



Minutes of the Meeting of Spratton Parish Council

held on **Tuesday 19th January 2016** in the **Upstairs Function Room, The King's Head, Manor Road, Spratton** at **7:30pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllrs: John Hunt, Harry Mallinder, Janine Spence, Jay Tindale and Paul Vellam (5 members)

In attendance: Sue Porter, Interim Clerk/RFO and 13 members of the public.

01.16 Opening Procedures – Julian Gaywood handed in his resignation and left the Parish Council with immediate effect. He thanked the Parish Councillors for all their hard work and confirmed that he will continue as Snow Warden.

02.16 Open Forum – Mr Cox from Yew Tree Lane spoke with regards to the planning application for No 21 and also the tree removal. Experts have confirmed that there is no risk to the public from this tree. He thanked the Parish Council for their support in objecting to the planning application to have this removed. 8 trees have already been felled on this land in the past year.

Mrs Symons – Concerns have been raised at a previous meeting as to the declarations of interest from tenants of the Gaywood family, P Vellam sought clarification from D Moody (NCALC), who confirmed that these are not significant. Parish Councillors only need to declare their home address on their Register of Interests, but details of whom they rent the property from need not be declared unless an item involving the landowner is on the Agenda, at that time the Interest can be declared and recorded. She also pointed out that the election campaign undertaken by Julian Gaywood was not unfair, as the entire village was actually approached.

03.16 Resolution to approve apologies for absence – G Bandy (hospital), B Blowfield (prior engagement), C Chivers (work), J Thomas (holiday) – J Spence proposed that these apologies are accepted, seconded by J Hunt and all voted in favour.

04.16 Members' declarations of interests/dispensation requests for relevant items on the Agenda – Nil

05.16 Resolution to sign and approve Minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 17th November 2015 and 15th December 2015 – J Hunt proposed that these minutes are signed as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman, seconded by H Mallinder and all voted in favour.

06.16 Matters arising from previous Minutes

a) Update on Spratton Bus Services – There is a new bus timetable, this is currently running correctly. The bus stop will continue to publish the number of the contact should the bus not turn up or be running late. J Tindale will check these are still posted at the bus stop.

b) Off to a Flying Start – Training Session from Danny Moody, NCALC. The Clerk will obtain suitable dates from the new councillors and discuss with D Moody.

07.16 Updates from Committees/Advisory Groups:

a) Resources (Staffing and Strategy) – The draft precept has been prepared by J Tindale and passed to all the councillors. The interviews for the Clerk have taken place and will be discussed in the closed meeting later.

b) Planning – No committee meeting has been held this month.

c) Churchyard, Cemeteries & Open Spaces (CCOS) – "An informal meeting had been held to discuss the new fee burial fee increases, which had previously been circulated to the members of the Council for any comments.

J Hunt proposed that these were accepted, J Tindale seconded and all voted In favour. J Hunt reported that there is an overhanging hedge from Sandhills to the High Street.

It was agreed that the resident would be notified with a short timescale to action as he had been notified of the problem on a previous occasion.



If the resident is elderly or disabled, then the Parish Council would consider paying for this to be undertaken, otherwise the resident would be required to pay. B Blowfield was given permission to post details of funerals/weddings on the parish noticeboard and a key will be supplied."

- d) Highways – P Vellam advised that maintenance will be provided from NCC later in the year, subject to funding. Potholes in Haynes Lane and Manor Road have already been reported to Street Doctor.
- e) Natural Spratton (Incorporating Spratton Pocket Park and Jubilee Wood) – J Hunt advised that a Woodlands Trust application has been submitted for new saplings (preferably hawthorn or blackthorn) to create a hedge beside Jubilee Wood, this will fill in alongside the oak saplings which were planted last Autumn.
- f) Street Lighting – P Vellam reported that the street light outside 17 Smith Street is out again. J Hunt reported that the light outside the Scout Hut in Yew Tree Lane was also out. The Clerk will report these to Peacocks for attention.
- g) Community Wellbeing & Engagement – There has been no committee meeting as yet, but J Spence stated that the idea is for the Parish Council to work together and provide support for the village groups, by the way of fundraising events and projects. There were several points put forward by J Spence and discussed with J Tindale, who as Chair of Resources Committee, stated that the idea of community support was a good one but the financing of it would have to be discussed at a future date.

08.16 Business

- a) Tree donation for East View Cemetery – A local resident has offered a donation of a tree for the cemetery in memory of her late husband. It is proposed that this is planted where the cherry trees were felled. A fee of £50.00 will be payable. All voted in agreement of this proposal.
- b) Spratton Youth Club – J Tindale advises that the Youth Club wishes to devolve from the Parish Council and set up a bank account of their own. The Parish Council would release the funds currently held for them. J Spence states the Parish Council should still continue to support the facility within the village.
- c) Lunch Club – J Tindale advises that the Lunch Club would also like to devolve from the Parish Council. The monies to be transferred to the account of Café Doris. They are already fundraising through events and have received grants.
- d) Finalise and Approve Precept for 2016/17 – No agreement was reached. The Clerk will request an extension from DDC Resources and then arrange an extraordinary meeting for the full council to determine the final precept total for 2016/17.
- e) NALC - The External Auditor has been abolished from 2017 and the Parish Councils will need to appoint their own Auditor from then. The service supplied by the Sector Led Body will be provided and all councils will be opted in by default, but the choice is available. J Hunt proposes that Spratton PC remain opted in, J Spence seconded and all voted in favour.

09.16 Finance

Payments to be made since 15th December 2015: It was proposed by J Spence, seconded by H Mallinder and all voted in favour to pay the following accounts:

Chq No 2935 J Pye – Greenwork/Maintenance	£ 439.20
Chq No 2936 S Barnett – Cemetery Hedge Cutting	£ 200.00
Chq No 2937 S Porter – December Clerk's Salary	£ 590.50
Expenses (Jan 2016)	£ 37.80
Chq No 2938 P A Designs – Digitisation and presentation of burial records in Excel format	£ 534.00
Chq No 2939 Autela – Parish Payroll Q3 2015/16	£ 30.00
Chq No 2940 HMRC – PAYE Q3 2015/16	£ 443.98
Chq No 2941 G Ashton – Youth Club Expenses	£ 219.74

Current bank balance £ 64,944.44



10.16 Planning

DA/2015/0991 (AMENDED) – Reserved Matters Application for one dwelling - Land Adjacent Yew Tree Cottage, 21 Yew Tree Lane, Spratton, NN6 8HL

The Parish Council continue to object as before, with the additional comment that this development is outside the settlement boundary. The Parish Council fully supports the objections raised by the neighbouring properties.

DA/2015/1124 – Revised scheme for a detached house and detached garage – Land Adjacent to 19 Holdenby Road, Spratton, NN6 8JD

This is an over development of the site and the parking is still inadequate. The Parish Council fully supports the objections raised by the neighbouring properties.

It was mentioned by a member of the public that when a Spratton application is on the Agenda at the DDC Planning Committee Meeting, the Parish Council should send a representative to speak.

11.16 Other Business

- a) Village Hall Committee – Paul Vellam will attend the AGM as the new representative from the Parish Council.
- b) Welcome Packs – J Hunt is preparing a welcome pack and is looking for organisations and businesses to submit their details. All help and suggestions will be welcomed. J Spence offered to assist with this project.

12.16 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 16th February 2016 at 7:30 pm

Confidential Business - Meeting Closed for the Public & Press

13.16 Recruitment of Clerk/RFO

There were 7 applications for the position and 2 interviews took place. The most suitable candidate is an experienced Clerk, and with quite a few new councillors, this is essential. It was proposed that Gordon Poole is appointed and all voted in favour. The handover week for the Clerk will commence Monday 25th January. There will be a smartphone, laptop and printer purchased and it was agreed by all that this is deemed necessary. It was also discussed about the possibility of appointing a Deputy Clerk on a part time basis to assist, and reduce the mileage costs (which are currently 65p per mile).

Meeting Closed: 9:10pm

Chairman Signature..... Dated:.....