

PARISH OF SPALDWICK

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at 8 pm Thursday 28 April 2011 at Spaldwick Primary School

Present: Councillors B F Plummer (Chairman), G Rice, G Smith, S Wakefield, R Wooddisse, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and 2 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** . Cllrs R Johnson and G Leach
2. **Minutes of meeting held 29 April 2010** were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising**

4. **Annual Report by Chairman of Parish Council (Cllr B F Plummer)**

Following the resignation of Councillor Brown in May 2010, there being no formal nominations, the Council was pleased to co-opt Shonah Wakefield to fill the vacancy. I wish to put on record the thanks and appreciation of the Council and of the Parish to Councillor Brown for all the hard work he put in during his tenure of office.

Since the previous Annual meeting in April 2010, the Council has held ten ordinary meetings, two special meetings and in addition a Special Spaldwick Parish Meeting concerning the Woolley Hill Wind Farm proposal.

Six planning applications have been considered and commented on to the District Council, all of which, except the Woolley Hill Wind Farm, have been for small domestic modifications. Apart from the houses on Thrapston Road, now named Chandler Close in honour of residents killed in World War 1, no further development has taken place.

The Parish Council was invited by the District Council to comment on the Woolley Hill Wind Farm (WHWF) proposals which raised controversial concerns amongst residents. The Council appointed Councillor Leach as its representative on the WHWF Community Liaison Group and held a Special Parish Meeting to trawl residents' views which included a WHWF Action Group presentation. Whilst the Council subsequently decided not to formally object, it advised the District Council to take full account of the residents' strong concerns when reaching their decision.

The Parish Plan and associated Action Plan were formally presented to the North West Huntingdonshire Neighbourhood Forum in October. It was favourably received by the constituent Service Authority and Agency representatives, including the District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Police, Highways authority etc. Reflecting the wishes and concerns of residents, the Plans provide both a checklist of items for the Parish Council to address and a vehicle for representations to the relevant authorities. This is a continuing process in which considerable progress has been made including renewed efforts to obtain a village hall and formation of the active 'Escape+Youth Group'.

Much of the focus has been in improving the village environment notably by better grass cutting contracts, initiating litter picking, new notice boards, commissioning a pavement along the High Street, appointing a paths representative to the Parish Paths Partnership, joining the police speed watch scheme and supporting the Newsletter and two Spaldwick websites. Much more remains to be done for which initiatives have been set in train. The Village Shop has provided a major new amenity for the village and deserves our full support.

The Council has again distributed the annual Christmas Charity money to selected residents and has supported among others the Youth Group, Churchyard maintenance and the newsletter.

In conclusion, I wish to offer the appreciation and encouragement of the Council to all the many voluntary groups actively supporting the life of the village, particularly to the

Youth Group, the Village Hall Committee, the Social Group and Village Fete Committee.

Finally my thanks to all the members of the Parish Council for their support and hard work and to our Clerk, David Stowell, who has worked unstintingly and often beyond the call of duty to keep us on track.

5. **Parish Council Financial Report for year ended 31 March 2011**

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year 2010/2011, summarised as follows:-

	Parish Council Fund	Charity Fund
Balance brought forward at 1/4/10	£54230.42	£120.00
Receipts	£11022.25	£120.00
Payments	£ 7354.26	£120.00
Balance carried forward at 31/3/11	£57898.41	£120.00

The Parish Council balance at 31 March 2011 is allocated as follows:-

Village Hall & Playing Field project	£28000.00
Ferriman Road Grounds Maintenance Fund	£18916.37
Parish Plan Grant	£ 176.36
General Reserve	£10805.68

6. **Reports from other village organisations**

Village Hall (Eddie Roughsedge)

Committee formed Dec 2009

- Committee membership changed significantly since then.

Multiple site possibilities within village initially down selected to one (open space to the east of Playtimes).

-- Funds will just about cover viable hall size.

-- Other sites would require funds for grounds purchase or would invoke costs to drain, consolidate or provide access.

Robinson and Hall (property management) proposed the transfer of Bury Field to the Parish Council for its support to a 3 dwelling build on the field.

Survey of Village, in Oct 2010, confirmed support for a Village Hall:

-- 92% support for the concept of a hall.

-- 75% support for either site.

Possibilities for both sites discussed with Huntingdonshire District Council on 20 April.

-- Neither site ruled out.

-- Awaiting letter from District Council to outline thoughts.

-- In parallel, maintaining correspondence with Robinson and Hall.

Spaldwick Youth Group (Mark Sturdy was unable to be present until the meeting ended and submitted this report by e-mail later)

The Spaldwick Youth Group was formed early in 2010 to respond to the demand for improved facilities for secondary school aged children in the village, as identified by the Parish Plan report.

Following review of the report findings, and consultation with youth in the village, the committee commenced with regular meetings and tested the water with a handful of events. A youth committee was formed, and a new name for the group chosen by children at the Spaldwick village fete. Escape Youth Group. As a result it was identified that a regular youth club should be established, and other one off events (Connections bus visits) were arranged which were funded by the Parish Council and the Spaldwick Social Group.

In November 2010, the youth group received a grant of £2,500 from Young Lives towards activities and events. This grant has been used to secure a fortnightly youth club throughout 2011 and into 2012. Numbers of children attending has grown from

12 in January to 30 in April, in total 48 different children have attended the youth club from Spaldwick, Easton, Ellington, Grafham, Stow Longa, Catworth and Buckworth. Entrance to the youth club is free, but a voluntary contribution towards costs has been introduced which will enable the club to continue beyond the period covered by the grant.

In addition, extra visits from the Connections bus have been arranged, other events arranged include Paintballing and a youth day planned for August 24th which will include use for all children of Spider Mountain.

Medium to long term plans include exploring the possibility of additional facilities within the village such as a Multi Use Games Area.

Carpet Bowls Club (Graham Smith)

We have had a very good year, meeting each Tuesday evening in term time and playing friendly matches against other local clubs with good results. Annual subscription is only £10 and each member pays £2 on the night they attend.

Our activities, other than the normal club nights are: Presidents Day in May, BBQ in July, 10 Pin Bowling in November and Christmas Dinner in January.

We currently have 24 members but could do with a few more, especially ladies. Please contact Bernard Plummer or myself for more information.

Welcome Club

Meetings which include lunch are held on the first Friday of each month in the Community Room. Contact Maureen Vickers for information.

Community Room Association (Bernard Plummer)

This comprises a Chairman (currently B Plummer) and representatives of user organisations who manage use of the room for community purposes.

Community Access Point (David Stowell)

This is a broadband internet facility equipped with 2 computers with associated scanner and printer and is based in the Community Room. It is available for public use on Monday afternoons during term time and can be used for obtaining information from past census records as well as from the vast amount of information available on other subjects. Help is available for anyone who has difficulty in using a computer. Contact to make an appointment is David Stowell on 890065

7. Open Forum

No matters were raised.

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm