



## FULL PARISH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

06 February 2023 – 7.30pm

### MINUTES

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllr. Ashton (Chair), Cllr. Murphy, Cllr. Ward, Cllr.Hall (via remote)

**Clerk and RFO:** Mr S Baxter    **Members of the public (MOP):** 0

**Meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

Meeting was held at the SALKO Offices, Main Street, Spaldington. Due to the location, only Parish Councillors were present with no members of the community although a limited amount were welcome. All the community were invited to attend the meeting via the remote function.

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### AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- Welcome to all Councillors.** The Chair will remind all that the meeting is recorded.  
The Chair welcomed all Councillors and any members of the public to the face to face Parish Meeting. He confirmed that while the Councillors and Clerk were present in person, the meeting was also to be streamed via Zoom for other members of the community and press.
- Members of the public participation** – Any questions will be at the discretion of the Chair.  
The Clerk confirmed that there was no members of the public joining on the Zoom connection and there was no members of the public in the meeting room.
- Proposal to exclude members of public from participation** – but can observe  
*For the following agenda points members of the public can observe the meeting but cannot take part in any debate. Any persons not Councillors or the Clerk will be asked to remain silent and muted on Zoom*
  - Motion to exclude any members of the public and press but they can view the meeting was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. Motion carried.***
- Apologies for absence from Councillors**  
Cllr Hall had to attend via remote means due to ill health - this was accepted by the Chair as it was for the benefit of all. The Clerk reminded the Council that while Cllr. Hall could participate in discussions, he was not permitted to vote as this required physical attendance. This would not affect the Council meeting legality as the meeting was quorum.



The Council had received an apology from Cllr Westin who was absent due to personal circumstances.

- *Motion to accept the apologies of Cllr. Westin was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. Motion carried.*

5. **Declarations of interest** – for the Council to note including dispensations presented to the Clerk

The Clerk confirms that there was no declarations of interest made before the meeting.

6. **Minutes of the last Full Parish Council Meeting** (21 Dec 2022) – to formally agree that the minutes are an accurate record

The Chair confirmed that the Clerk had sent the DRAFT Minutes of the last Full Parish Council meeting on the 21 December 2022

There was a discussion between the Councillors to confirm receipt and all stated they were happy it was a true and accurate record of the meeting.

- *Motion to agree the Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting of the 21 December 2022 was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. Motion carried.*

7. **Financial update from the Clerk** (including bank reconciliations) - from the Clerk

The Clerk confirmed that he had sent the recent financial report to the Councillors for their perusal. He confirmed that the report covered the period up to the end of January 2023.

The main budget points on reflection was:

- There has been a VAT reclaim of £535.90 which should be received by the end of February 2023
- Forecasting a surplus in the accounts of £1,617 - this is due to the fact that some items such as winter preparedness has not been needed. There has also been a larger VAT reclaim than anticipated.
- The current reserves stand at £3,516.
- For 2023/24: From the surplus, budgeted reserve and the current reserve the total reserve will be circa £6,633. This would be in excess of the NALC recommended reserve of 50% of the Precept (which would be £5,570). This is only if the elections in May 2023 are uncontested.
- It may be possible for the Council to consider a Community Fund if the elections are not contested.
- The main expenditure of the Clerking cost was estimated to be in deficit due the overtime needed



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The Councillors discussed the financial position of the Council and agreed that the finances are being well managed and that the regular accounts are what is needed. No concerns were raised.

The Council wished to state that while they did feel their diligent approach to the finances of the Parish Council has worked very well, they did wish to congratulate the RFO on their significant and careful management of the finances, the proper recording and the proper advice to the Councillors - all of which has contributed to the current much improved financial situation the council find themselves in as to when the current administration was formed.

- ***Motion to agree the financial report laid by the Clerk to the Council was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. Motion carried.***

## 8. General expenditure for approval - to formally agree that the payments are acceptable:

PAYEE	EXPENDITURE REASON	AMOUNT
Clerk salary and overtime	Contractual for Jan & Feb 2023	Withheld - confidentiality
Clerk's office allowance	Contractual for Jan & Feb 2023	£26.00
Clerk's travel expenses	Meetings - February PC	£24.40
Clerk's expenses	ICO Registration	£40.00
Peninsula insurance	Insurance - Jan & Feb 2023	£116.60 + VAT

The Clerk stated that the ICO cost was for the statutory registration with Information Commissioner Office. The amount is based on the size of the organisation.

Councillors discussed the expenditure in detail as needed. They agreed all expenditure was in order.

- ***Motion to agree the expenditure as detailed in the schedule of payments was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. Motion carried.***

## 9. Planning Applications - to discuss and agree the decision on each

The Clerk stated that there was no new planning applications or any details on updates on previous applications that had been accepted.

There was however updates on previous planning issues raised by the Parish Council:

- i) **Planning Consultation for 22/03930/STVAR Yoke Gate Farm Holme Road Spaldington East Riding Of Yorkshire DN14 7NA**

The Clerk stated that he had received intelligence that numerous building type vehicles had been seen entering the property area that had with them materials that would suggest that the building was commencing. The Clerk stated that he had written to the Planning Enforcement on numerous occasions



to report this intelligence and to strongly request that the Planning Officers undertake an inspection on the property. The response from the Planning Enforcement Officers was that the only work that they saw was the archeological work as needed by the previous conditions set out by the Planning Committee.

The Clerk also confirmed that through a Freedom of Information Request, ERYC Planning had confirmed that there was no correspondence from the developers that confirmed that all the conditions from the previous planning appeal approval had been met. This confirmed that no building work on the current variation to conditions should be commencing as the previous conditions had not been met.

The Council discussed the fact that they had received information from the community that confirmed that huge amounts of building type material, including hardcore and concrete had been seen entering the property area. The Council felt that considering the replay from the Planning Enforcement seeing these type of deliveries did not support just archeological work - it was more likely proper building. There was some fear that some work on laying concrete may be being actioned contrary to the permissions allowed.

The Council also discussed the entrance to the property and the safety of vehicles entering and exiting, but also the effect of a member of the community who may, through the work done on the entrance / exit, would lose their main access and thus may only enter their property through a building site to which they have no control.

The Council discussed in detail the fact that there was still very concerned about the historical issues about what is buried at that property - possibly commercial waste or metallic items.

Overall the Council felt that this development was not in the best interests of the community and that the Planning Enforcement could and should take a closer look at the overall work to assess legitimacy, but also that the Planning Team should reject the variation of planning, and insist that a full planning application is submitted.

**Action: The Clerk would write to the Planning Team and Planning Enforcement to ascertain the legality and appropriateness of the access issue, as well as the continued intelligence being received on the work being done.**

**ii) Planning Consultation for 22/03677/VAR Sandwood Fields Spaldington Road Spaldington East Riding Of Yorkshire DN14 7NF.**

The Clerk has noted that the email that was sent to the Planing Team (as access could not be gained to the portal) has not been added to the portal comments. The issues raised the severe concerns the Council had in



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regard to the increase in the containers (which would blight the area) and that the removal the conditions should be rejected and that a new planning application should be insisted.

The Council again discussed the issues raised and that it was felt that as the Highways Team had noticed and raised the issue of the area for the vehicles, and that there was contrary information from the applicant to what the local community was aware of, a full new planning application should be made.

Overall it feared that the applicant was getting permission for a lower usage type of operation, but then would use the property for a large scale HGV maintenance area requesting retrospective sought permissions.

**Action: The Clerk would write to the Planning Team and Planning Enforcement to ascertain the current issues raised by the Parish Council previously.**

## 10. Boom Solar Panel Development Chair Advisory Group formation - updates and decision on action

The Chair confirmed that he had attended various meetings of the community and the local Parish Council Chairs. The minutes for the meeting were distributed to the Councillors for their note.

In response to some questions being posed to the Councillors, the Council wished to state the following:

*While it has been noted that some members of the local community or further afield may feel disappointed that the Spaldington Parish Council have not categorically been against the solar farm development, the Council have rightly taken a decision to wait for the actual planning application before a formal stance of the Parish Council is taken by the Councillors after a proper analysis and review . They do wish it noted that while some members of the community do wish to protest as strongly as possible against the development (as they are perfectly entitled to), some members of he community are not against the proposed development and thus it would be irresponsible for the Spaldington Parish Council to take a position on the development when not all the details of the planned development are known, as well as the fact that the actual planning application has not been submitted.*



*A significant element of proper Parish Council management is not to predetermine any issues before the Parish Council Meetings and before all the information is known. If the Councillors did this it would be abject rejection of proper Parish Council obligations as per legislation.*

*The Council also wish the community and the stakeholders further afield to know that the Council has written several times to the proposed developer with many, and detailed concerns of the current known plan details specifically the effect on the local Spaldington community as well as possible detrimental issues that may last for many generations. The Councillors have undertaken this to ensure that when the formal planning application is made, the Planning Committee, both local and national, are aware of the many concerns raised and can be conscious of these when reviewing the application.*

*The Council have received a response from the developer and their representatives of the concerns raised by Spaldington Parish Council. They have also been in regular contact with the local Member of Parliament to*







*ensure that if/when this planning issue gets to a national planning regulator, the interests and concerns of the affected local communities are properly represented.*

*The Council feel that staying neutral until all the detail is known after the formal planning application is submitted is the proper way forward, which then will allow a proper, detailed and appropriate conclusion on the stance that the Spaldington Parish Council will take.*

## **11. Discussion on dykes and impact of drainage in the village - discussion on updates**

The Chair confirmed that he had been made aware that there had been a lot of activity in regard to drainage and the use dykes - this showed that the pressure that the Council is putting on the drainage boards to ensure these drainage operations in the community work as well as needed.

The Councillors discussed this issue and agreed that while this was good news in regard to the proper use of the dykes, there was still work to be done to ensure dykes in the community area property cleared.

## **12. Newsletter - discussion and agreement**

The Clerk confirmed that work was being done on a new newsletter for the community which will be the last one before the elections in May 2023. The newsletter would allow the community and council appreciate the successes that the community had achieved over the last few years. It was anticipated that the newsletter would be ready for distribution in early March 2023.

## **13. Vehicles on C88 in Spaldington (ERYC weight limit proposal) - update from Clerk**

The Clerk updated the Council on the recent communication from ERYC Planning Team in regard to the concerted (and historical) campaign of the Parish Council to get a weight limit installed on the C88. The clerk confirmed that there had been many emails from the Council to the Planning and Highways team in regard to the deterioration of the roadway - possibly through the continued and extensive use of the road by very large HGV and industrial vehicles on a road not designed to handle such regular traffic.

After the meeting in September 2022 with the developers of the very large Howden development, it was agreed that they would support a C88 weight limit request by SPC to the Planners at ERYC.

The Clerk confirmed that from the campaign to the Highways and Planners, they had now agreed that once the major roadway in Howden was finished, the Planners would ensure that as part of the overall planning development permission, they would instigate a weight limit on the C88 (but there would be a permission for local traffic). In the time during the construction of the roadway in Howden, there would be an agreed Traffic Plan for the construction traffic which would route these vehicles away from the C88.

The Councillors agree this was a major success and something that the community had been petitioning for many years. They Council agreed that the Clerk should be heavily praised for the work in the campaign and that it was down to his hard work to get this installed.



## 14. Village entrance signage - discussion on options and going forward

The Clerk confirmed that he had received an update from the Planning Team in regard to the installation of the village welcome sign. The Planners has stated that the Council may not need pre-planning advice and would need to speak to the Highways Team to ensure that it meets the necessary guidance. It was felt that this is issue was being passed from one section to another but it would be clarified.

The Council agreed that he project did need to be started sooner rather than later and it may be worth contacting other Parish Councils who had installed such signage for advice on how they managed this project and the necessary legislation that needed to be complied with.

**Action: The Clerk would contact the various Parish Councils as detailed to get the necessary guidance on how to proceed with the signage and then report to the next Parish Meeting.**

## 15. Telephone Box - decision going forward

The Councillors discussed the long term usage of the telephone box now that the full refurbishment was nearly complete. They thanked Cllr Murphy and his team for the work and agreed it was a great asset for the community. They also wished to note that the use of the telephone box for Christmas decorations looked very good and helped to improve the seasonal look of the village.

They also confirmed that the long term management and usage of the telephone box would now need to be settled to ensure that the asset was managed carefully to ensure it is kept for the next generation.

The Councillors agreed that subject to the necessary conditions being agreed, they would like to accept the request from CIC to manage the telephone box and coordinate the use. The conditions were mostly around the proper usage, no stickers, that the board with the history of the telephone box refurbishment not be hindered, no advertising and to ensure that the telephone box was used in a community positive way.

It was agreed that this permission would be reviewed annually to ensure that it was used as considered proper.

- *Motion to agree the annually reviewed permission for the CIC to manage the Telephone Box was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. Motion carried.*

**Action: The Clerk would write to the CIC to confirm acceptance of the request subject to the conditions as discussed at the Parish Meeting.**

## 16. Help for Households from ERYC - update from the Clerk

The Clerk state that he had received various posters from ERYC detailing the help that ERYC were offering to some members of the community experiencing difficulty in the current economic times. This was to be placed in the village noticeboard.



## 17. Elections and purdah for Parish Councils - recommendation and guidance

The Clerk confirmed that as the elections for the Parish Council (to be held in May 2023) meant that the likely period of purdah would begin around the end of March 2023. The period of purdah is when the Council can continue its normal operations but cannot instigate any major piece of work which may be considered affecting the electorate's viewpoint of the Councillors. This is to ensure that the Council elections are done properly with no undue influence from actions of the Council near the elections.

The Clerk confirmed that the newsletters must be distributed before the period of purdah begins as to be not be seen, or acting contrary to the spirit of purdah.

The Clerk would update the Councillors once more information from ERYC - not only on the purdah period but also the election details for the Councillors.

## 18. Urgent or important correspondence (incl. Precept confirmation)- update from the Clerk

The Clerk stated that he had received confirmation from ERYC of receipt and implementation of the Spaldington Precept which was agreed at the Parish Council meeting on the 21 December 2022.

## 19. Parishioner concerns relayed to Councillors - any update from Councillors from Parishioners

The Councillors made all aware that the following was brought to their attention:

i) *There was a big deterioration in the pot holes in Main Street, Spaldington*

The Councillors confirmed that the amount and size of the potholes in the Main Street was getting significantly worse and could become hazardous.

**Action: The Clerk would write to the Highways team to request that this issue was reviewed and the necessary work was done to fix the road.**

ii) *There was a big deterioration in amount of rubbish being left in the lay-by at the junction of the C88 and the A614. This was despite the provision of the bins.*

The Councillors confirmed that the amount of the rubbish being left was again causing it not only be an environmental issue but was also an eye sore.

**Action: The Clerk would write to the Highways team to request that this issue was reviewed and the necessary work was done to clear the rubbish.**

iii) *There was a big concern over the safety of the roadway near Chestnut Farm on the A164*

The Councillors discussed the issues with multiple and very serious safety issues and subsequent accidents near the Chestnut Farm - historically this had resulted in the property and the gardens





being breached. The reason being is that there is no crash barrier protection and the road is near the fence and then if any car lost control near that area, it would breach the fence and possibly hit the actual property. The Councillors agreed that this needed closer attention by the Highways Team to ensure that anything that can be done, is done.

**Action: The Clerk would write to the Highways team to request that this issue was reviewed and the necessary work was done to consider safety barriers or other safety provisions.**

## 20. To agree the date of the next Full Parish Council Meeting – 7.30pm Monday, 13 March 2023.

The Clerk recommended that the date of the next PC meeting should held on the 13 March 2023 to allow for the annual leave of the Clerk during February.

The Councillors discussed the recommendation and agreed the date for the next meeting.

- *Motion to agree the next Full Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 7.30pm at the SALKO Offices with members of the public joining as well as a the meeting being shared by a remote digital means was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. Motion carried.*

## 21. Proposal to exclude members of public for the following agenda point due to confidentiality

*For the following agenda points members of the public cannot take part in any debate. Any persons not Councillors or the Clerk will be asked to leave due to confidentiality.*

- *Motion to exclude any members of the public and press was proposed, seconded and agreed unanimously. Motion carried.*

## 22. Vexatious communication update and recommendation

The detail of the agenda point is considered confidential and thus was held in a closed session. The detail of the discussion and motion would be recorded in a separate report.

## 23. Staffing leave

The detail was confidential but the staffing leave was approved. It was confirmed that for any annual leave the email would have an out of office message and request anything urgent to be sent to the Chair.

**MEETING WAS CLOSED BY THE CHAIR AT 9.05PM.**



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