

**Spaldwick Parish Council – Minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held
On Thursday 19th February 2026**

Venue: Spaldwick Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School

Present:

Chair: S Jackson-Rimmer (SJR)
Councillors: P Scrutton (PS), S Parfrey (SP), G Rice (GR), L White (LW), District/County
Councillor I Gardener (IG), S Phillips (Clerk)
Public Members: None

26/2/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr F Ferrero and Cllr W Burcham.

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

None.

26/2/3 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting on 15th January 2026.

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

26/2/4 Matters arising from those Minutes.

None.

26/2/5 Public Open Forum: Each person wishing to address the council will be allowed to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes subject to the Chairman's discretion. This part cannot be longer than 10 minutes per item.

Cllr Gardner reported the following:

The government has commenced its statutory consultation on LGR in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The consultation runs for 7 weeks until 23.59 on 26 March 2026. Option E has been submitted by Huntingdonshire DC which would also be 3 Unitaries with Huntingdonshire as a Unitary Authority in its own right. This was unanimously supported by the Conservative Opposition on the District Council: Unitary 1 – Huntingdonshire, Unitary 2 – Peterborough City, Fenland & East Cambs, Unitary 3 - Cambridge City & South Cambs.

Cambridgeshire County Council presented its Business Plan and Budget Proposals for 26-27 at this month's Full Council. The Councils Budget for 26/27 includes a maximum Council Tax Rise of 4.99% for the CC proportion of your Council Tax, which includes a 2% Social Care increase. The cost therefore for a Band D property is £1,785.42. Within the budget there is an additional £20m of Capital investment on highways maintenance, which will include resurfacing, preventative treatments, upgrades to bridges. Footpaths and cycle routes. This would create a total investment of £58m for 26/27 as recommended by the draft asset management strategy. The Conservative amendment was to put an additional 1 million into pothole repairs, but this was rejected by the administration. Other proposals include a draft lane rental scheme to improve the management and coordination of streetworks, this will be subject to consultation and the decision-making process. This will allow the CC to charge companies for the time that roadworks occupy the highway and will hopefully reduce disruption on County roads. This is planned for implementation in 27/28 along with changes to enforcement of car parking to include Bank Holidays.

With regard to the large number of potholes on our roads, I have organised a meeting with the Highways Maintenance Manager on 2nd March to discuss the issue, to see how repairs can be speeded up. All Highways defects should be reported on the County Councils Highways Report It tool so that all faults are logged and can be processed according to severity. Highways defects include potholes, blocked gullies, flooding, trees, overgrown hedges, obscured signs etc.

Volunteers are urgently required to hear appeals when children are not offered a place at their preferred school. As a panel member you will hear cases where parents or carers wish to appeal a decision made by CCC or the school. You will listen carefully to all sides, ask questions to fully understand the facts and work with other panel members to reach a fair and lawful decision.

The Liberal Democrat, Independent, Labour & Green Administration on the District Council are proposing a £5 increase to the HDC proportion of the Council Tax taking a Band D property to £170.86 at the Council's Budget setting meeting on 25th February 26.

This year's District Council Elections along with the Parish Council elections will go ahead.

Issues brought up to Cllr Gardener was drains are blocked which are causing additional problems, no entry sign by the village green needs refreshing, the gate in Long Lane has not been repaired.

26/2/6 Planning

26/2/6.1 New planning consultations:

Updates regarding (Ref: 25/01922/OUT) Hinchingsbrooke Logistics Park.

It was confirmed that this has been postponed for 5 weeks and is hoped that the mayor will look at the planning strategically to ensure traffic is not an issue.

26/2/6.2 Determined by planning authority: None

26/2/6.3 North Huntingdon Cumulative Impacts Group: meeting with Paul Bristow and Ben Obese-Jecty

It was reported that there are a lot of developments happening which is extremely important as in the government planning for major growth. The HDCs Head of Planning said that the growth will be done in phases and it is hoped that the road network will be part of this.

Brampton Cross group are now North Hunts Cumulative Impact Group and would like a representative from each parish council. SP has agreed to be the representative.

26/2/7 Finance

26/2/7.1 Accounts update. Balance at 30.01.2026: £57,567.52.

26/2/7.2 Update regarding funding for projects: Woolley Wind Farm, Mick George/Buckden Landfill.

Grant application has been made to Woolley Wind Farm for blinds and heaters. Flooring was not included.

Planters will in place end of March beginning of April.

26/2/7.3 Sign standing order for Valda Energy.

Signed by signatories.

26/2/7.4 Set up banking arrangements for clerk.

Signed by signatories.

26/2/7.5 Expenditure for approval 19th February 2026

It was proposed by SJR, seconded by SP with all in favour. PS and SP will complete the payments.

Cllr Jackson-Rimmer	Filing cabinet	£89.95
Cllr Jackson-Rimmer	Key cutting	£18.00
Parkhall Garden Centre	Community Orchard Trees	£434.30
A Murphy	Cleaning of Community Room	£61.05

Various invoices have been received from Grafton, clerk to check against spreadsheet to what has been ordered.

26/2/8 Assets – Provision/Maintenance

Play park – In good order.

Defib – No update.

MVAS – All working but too wet to download information.

Shed – Letter to be sent that the shed is being gifted to PCC with immediate effect.

26/2/8.1 Review of assets (weekly play park inspection, defibrillator, MVAS units, shed).

26/2/8.2 Update regarding the Community Room: replacement key, heaters, carpet cleaning, cupboard and booking system.

Replacement keys have been purchased and SJR has spent time going through the cupboard. Booking system is still to be sorted. Applications for funding have been submitted and before considering insulation for the floor, it was agreed that carpets will be cleaned in the first instance.

26/2/8.3 Update from Cllr GR regarding The War Memorials Trust and grant application.

The third quote is still to be sent, GR will email out all quotes for approval as the application needs to be made by the end of the month, all in agreement.

26/2/8.4 Discussion regarding the Town and Poors Field.

Meeting has taken place with Cambs ACRE who questioned the current governing document. The one that we currently have is not a legal document and will amending to make it fit for purpose; a solicitor might need to be involved. The parish council had been registered as owners of the land which will cause problems for future funding opportunities so this will need to be changed.

Plans of playpark equipment was sent to all to give an idea of what can be done. The plan received from Robinson and Hall needs more work.

26/2/8.5 IT update including website.

Still being looked into. It was confirmed that the website needs to be set up and maintained.

26/2/8.6 Update regarding the playpark and funding application.

Funding applications open on 4th March, an application will be submitted.

26/2/8.7 Update on the small orchard/meadow on the community open space on Ferriman Road.

Trees are being delivered on 22nd February and will be planted on 1st March.

26/2/9 Highways, footpaths, trees, etc.

Buses are not stopping on Royston Avenue; this is being chased by Cllr Gardener. The Tiger bus is available via an app but elderly are unable to use due to the booking system.

26/2/9.1 Highways and Rights of Way including any updates on the reported issues spreadsheet

There are no updates with regards to outstanding items.

26/2/9.2 Funding for 20mph zones – applications can be made between 21.01.26 – 27.03.26.

SJR has started the application and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

26/2/9.3 Update regarding the trees on the village green, Thrapston Road green and the High Street.

No update.

26/2/9.4 Update regarding the missing section of footpath at the Ferriman Road/Stow Road junction.

Email received on 20th January stating that there are no funds available to do the work but asked the team to look at next year. They suggested submitting an LHI bid. To be reviewed in November/December.

26/2/9.5 Date for next litter pick

12th April at 10.30pm.

26/2/10 Cambridgeshire ACRE: Community Energy meeting

The idea is for parishes to have the opportunity to generate energy. It was suggested a wind turbine could be installed and money generated from this to go towards funding projects in the village. It was agreed that this will be looked into at a later date.

26/2/11 Parish Council Elections

All councillors have received packs and to be completed by the next meeting. Deadline for applications are 9th April.

26/2/12 LGR Consultations

Consultations are open until 26th March.

26/2/13 Consultation for a new Autism ERB at Spaldwick Primary School

Concerns were raised about additional vehicles; vehicles will need to use the school car park and not park along the road.

26/2/14 Village Green Christmas Lights

A resident has contacted the parish council about the responsibility of the Christmas lights. Social Club to be emailed for removal of the lights.

26/2/15 To discuss adopting further policies (including disciplinary and sickness-absence).

Deferred.

26/2/16 Any items for the next edition of Spaldwick News.

Litter picking, PC Elections, LGR.

26/2/17 Correspondence (previously circulated- see attached list)

None.

26/2/18 Councillors' questions.

None.

26/2/19 Date of the next meeting: Thursday 19th March 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.33pm.

Signed