if the PC might place the order so that VAT could be reclaimed. There was uncertainty as to whether such a practice would be considered legal, but there was also queries as to whether this would be a sensible purchase, considering that the new tables would possibly only be used once or twice a year. There was some further discussion, and it was eventually decided to decline. The clerk was asked to write to Sandra Schwieso accordingly.</p> <p>Mr D Jeanes also reported that a further complaint had been received from Ray Stanlake regarding Wessex Water lorries thundering down Charlynch Lane, and the clerk was asked to write to Wessex Water asking them to adhere to their agreement to use the A39.</p>	SF
10.	Date & time of next meeting: Monday 3 rd March 2008 at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall.	SF
	The meeting closed at 9.40pm.	