

**Spaldwick Parish Council – Minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held
On Thursday 15th January 2026**

Venue: Spaldwick Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School

Present:

Chair S Jackson-Rimmer (SJR)
Vice-Chair W Burcham (WB)
Councillors P Scrutton (PS), S Parfrey (SP), G Rice (GR), F Ferrero (FF), District/County Councillor
I Gardener (IG), S Phillips (Clerk)
Public Members 2

26/1/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance

Apologies received and accepted from L White.

26/1/2 Declarations of Interests for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)

None.

26/1/3 To Receive and Approve Minutes of the Meeting of Spaldwick Parish Council on 11th December 2025.

Proposed by Cllr SJR, seconded by Cllr FF, carried unanimously.

26/1/4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

26/1/5 Public Open Forum

Cllr Lynne Pinn from Alconbury Parish Council attended to discuss Brampton Cross working group (now to be called North Huntingdon Growth Cluster).

Cllr I Gardener reported the following: Councillors have voted to continue with district council elections for May 2026, decision pending from the government. Parish councils are unaffected by the decision and will go ahead as normal. *Delivery of the new food waste bins has commenced to households, with the new service commencing on 30th March 2026. *The Garden Waste Subscription Service is open for renewals from 01 April 26 to 31 March 27. *Local Plan to 2046 update Preferred Options Consultation. The Preferred Options Draft Local Plan consultation closed on 17th December. Comments received from stakeholders and statutory consultees will be processed and reviewed further as technical evidence will be gathered to inform the Proposed Submission Local Plan. *It is anticipated that the council will consult on the Proposed Local Plan submission in Summer 26. You can view the responses to the Preferred Options Draft Local Plan to 2046 and the Sustainability Appraisal on HDC's Online Consultation Portal. *Fencing is being installed to separate the Busway from the Maintenance track/the active travel route that runs alongside the busway. This is a commitment to Health & Safety on the Busway. Travel times on the Busway have increased whilst this work is implemented. People are reminded whilst this work is proceeding, they should keep to the maintenance track and only cross at formal crossing points. *Solar powered EV Charging points are now available at the St Ives Park & Ride site. Nine Chargers 22kw chargers have been installed, 8 of which are available for everyone to use with the ninth charger designated for disabled drivers. The chargers use renewable energy produced by solar panels mounted on canopies over the Park & Ride Site. *Brampton Cross development delayed due to highway access issues.

26/1/6 Planning

26/1/6.1 To consider new planning consultations:

Reference 25/01922/OUT Hinchingsbrooke Logistics Park: Draft objections to application were discussed it was agreed that an objection would be made with a focus on the negative impact of traffic and flood risks. SP to draft objection letter and circulate via email for approval.

Reference 25/02241/S106 Land east of Ivy Way Deed of Variation application: Awaiting update on whether or not we will be consulted.

26/1/6.2 Determined by planning authority:

Reference 25/02483/TRCA (27 High Street – tree works) noted.

26/1/7 Finance

26/1/7.1 Accounts Update - Balance as at 31 December 2025 £57666.76.

26/1/7.2 Update regarding funding for projects: Woolley Wind Farm Fund - Councillors went through possible future projects but felt an application should be made to Woolley Wind Farm for £5000 for improvements to the community room which includes new flooring, heaters, and curtains. It was agreed that WB will obtain quotes for the curtains and SJR will obtain quotes for the flooring as well as another quote for a fourth heater. Proposed by PS, seconded by GR with all in favour.

25/1/7.3 Spaldfest funding refund received 12.12.25 - Noted.

26/1/7.4 Grant request: PCC of St James request for churchyard/grass cutting equipment Support - Agreed to defer until April to align with the new budget year. £250.00 has already been allocated within the budget.

Expenditure for Approval 15 January 2026

26/1/7.5 To note the Precept and CIL reports were submitted - Confirmation received.

26/1/7.6 Quotes from Clear Energies for new supplier - It was proposed by SJR to go with Valda Energy, seconded by WB with all in favour.

26/1/7.7 A. Murphy invoice for cleaning of the Community Room (Jan): £48.48 - Approved. Proposed by SJM, seconded by PS with all in favour

26/1/7.8 Cambridgeshire Acre membership renewal £89.40 - Approved.

26/1/7.9 Unity Trust Bank account signatory updates - New signatory form circulated and signed.

26/1/7.10 Town and Poors account - To transfer £50.00 to Town and Poors Field account to cover £6 service fee.

26/1/8 Assets – Provision/Maintenance

26/1/8.1 Review of assets (weekly play park inspection, defibrillator, MVAS units, shed):

- Weekly inspections are taking place with the play park; there are no issues.
- Pads for the defibrillator have been replaced and fitted.
- Shed transfer to the church is to be drafted, further details to be looked at by SJR.

26/1/8.2 Update regarding the Community Room: replacement key, heaters, carpet cleaning, cupboard and booking system:

- Heating improvement project discussed; quotes to include floor insulation, blinds, and replacement heaters, grant application to Woolley Wind Farm to focus on room refurbishment, Short-term space heaters may be used.
- The purchase of a replacement key for the paper towel dispenser was approved.
- The booking system is transitioning to Google Form which will be integrated with the calendar, the aim is to simplify reservations.
- Cupboard space is needed, Escape to be contact by SJR to see what is happening with their equipment.

26/1/8.3 Update from Cllr GR regarding The War Memorials Trust and grant application - There have been some issues with the funding quote but further suggestions have been made. GR to sort out the details.

26/1/8.4 Discussion regarding the Town and Poors Field Land Registry registration, plans for the field and SCAA:

- Land successfully registered.
- Robinson & Hall (£500) for professional layout plans- proposed by SJR, seconded by PS with all in favour
- SCAA: No immediate updates; inspections to continue.

26/1/8.5 IT update including website

Aubergine Solutions, Cuttlefish and Parish Online have been shortlisted. It would be beneficial if the booking system could be incorporated.

26/1/8.6 Update regarding the playpark and funding application - No update, application deadline is 21st February 2026.

26/1/8.7 Update on the small orchard/meadow on the community open space on Ferriman Road - to establish an orchard (10 fruit trees) and wildflower meadow, with volunteer involvement, with trees and stakes costing £35.00 each. Proposed by PS, seconded by GR with all in favour

26/1/8.8 Update on the request from the over 60's group for the Parish Council to ask the mobile post office van to consider visiting Spaldwick – the post office van owners stated that this may not be possible due to the distance from Catworth.

26/1/8.9 Update regarding the costs of converting the Church Lane street light into a solar light

- Unable to proceed due to the costs involved.

26/1/8.10 Email from Cambridgeshire Garden and Property: grass cutting schedule - Approved.

26/1/9 Highways, footpaths, trees, etc.

26/1/9.1 Highways and Rights of Way including any updates on the reported issues

spreadsheet: update on new entries and feedback on current issues. It was noted that the overgrown vegetation on the footpath by the petrol station works have been refused as not severe enough. It was agreed that councilors will volunteer to carry out the work.

- Mick Ager to be contacted to assess trees along Long Lane for safety.

26/1/9.2 To note LHI application was submitted - Confirmation received.

26/1/9.3 Funding for 20mph zones – applications can be made between 21.01.26 – 27.03.26 –
SJR agreed to look at the application.

26/1/9.4 Update regarding the trees on the village green, Thrapston Road green and the High Street - Waiting for an update from Highways.

26/1/9.5 Update regarding the missing section of footpath at the Ferriman Road/Stow Road junction - It was suggested that an LHI application is made but this is not possible because a LHI bid has already been made. Waiting for a further update from Highways.

26/1/9.6 Update on the damage to 40mph sign on Thrapston Road - No update.

26/1/9.7 Grit bin near St James Gardens - A request has been received for a grit bin. When icy it is quite treacherous. The difficulty would be that someone would need to put the grit down and the question of liability due to injury would need to be considered. SJR to research costs.

26/1/9.8 Date for next litter pick - No update.

26/1/10 Update on the 'How to report issues in the village to the appropriate people' document
- No update.

26/1/11 Ben Obese-Jecty: MP roundtable 16th January 2026 10am-12pm The Grafham Trout –
Discussions took place on the lack of support, lack of busses, the expense of fuel. It was confirmed the appreciation for all he is doing for the community and weekly updates.

26/1/12 Update on meeting with Huntingdonshire Community Services Team:

- Huntingdon Community Team report on village feedback received:
- Key concerns: transport, lack of evening entertainment, isolation.
- Over 60's coffee morning seen as a lifeline.
- Desire for new community facilities, but realistic limitations noted.
- PC plans a community information session later in the year.
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26/1/13 Recruitment of clerk and RFO - Sarah Phillips was recruited as Clerk.

26/1/14 To discuss adopting further policies (including disciplinary and sickness-absence):
Deferred until a later date.

26/1/15 Any items for the next edition of Spaldwick News - Introduction of new clerk and feedback from roundtable.

26/1/16 Correspondence (previously circulated- see attached list)

- Community Energy online event – 3 February 2026.
- Community Buildings Conference – 17 March 2026 (Cllrs attending: WB and SJR).

26/1/17 Councilors' questions - None.

26/1/18 Date of the next meeting

Thursday 19th February 2026, 7.30pm at Spaldwick Community Room.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed