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

Venue: Spaldwick Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School

Present:
Chair: S. Jackson-Rimmer (SJR)
Councillors: W. Burcham (WB) and G. Rice (GR)
District/County Councillor: I. Gardener (IG),
Public Members:

26/10/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance.
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S. Parfrey and Cllr F. Ferrero.

26/9/2 Declarations of Interests for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests).
None.

26/10/3 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting on 17th September 2026.
Deferred to the next meeting.

26/10/4 Matters arising from those Minutes.
None.

26/10/5 Public Open Forum:
Cllr Gardner reported the following:

20 MPH Bid
Following this month's Highways & Transportation Committee meeting. I am sorry to have to inform you that the PC's application for a 20mph scheme outside the Primary school in Spaldwick was unsuccessful on this occasion. Out of 82 bids for 20mph schemes, 7 have been funded out of £150,000 monies available. Spaldwick's bid came 58th in the scoring process.

LHI Bid
Following this month's Highways and Transportation Committee meeting, I am again sorry to say that Spaldwick's application for a Priority Give Way/Traffic Calming on the High Street was unsuccessful in the Complex Bid category. 4 Bids in Huntingdonshire were successful out of 11 with Spaldwick's bid coming in 7th. My thanks go to the Chair for presenting the bid to the panel.

Local Government Reorganisation
The Government has announced that a review has been ordered into the plans for Local government reorganisation, following legal advice, to ensure that it is robust and aligns with the new government's priorities. As a result, reorganisation in Essex, Hampshire. Norfolk and Suffolk have also been withdrawn. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are included in this review process.
We don't yet know how long this review will take, but there will be no Shadow Elections to Proposed New Unitary authorities in May 2027. The elections to existing authorities like Fenland, East Cambs and Peterborough will be held next year.

Education, Health & Care Plans
The County Council have a legal duty to provide Education, Health and Care Plans with 20 weeks for all children under Regulation 13(2) of the Special Education Needs and Disability Regulations 2014.
However, in Cambridgeshire in 25/26 a staggering 93.3% od ECHP's were issued outside the 20 week statutory deadline.
The average delay beyond the 20 week statutory timeframe in 25/26 was 330m days (47 weeks) overdue.
The consequence of these delays is that Cambridgeshire schools missed out on £7.3 million of extra funding.
The Lib Dem Administration have omitted it's not good enough. We will be holding the administration to account at every opportunity.

Stay Steady on your Feet
The County Council has launched a free online assessment tool to stay steady on your feet.
Falls are one of the most common causes of injury in older people and from the age of 65 the likelihood of a fall increases.
The free Steady on your feet online assessment tool is designed to help older people understand their risk of falling and

take the necessary steps to stay strong, safe and steady.
It only takes a few minutes to complete and creates a personalised action plan to share with family, friends or healthcare professionals.
A full marketing pack is available to help spread the word in your Parish, please contact campaigns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Bus Services – West Huntingdonshire

Following the Combined Authority's (Mayor) recent consultation on Bus Services, it has been decided that there will be no changes currently to the 400 & 401 services. However further engagement will take place to provide more strategic and usable services to serve and enhance the offering for the communities to the West of Huntingdon, either side of the A14.
The proposed future change that could affect West Hunts is the proposal to extend the existing 28 Bus service from Bedford to Kimbolton onto Huntingdon. The service would be extended from Kimbolton to Huntingdon via Stonely, Gt Staughton, Perry, Grafham, Ellington, Hinchingbrooke Hospital and the service would be a 2 hourly service.
Other potential changes is the proposal for a peak time service between Kettering and Huntingdon serving Spaldwick & Easton.
As well as an off peak shopper service currently served by the 401 route, serving Woolley, Barham, Buckworth, Alconbury Weston, Upton, Hamerton, Steeple Gidding, Little Gidding, Great Gidding, Old Weston, Leighton Bromswold, Spaldwick, Easton & Brampton

A14

I along with the Chair attended the A14 Safety Advisory Group meeting on 8th October where we were informed that the New Ellington Junction 22 would have its eastbound entry slip and westbound exit slip opened to traffic hopefully in 2027.

District Council

HDC has now launched the final opportunity for residents, businesses and stakeholders to have their say on the Pre-Submission Local Plan to 2046 and accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal which opened on 16 September and closes on 28th October @ 11.59pm.
This consultation specifically asks whether the proposed plan is legally compliant and meets the tests of soundness. Comments received will be registered and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate and will help inform the Inspectors examination of the Local Plan.

Car Parks

We are still awaiting the outcome of the review into the Car Parking proposals by Capital & Centric in Huntingdon, St Neots & St Ives.

26/10/6 Planning

26/10/6.1 New planning consultations: None

26/10/6.2 Determined by planning authority: None

26/10/6.3 Andrew Wootton, ESCO Prospect re: land east of Stow Road (90 houses): a request for a meeting before the end of November to allow the concerns of the village to be expressed to the representative. The proposal and meeting date to be published on the PC Facebook page and the village newsletter.

26/10/7 Finance

26/10/7.1 Accounts update: Balance at 30.09.26 £59464.29

26/10/7.2 Woolley Wind Farm Community Fund – update

There was an underspend on the grant awarded for the new blinds and new heaters of £300. Woolley Wind Farm have offered that the money could be spent on something else that would benefit the community. It was decided that it should go towards the cost of the new water heater and light switch. Proposed by Cllr GR and Seconded by Cllr WB with all in favour.

26/10/7.3 Parish Council business plan

Cllr SJR presented a draft business plan. The plan still needs some work and the intention is that it will be adopted at the annual general meeting.

26/10/7.4 AGAR Review

All points raised in the external audit were discussed in July. The concerns raised will be resolved before the next internal audit.

26/10/7.5 Expenditure for approval 15th October

S. Phillips	July pay	£447.16
HMRC	July pay	£111.80
S. Phillips	Back pay award and holiday pay	£293.77
HMRC	Back pay award and holiday pay	£73.20

askiT	Annual website SSL renewal	£72.00
Clear Insurance	Ref: LCO02355	£1164.35
PKF Littlejohn LLP	AGAR Review Ref: SB20262602	£252.00
A Murphy	October	£48.84
FCC Recycling Ltd - Fund	10% contribution Ref: 37	£7997.89
CAPALC	Planning Training Course	£45.00
JRB Enterprises	Dog Poop Bags	£76.38
Wicksteed Leisure	Play Park inspection	£150.00
Royal British Legion	Wreath	£30.00

Payments were proposed by Cllr SJR and seconded by Cllr GR with all in favour.
Cllr WB and Cllr GR will complete authorisations.

26/10/7.6 Unity Trust Forms – authorising

The forms have been processed.

26/10/7.7 To note Precept is due 15/1/2027

26/10/7.8 To note CCC grass cutting contribution of £521.82

26/10/7.9 Orchard grass cutting quote from Cambs Garden and Property Maintenance

It was pointed out that the orchard grass area is still part of the current grass cutting contract and therefore should not need a quote.

26/10/7.10 Over 60s group email request

An email requesting funding towards the Christmas party and for next years cost of hiring the community room was discussed and it was decided that grant request forms were needed to be completed before a decision could be made.

26/10/7.11 Bank reconciliation

September bank reconciliation was noted.

26/10/8 Assets – Provision/Maintenance

26/10/8.1 Review of assets (weekly play park inspection, defibrillator, MVAS units)

Playpark – Nothing to report. Spreadsheet to be produced by Cllr FF.
Defib – Nothing to report.
MVAS – All working.

26/10/8.2 Review fixed asset register

It was noted that some items were missing from the register. Cllr SJR to update and present at next months meeting.

26/10/8.3 Update regarding the Community Room:

Water heater timer switch – work to be completed by Barham Electrical on 28th October.
Bookings – new regular booking from Living Better and organization that will be offering chair yoga sessions to the over 60s coffee morning attendees.

26/10/8.4 War Memorial: update on planning enquiry and War Memorials Trust grant application and quotes from Cllr GR/Cllr SJR

Cllr SJR gave an update: we now have three quotes for the renovation of the war memorial, just waiting on a fourth and then they will be sent to the War Memorials Trust for a decision.

26/10/8.5 Update regarding the Town and Poors Field governance document and getting information about having a business/project plan for the development of the field

Ongoing.

26/10/8.6 Website: Update on Aubergine (new website) from Cllr FF

Ongoing.

26/10/8.7 Wicksteed play park inspection

The booking has been made. Waiting on a date.

26/10/8.8 Play Park: update on current funding application Cllr WB

Cllr WB informed the council that she has been successful in securing funding for the refurbishment of the play park. She has met with the preferred contractor to discuss the final plans for the park which will be presented at the next meeting.

26/10/8.9 Update regarding the insurance claim for the village map plinth on the High Street

Ongoing.

26/10/8.10 Update on the village sign refurbishment from Cllr SP

Ongoing.

26/10/8.11 Church Lane shed
On hold.
26/10/8.12 To discuss quote for invasive plants
A quote was discussed. Cllr SJR to contact the contractor and to arrange a date for the work. Proposed Cllr WB seconded Cllr GR with all in favour.
26/10/8.13 Mobile post van
Ongoing.

26/10/9 Highways, footpaths, trees, etc.
26/10/9.1 Highways and Rights of Way including any updates on the reported issues spreadsheet.
Reported that the 'no entry' road marks at High Street/Stow Road by the village green need to be repainted and the road signs need to be adjusted to face down Stow Road – most drivers who travel down the road the wrong way have come from the High Street and are trying to get back onto the High Street.
26/10/9.2 Royston Avenue bus stop
Cllr Ian Gardener to chase up CCC Highways Department.
26/10/9.3 Update on the funding for 20mph zones.
The PC application was unsuccessful.
26/10/9.4 LHI - panel review
The PC application was unsuccessful.
26/10/9.5 A14 SAG Meeting
Roadworks 22nd-26th November junction 13-22 for resurfacing.
Junction 18-16 drainage works – date TBC
National Highways are proposing to open the east bound slip roads at the new Ellington junction.

26/10/10 Update regarding Escape
Cllr SJR has been informed that Escape will be restarting. A date is to be confirmed.

26/10/11 Town and Parish Forum – 26th November
Cllr SJR and Cllr WB to attend.

26/10/12 To note the community litter pick is on Sunday October 25th at 10am

26/10/13 Councillor training: planning (HDC and CAPALC) and budget/precept training (CAPALC 20th October 10-11:30 or 4th November 7-8:30pm - £35)

26/10/14 Councillor vacancy
Potential councillors will be required to attend at least two meetings and to completed an application pack before any decision can be made. Proposed by Cllr SJR and seconded by Cllr GR all those in favour.

26/10/15 Clerk vacancy
No enquiries.

26/10/16 Any items for the next edition of Spaldwick News
Councillor and clerk vacancies
Land east of Stow Road proposed development

26/10/17 Correspondence (previously circulated- see attached list)

26/10/18 Councilors' questions.
None.

26/10/19 Date of the next meeting: Thursday 19th November 2026.