

# Spaxton Parish Council – Meeting MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held at 8:02pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at Spaxton Village Hall.

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| i)   | Members present: The Chairman – Mr D Jeanes, Mr J Edwards, Mr P Williams, Mr M Stevens, Mr V Hughes, Mr B Porter, Mr V Massey & Mrs D Richards.   | <b>Action</b>   |
| ii)  | District Councillors present: Mr D Joslin.  |   |
| iii) | Members of the public present: Mr S Stretton, Mrs J Rigdon.   |   |
| 1.   | Apologies for absence: Mr K Dyer & Mr J Edney.  |   |
| 2.   | Declaration of member's interests: Mr M Stevens declared a personal interest in planning application no. 1/45/07/0009 as a neighbouring property owner.   |   |
| 3.   | The minutes of the meetings held on Monday April 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Monday April 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2007 were read and approved.   |   |
| 4.   | <p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>i) Affordable housing – a lack of funding means that new projects are now on hold. This is very disappointing, and the clerk was asked to re-contact Felix Marsh to see if there are any prospects of this situation changing in the future.</p> <p>ii) Dog fouling – Mr J Edwards has obtained new notices from SDC, although it is to be noted that these are not for use on private land, but rather are designed to be used on existing street “furniture” such as road signs. Mr D Joslin pointed out that SDC are very keen to prosecute offending dog owners, but require firm evidence in order to do so.</p>  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>SK</b></div>  |
| 5.   | <p>Co-option of Mr S Stretton as a Parish Councillor – this was proposed by Mr J Edwards, seconded by Mr M Stevens and unanimously agreed. Mr S Stretton was therefore duly co-opted and assumed the role of IT officer for the Parish Council. The clerk is to inform SDC.</p> <p>Some councilors handed in their Declarations of Acceptance of Office forms and their Declaration of Member's Interest forms, but others will present these at the next meeting.</p>  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>SK</b></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>ALL</b></div> |
| 6.   | <p>Adoption of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct ) Order 2007 (SI no. 1159) – it was proposed by Mr V Hughes, seconded by Mr S Stretton and unanimously agreed, that the mandatory Model Code of Conduct as is applicable to Parish Councils of 2007 should be adopted with immediate effect with the specific inclusion of paragraph 12(2) – “Effect of prejudicial interests on participation”.</p> <p>Further, it was resolved to amend Standing Orders by deleting SO 58 substituting: “If a member who has declared a personal interest then considers the interest to be prejudicial he shall declare that, and, after making any representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to that business, he must withdraw from the room or chamber for the remainder of the consideration of the item to which the interest relates.”</p> <p>It was also resolved to delete SO 70, substituting “At all meetings of the Council the Chairman will, at a convenient time in the transaction of business, allow any members of the public to make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the matter or business being transacted at that meeting. This opportunity will also apply to any member who is otherwise excluded due to a declared interest as per SO 58”.</p> |   |

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| <p><b>7.</b></p>  | <p>Footpath: SAL: QHJAC: Parish Cluster Reports (as appropriate) – these were circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Mr V Massey would deputise for Mr J Edwards at any SALC meetings that might take place during Mr Edwards’ absence on holiday from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 14<sup>th</sup>.<br/>Team Somerset – there has been discussion about a possible referendum regarding the proposed Unitary Authority, and Mr V Hughes undertook to make the public aware of this via Community News.<br/>With regard to the possible “downgrading” of Village Design Statements, Peter Lacey of SALC is to try and bring this to the attention of Government.</p>  | <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">VH</p>   |
| <p><b>8.</b></p>  | <p>Financial items:<br/>i) Statement of Accounts – these had already been presented at the annual meeting, no further bank statements having been received since the end of the financial year.<br/>ii) The following payment were agreed: cheque no. 408 for £25.00 in favour of the Community Council for Somerset re. membership renewal, cheque no. 409 for £301.19 in favour of Allianz Cornhill re. insurance renewal.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>9.</b></p>  | <p>Planning items:<br/>i) Applications decided since last meeting: as per agenda. Also <b>45/06/00025</b> Mr G Harrison, erection of single storey extension to SW elevation onland to the west of Crossmoor House, Spaxton Road, Bridgwater – permission refused. <b>45/07/00005</b> Clerk to Spaxton Parish Council, erection of single storey extension and porch to east elevation, to form servery, storage and improved access to hall, partly on site of existing (to be demolished) – permission granted.<br/><br/>ii) New Applications: <b>45/07/00007</b> Mrs B Jones, erection of dwelling, farage and formation of access on land to the east of 146 High Street, Spaxton – there was a lengthy debate about whether or not the proposed development fell within the Village development boundary, and it was resolved that clarification needed to be sought. It was also pointed out that this infill development will also close off views of the open hills, which is something that we committed to preserve in the Village Design Statement. <b>45/07/00009</b> Lord de Bear, erection of wind turbine at Cantok, Church Road, Spaxton – Mr M Stevens declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a neighbouring landowner, and left the room. Members expressed concern at the visual impact of the 12m – 14m tall turbine, and also the potential noise. It was decided to ask SDC to carry out an environmental impact study. Mr M Stevens then returned to the room. <b>45/07/00010</b> Mr &amp; Mrs I J W Kett, erection of agricultural building at Gibb Hill, Spaxton – no observations. <b>45/07/00011</b> Wessex Water Engineering Services, removal of 7 x 5m lengths of hedgerow on land between Ashford Reservoir and south of Nether Stowey – Mr D jeans pointed out that some of the hedgerow in question was located on his land, but in any event there were no observations.</p> | <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">SK</p>   |
| <p><b>10.</b></p> | <p>Correspondence received: circulated at the meeting other than:<br/>i) The contents of the letter from Mr P Roberts to the Highways Authority regarding traffic problems at the top of Charlynch Hill were noted.<br/>ii) The letter from SDC regarding the compilation of a list of Buildings of Local Interest was passed to Mr J Edwards, who undertook to forward it to Josh Schwieso and the Spaxton Society.<br/>iii) There were no volunteers for the forthcoming SALC training events.<br/>iv) The QHJAC nomination paper was passed to Mr J Edwards for completion and submission.<br/>v) The SALC questionnaire regarding the Unitary Authority for Somerset was passed to Mr V Hughes for completion.<br/>vi) There were no volunteers to attend the meeting of the Sedgemoor Area Working Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> May.</p>   | <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">JE</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">JE</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">VH</p> |

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| <p><b>11.</b></p> | <p>Matters of report &amp; items for the next meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In accordance with the new Community Involvement guidelines issued with regard to planning, there will be a requirement for a public meeting to be held to discuss the implications of a proposed development by Cannington Cold Stores Ltd. This is a significant development involving the construction of a biodigester plant to create and store energy, and in accordance with the new guidelines the plans are to be offered to the public for comment prior to the submission of a formal planning application. It was decided to hold this meeting on Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> at Spaxton Village Hall, and the clerk was asked to make all the necessary arrangements in conjunction with Mr T Roe and the architect, Mr I Donaldson.</li> <li>2. There had been a few enquiries regarding the availability of allotments, and some concern was expressed as to whether these should now be made available rather than letting the land for grasskeep. It was decided that if a written commitment could be obtained from those enquiring, then a certain number could indeed be made available.</li> </ol> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b>SK</b></p> </div> |
| <p><b>12.</b></p> | <p>Date &amp; time of next meeting: Monday June 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007, both at Spaxton Village Hall.</p>   |   |
|                   | <p>The meeting closed at 9.56pm.</p>  |   |