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Draft Minutes of a Meeting of Spratton Parish Council

Held on **Tuesday 15th March 2016** in the **Brasserie 23, The King's Head, Manor Road, Spratton at 7.30pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Cllrs: Graham Bandy, Craig Chivers, Janice Holmes, John Hunt, Harry Mallinder, Jay Tindale, Paul Vellam and newly co-opted member Sally Wilkes (8 members)

In attendance: Emma Gibson, Parish Clerk/RFO, Daventry District Councillor John Shepherd and over 10 members of the public.

29.16 Open Forum –

- a) Cllr G Bandy introduced to the public the new member co-opted onto the council Mrs Sally Wilkes. Cllr G Bandy welcomed Emma Gibson the new Clerk/RFO to the Council. Cllr J Hunt advised that he was recording the meeting in addition to the clerk.
- b) David Bennett addressed the council regarding the Spratton Festival. He informed them he had sent an e-mail advising them of this and wanted to see who may like to become involved. He outlined that he hoped there would be a week of events including a concert in the church. He is hoping that there will be county media coverage and has been in contact with the local schools to get their participation. He would like the community, youth of the community and Parish Council involved. Cllr G Bandy advised that this maybe for the Council's Community Engagement sub-committee to look at involving the youth in the community.
- c) George Matts addressed the council regarding an item on the Agenda relating to his property concerning the trees at Home Farm. It was agreed by G Matts and Cllr G Bandy to defer his comments to when this matter was discussed as per the Agenda.
- d) Chris Saul raised the village clean up happening this weekend. He requested volunteers. The Council and Chris discussed the availability of keys to enable Chris to look at what supplies and equipment the village has to help with the clean-up. Cllr J Tindale advised she was waiting for Cllr B Blowfield's return so they could determine what keys they had for where. It was agreed that Barry would, in the meantime, give Chris the keys to enable him to look at what supplies the village already has. Cllr J Tindale requested Barry return the keys to the Council after this. Chris asked if Daventry DC could supply any bags, or if the council had any already. Chris stated he is providing refreshments at 12/12.30pm at the WI Hall instead of the church. There will be prizes for the children. Chris advised that in the past the Council had contributed £200/£250. He requested this be looked up and confirmed.
- e) J Gaywood addressed the council regarding the last Rec Committee meeting and his concerns about the Inspectors report about the community centre. Cllr J Hunt responded that it was out of SPC hands and the drawings that were at the last meeting were from Daventry Council. J Gaywood stated that people should be made aware of the danger of lifting all of the protected open green space. He stated that the last Rec Committee meeting was cancelled and he wanted to call an emergency meeting. J Gaywood said that Cllr J Hunt was just repeating what he has previous said. Cllr J Hunt advised that he received J Gaywood's letter and some of the points have been previously dealt with. Cllr J Hunt

explained his view on the plan regarding the green space and that he did not agree with J Gaywood's views. J Gaywood quoted from the Inspector's report and requested some of it was read out to the public. Cllr G Bandy read aloud to the public Part 4 of the report. Cllr J Hunt stated that the piece to be removed is within the settlement boundary and asked everyone to refer to the plan. Will advised the Rec Committee should meet next week.

f) Cllr G Bandy thanked J Gaywood and Cllr J Hunt for their in-put.

30.16 Resolution to approve apologies for absence – Cllr J Spence illness. Cllr P Vellam proposed to accept Cllr J Spence's apologies, Cllr C Chivers seconded. With all votes in favour, it was agreed that the apologies for Cllr Spence's absence were accepted. Cllr B Blowfield's apologies previously given.

31.16 Members' declarations of interests/dispensation requests for relevant items on the Agenda: Nil

32.16 Resolution to sign and approve Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th February 2016 – The minutes were amended to ensure Cllr Paul Vellam was spelt correctly throughout. Cllr P Vellam proposed minutes to be signed and approved, Cllr J Holmes seconded. All voted in favour and minutes were therefore approved.

33.16 Matters arising from previous Minutes -The members of each committee need to be clarified.

34.16 Updates from Committees/Advisory Groups

- a) **Resources (Staffing and Strategy)** – Cllr J Tindale advised there is an issue with an invoice regarding a former Clerk's pension scheme. The monthly accounts spreadsheets need possible redrafting.
- b) **Planning** – Cllr P Vellam raised planning application DA/2016/0160 regarding the removal of a preservation order on a tree. Applicants want to remove the tree for access. The residents have not yet been approached by the council to discuss. Any comments are due by 30th March 2016. Clerk confirmed she has requested an extension to the deadline for the Council's comments until after the next council meeting. The extension has been agreed until 20th April 2016.
- c) **Churchyard, Cemeteries & Open Spaces (CCOS)** – Church footpath resurfacing repairs; Cllr J Hunt outlined where repairs were needed and possible options of quotes discussed. Cllr P Vellam advised that in his opinion the Church footpath was not within the responsibility of SPC, but should be the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council, as the church should be responsible for their access. Cllr P Vellam also stated that he felt the Church wall should be the Church's responsibility also. Cllr G Bandy stated that the Parochial Parish Council should be approached and advised of the SPC's views. Cllr G Bandy proposed to discuss with Parochial Parish Council, Cllr P Vellam seconded. 6 Councillors voted in favour, 1 against. Cllr J Hunt advised he voted against as he already is of the opinion it is SPC's responsibility. Cllr J Holmes will approach a local vicar for advice on an informal basis. District Councillor J Shepherd advised that in his view if it was a closed churchyard it is the responsibility of DDC or SPC. Cllr P Vellam stated that closure of a churchyard has to go through the Privy Council. J Shephard DDC said that if it is closed for burial then responsibility passes to SPC. Cllr G Bandy asked if there was any paperwork which showed SPC responsible. Cllr J Hunt replied that he had had lengthy discussions and correspondence with the Peterborough Diocese at the time the church wall fell down which resulted in £8,000 being reimbursed to the SPC and an agreement as to the formal handing over of responsibility of the maintenance of the churchyard to the SPC. Cllr G Bandy said he felt it was worth looking into to see if the footpath is not considered part of the actual churchyard.
- d) **Highways** – Cllr P Vellam – advised there is to be a road closure on Brixworth road.

Cllr G Bandy read Mr Colin Bromley's e-mail regarding parking on Holdenby Road. Mr Bromley was complaining about the council's lack of communication and failure to attend a meeting with him and Highways arranged by the former Clerk S Porter. Cllr G Bandy formally apologised to the Parish and Mr Bromley. He explained that he had not been attending everything at present due to serious ill health. The other councillors on the Highways committee stated that they did not receive S Porter's e-mail regarding the meeting. Clerk confirmed the e-mail was in interim Clerk's send box on the Clerk's e-mail account. Council stated the resolution regarding missing e-mails will be that going forward the Clerk will number the e-mails sent to the Councillors, so they are aware if they do not receive one. Cllr P Vellam advised that parking on the verge was not within SPC's remit but rather the Police, District and County Council. He acknowledged it was wrong however SPC has no power in relation to this. Confirmed three letters had been sent to residents on this road regarding parking and they had received no response. Cllr J Hunt stated he would have liked to have attended the meeting with Mr Bromley. Cllr J Hunt had spoken to Highways regarding this matter and their only involvement would be regarding dropped curbs, and the police will only become involved if there is an offence. Cllr J Hunt stated he would like to communicate to Mr Bromley that the council have looked into the matter and unfortunately have no power in relation to this, but they will once again write to the residents.

Cllr J Tindale stated she had been contacted by Mrs Yvonne Holmes from Sandhills regarding parking on the verges there when there is hardstanding available. Cllr P Vellam advised that area comes under DCC so she should contact them. Cllr G Bandy concurred there was little SPC could do. Cllr P Vellam proposed that some councillors knock on people's doors in Holdenby Road with the letter to then hopefully discuss it with the residents. Cllr G Bandy agreed. Cllr P Vellam and Cllr J Hunt agreed to deliver letters and discuss with residents.

- e) **Natural Spratton (Incorporating Spratton Pocket Park and Jubilee Wood)** – Cllr J Hunt advised Jim Pye, village handyman, has referred to him a gravestone in pocket park which is unsafe. Mr Pye pushed it over and there was a question as to whether it should go back up, be moved, or placed on the ground? Cllr J Hunt thinks it should go back up. Cllr G Bandy stated a gravestone should not have been knocked over and should be restored somehow. Cllr J Hunt proposed Council should get some estimates for this, Cllr C Chivers seconded. All council voted in favour. J Gaywood stated he and Will were qualified to do the work so if SPC pay material costs they would provide the labour for free. Cllr G Bandy thanked them for this offer and stated it should be looked at and taken from there. Cllr J Hunt advised there was a session on Jubilee Wood last week he had put posters around the village which were taken down. A hedge had been planted and some maintenance undertaken He appealed for more participation from the community and stated the wood was looking nice.
- f) **Street Lighting** – Cllr P Vellam stated nothing to report. Cllr J Hunt said there was a corner light out in village opposite Sauls. Cllr J Hunt stated more generally D Cooke should be an expert advisor and the street light committee so should get a strategy in place and do a report. Cllr P Vellam stated the last Clerk was looking into this but it never got finished. The paperwork for this maybe at Daventry Council. Cllr J Tindale informed Council that calling Peacocks out for maintenance was roughly costing £500 per month.
- g) **Community Wellbeing & Engagement** – Cllr J Spence- absent due to illness. Spratton Festival as discussed earlier.

35.16 Business

- a) **Home Farm Wall** – George Matts, owner of Home Farm, thanked Councillors for their work on council. He recently has moved to village and is disappointed his home was being discussed on Agenda. He would have preferred an informal discussion if there were concerns. G Matts stated he was aware a member of the public had written to the council about their concerns. The trees were not prime trees and were not safe as damaging the wall. G Matts assured everyone he is

concerned for and aware of wildlife and nature. G Matts stated he has no intention to knock down the wall or his house. He wants to reside there. Mr Matts extended invitation to concerned Parishioners to talk to him directly. Cllr C Chivers agreed village issues should generally be discussed more informally before appearing on Agenda. Cllr J Hunt confirmed he had spoken to G Matts about the situation and confirmed G Matts comments.

- b) **Spratton Neighbourhood Plan**- No change to timetable, might come to a referendum that could be in July. Councillor Shepherd stated he had not seen the Inspector's report and checked with Cllr J Hunt the outline of the strip of land and settlement boundary as discussed earlier during the public forum.
- c) **Glebelands Rats** – Public stated there are rats everywhere. Daventry District Council have visited. Cllr P Vellam stated Cllr J Spence was at the meeting and had said that Daventry Council are doing what they can. However, there might be a cost. Cllr P Vellam stated clarification should be sought over the cost.
- d) **Lime Trees Welford Road** – Cllr J Hunt confirmed this was raised by D Cooke via e-mail. Two trees had been knocked over. Jim Pye has repaired them. The hedge cutter doesn't want the trees there as tractor struggles to get through. Cllr J Hunt has over 100 crab-apple trees left over from the hedge that has been planted and 50/60 of the trees are to be used to fill the hedge on Brixworth road. Cllr J Hunt proposed to use a few of the remaining trees to continue the lime trees line with the crab-apple trees but would need highways permission to do it. Cllr J Tindale seconded, all voted in favour. Cllr J Hunt to consider of necessary to write to highways with a plan and proposal.

8.55pm - C Chivers left the meeting.

36.16 Finance

Payments made since 18/02/2016

Chq No 2947 – Café Doris Coffee Shop – Release of funds - £485.64

Chq No 2948 – J Pye – Greenworks – January 2016 - £91.60

Chq No 2949 – S Porter – Clerks Salary/Expenses February 2016 - £663.30

Bank Balance (as of 29/02/2016) - £ 58,157.64

37.16 Planning

DA/2016/0070 – St Andrew's Church, Church Road, Spratton. Provisional Application - to reinstate a hundred-year-old footpath which leads to a seating area, and to make the footpath suitable for wheel-chair users. Funding for this not yet agreed. Councillor Shephard stated that this application should get planning permission. Cllr J Hunt asked if the surface could meet the other surface as near as possible. Cllr G Bandy asked if there would be any disturbance to graves. It was confirmed there would not be any disturbance and that anything that is found is reburied. Confirmed will not be funded by SPC. No objections raised.

DA/2016/0131 – Replacement storage building - Standhills, Holdenby Road, Spratton. - No objections raised.

Planning Permission Refusal

DA/2015/1136-Remove Tree subject of TPO DA104 – Yew Tree Cottage, 21 Yew Tree Lane, Spratton- Tree to stay. Planning permission refused.

38.16 Correspondance

a) **DDC Consultation - Northampton Northern Orbital Road** – Cllr G Bandy explained the outline of the road. Cllr J Hunt confirmed it was for each councillor to look at and consider individually. Councillor Shephard stated it was a County Consultation and there was an online response form if

anyone wanted to respond see the website for options. Cllr G Bandy raised with J Shepherd Daventry's low recycling rates and how this could be improved. Cllr J Shepherd advised there is also a consultation on this issue at Daventry Council website as the current contract is coming to an end.

b) Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons- Councillors advised by Clerk there was an email sent to them regarding this from the guides. Clerk to re-send email.

c) Brixworth Road Closure - Mervyn Lambert Plant have requested that the road is closed for up to five days to allow the installation of a new gas connection between Yew Tree Lane and Oldehall Close. It is expected that these works will commence on the 11th April 2016. Cllr J Tindale raised query that if the road is closed could other work which is needed on the road been done? Cllr P Vellam stated this would not be possible as work would already have been planned and was a County Council responsibility.

39.16 Other Buisness

- **Litter Pick Village Hall Sunday 12pm**, notices will be placed around the village.
- **Defibulators** – Cllr J Hunt is looking into training for the defibulators and will message the necessary person regarding this.
- Cllr G Bandy thanked Barry Ward for all his help and hardwork seeting up the room prior to council meetings.
- ***Reminder* – Training Session – Monday 21st March 7pm – Brasserie 23, The Kings Head**

40.16 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 7:30pm.

Signed: Emma Gibson Clerk/RFO

Meeting Closed: 9.14pm

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