

**Spaldwick Parish Council – Minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held
On Monday 8th June 2026**

Venue: Spaldwick Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School

Present:

Chair: S Jackson-Rimmer (SJR)
Vice Chair: W Burcham
Councillors: P Scrutton (PS), Cllr F Ferrero (FF) and S Parfrey (SP), S Phillips (Clerk).
District/County Councillor: Apologies received from I Gardener (IG).
Public Members: 14

26/6/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Rice.

26/6/2 Declarations of Interests for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)

No declarations of interest were received.

26/6/3 Public Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to raise matters of concern.

26/6/4 Local Plan Consultation – Additional Draft Allocation of Land East of Stow Road (CfS 305)

SJR outlined the purpose of the Local Plan consultation and explained that the Local Plan provides the framework for future development within the district.

It was noted that the PC had previously considered four potential development sites at a meeting held on 14 November 2024. The PC expressed concern that a previous consultation response appeared to indicate support for the site east of Stow Road due to an apparent administrative error, whereas this had not reflected the discussion or views expressed at the meeting.

The PC reiterated concerns regarding the proposed allocation of approximately 80–100 dwellings, noting that Huntingdonshire District Council had previously suggested the site was suitable for around 43 dwellings only.

Key concerns raised included:

- The scale of development and its impact on the village.
- Flooding and drainage issues.
- Highway safety and traffic impacts.
- Impact on the character and appearance of the village.
- Pressure on existing infrastructure.

The Council noted two further representations received from residents:

- I feel this is a logical site for development, however my only concern really relates to the number of units, especially given the size of Spaldwick currently. A total of 90 dwellings would be a c.35% increase in the size of the village and this seems excessive. From memory, parts of the site are ridge and furrow, and this can have archaeological protective status, so could well sterilise some of the site. In terms of other constraints, there doesn't appear to be much, other than the public rights of way which would be incorporated into the scheme design.
- Environmental Comment: The boundaries are particularly interesting with numerous mature elm trees and re-growth. Elm Trees appear in the Cambridgeshire Local Nature Strategy as a key habitat Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Elm trees in that part of Spaldwick support White spotted Pinion moth and White-letter Hairstreak butterfly, Wrinkled Peach fungus (records are with the Cambridgeshire record centre already) and much more. I would imagine great importance for bats. It is possible that Black Hairstreak might occur on the Blackthorn in that area too and that butterfly features in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Any development would need to give this boundary and the trees a wide 20 metre green corridor because otherwise people just want to chop them down when they shade their gardens or they perceive danger. The field has been fertilised and improved in the past but I have seen Ladies Smock on the field.

The undulations in the field probably suggest interesting archaeology.

I did walk over the field which has just been mown so not possible to look at the plants in any detail. I did record several Small Heath butterfly (vulnerable on the red list due to declines but still widespread). The two ponds are definitely worth further survey and the larger one might support Great Crested Newt. Dead elms are just as interesting for many species as the living ones.

During discussion with residents, the following matters were raised:

- The consultation relates to site allocation and not a planning application.
- Development could still be proposed through the planning process whether or not a site is allocated.
- Concerns regarding previous developments and the provision of affordable housing.
- Capacity of the electricity network and sewage infrastructure.
- Existing flooding issues, including reports of sewage backflow affecting properties on Ivy Way during periods of heavy rainfall.
- Capacity of local services including schools, healthcare provision and public transport.
- The cumulative impact of housing growth across Huntingdonshire, including developments at Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, Sapley and Kimbolton.
- Archaeological considerations and the potential significance of nearby heritage assets.
- Ongoing concerns regarding heavy goods vehicles using local roads, parking issues near the A14, and road safety matters.

The PC emphasised that they are a statutory consultee and has no decision making powers regarding site allocation or planning approval.

It was agreed that the PC would submit a formal response to the consultation reiterating its previous objections and raising concerns regarding:

- Flooding and drainage.
- Sewage infrastructure.
- Electricity supply capacity.
- Water supply capacity.
- Highway safety and traffic generation.
- Lack of public transport.
- Limited employment opportunities within the village.
- Impact on the character and appearance of the area.

Residents were encouraged to submit their own comments to the consultation before the closing date of 10 June.

Resolved: That the Parish Council submit objections consistent with its previous consultation response and include the additional concerns raised by residents.

26/6/5 Town & Poors Estate Charity

26/6/5.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Council received an update following a meeting with ACRE regarding governance arrangements for the charity.

It was reported that ACRE had expressed concerns regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and considered that the governing document should first be reviewed.

The Council had been referred to a legal team for advice regarding governance matters. A quotation of £990 plus VAT had been received for initial advisory work.

It was agreed that the governing document would be reviewed by the PC in the first instance.

26/6/5.2 Initial Legal Advice

This item was discussed under Minute 26/6/5.1.

26/6/6 Woolley Wind Farm Fund – Suppliers to be Agreed

The Council noted that funding had now been received for replacement heaters and blinds for the Community Hall

SJR agreed to contact Barham Electrical regarding the heater installation.

Resolved: That Barham Electrical be approached to undertake the heater works.

Proposed by WB, seconded by SP.

All members voted in favour.

Members agreed to discuss future funding opportunities at the next meeting.

The Council was awaiting a further update regarding the village sign project.

A suggestion was made to utilise future funding to improve the condition of the playing field by levelling uneven areas. WB agreed to obtain quotations for consideration.

26/6/7 Email Received Regarding Invasive Plants

The Council considered correspondence relating to invasive plants.

It was agreed to obtain a quotation for cutting and strimming the affected area.

Councillors agreed to inspect the location and discuss further action at the next meeting.

26/6/8 Plinth Insurance Claim Update

The Council noted that the insurance claim had been approved.

It was agreed to ask Richard to provide a quotation for replacement of the plinth.

26/6/9 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 18 June 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date