

SPALDWICK CIVIL PARISH

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at 8 pm Thursday 23 April 2015 at Spaldwick Primary School

Present: Councillors Rice (Chairman), Jackson-Rimmer, Leach, Plummer, Smith, Wakefield, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and 4 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Johnson and from Mr M Ager.
2. **Minutes of Meeting** held 8 May 2014 were approved and signed
3. **Matters arising** - none
4. **Annual Report by Chairman of Parish Council, Cllr G Rice**

The Parish Council has met 12 times since the last Annual Village Meeting with average attendances by Councillors at these meetings in excess of 70%. (S. Jackson-Rimmer 6, R Johnson 10, G Leach 10, B Plummer 8, G Rice 9, G Smith 8, S Wakefield 9)

During the year the Council has had 11 Planning Applications to consider covering the usual minor alterations to residents' homes. It has been pleasing to see that some of the village's oldest buildings are currently being renovated and restored to their former glory.

Although the last 12 months has been quite quiet for the village, the Parish Council has continued to fulfil its role as the third tier of our Government. This has included responses to District and County Council initiatives including the replacement of street lighting in the village, work carried out under the Local Highway Improvement Initiative and initial meetings regarding the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.

The Council has also been involved in the maintenance and improvement of the Parish's footpaths, byways and water courses.

The restoration of the War Memorial has been an ongoing project through the year; progress is often slow with this type of work as there are many authorities to deal with. Following a request from a Parishioner regarding a new bus shelter in the village costings and designs have been considered. The Council is currently waiting for confirmation of bus routes in the village before a suitable site for the shelter can be agreed.

The Council has continued in its activities to ensure that the green open spaces are attended to and kept mown during the spring and summer and that the children's play area is kept safe and available.

Socially the village has had another good year. Spaldwick Open Gardens enjoyed lovely weather and the standard of gardens on display was very high. Similarly, the entrants for the Scarecrow Competition worked hard to produce some high quality and entertaining entries. The Scarecrow Competition led in to the Summer Fete which, again, was well attended and a very enjoyable day.

The George Public House held several events during the year including a Beer Festival in August and a Firework Display in November and with their activities over Christmas they continue to be an important part of the fabric of the village.

The Village Shop, "No 12", has also continued to act as resource for local information and has taken over the running of the village's Facebook page.

Two other important sources of information for the village is the Spaldwick web-site run by Mark Heath and the Spaldwick Newsletter produced by John Blatch. Both have continued to keep the village up-to-date with all the latest news.

My thanks go to all the people above that give their time and effort to make Spaldwick the great village that it is, and also to those involved in the organisations that will report individually later in this meeting.

As usual the Council distributed the Christmas charity money to selected residents. This money is raised from the rental of the Town and Poors Trust field. New tenants mean

that the income from this rental should rise in future bringing more opportunity to benefit those in need in the community.

My thanks go to all of the Parish Councillors and to Mick Ager, the Parish Paths Co-ordinator, for their support and hard work throughout the year. I would like to particularly mention the Parish Clerk, David Stowell, for his continued dedication.

Finally I would like to thank two retiring Councillors, Bernard Plummer and Grahame Leach. They have represented the Parish for many years and have, during that time, contributed greatly to the operation of this Parish Council.

5. Parish Council Financial Report

The Clerk presented the accounts for the year 2014/2015 summarised as follows:

	Parish Council Fund	Charity Fund
Balance brought forward at 1/4/14	£61912.22	nil
Receipts	£11443.75	£676.00
Payments	£9030.02	£480.00
Balance carried forward at 31/3/15	£64325.95	£196.00

The Parish Council balance at 31 March 2015 is allocated as follows

Village Hall & Playing Field project	£38000.00
Ferriman Road Grounds Maintenance Fund	£12362.29
Parish Plan Grant	£ 176.36
War Memorial renovation	£ 1000.00
Maintenance of property including trees	£ 2000.00
Bus shelter	£ 2000.00
General Reserve	£ 8787.30

6. Spaldwick Social Events Group (SSEG)

Annual Report March 2014 to March 2015 by SSEG Chairman, Bernard Plummer

The Spaldwick Social Events Group exists to initiate and organise social events to enhance the social life of the village community. We collaborate and seek the support of all the individual clubs and organisations within the village. Any funds raised above running costs are used on an annual basis to support village good causes.

Membership of the Group is open to volunteers from residents of the village. Sadly we have lost several long standing dedicated members but fortunately have been joined by some new volunteers. Further new members would be most welcome.

This last twelve months have proved to be very successful with our annual events as well as a new event as a way of reaching out to all age groups within our village community. Thanks to all residents of Spaldwick who continue to support and attend our events on a regular basis, the SSEG has kept moving from strength to strength. Special thanks go to Steve at The George for giving us space to meet and Mark Heath for promoting SSEG through the website and attending events to capture those special moments through photo and video clips.

SOCIAL EVENTS included:

The St Georges Day Supper

Following the successful Burn's Night supper, the SSEG organised one for St Georges Day at The George which was oversubscribed and equally successful.

Summer Fete July 2014

The fete remains the most important social event for our village, is the most demanding event to organise and requires major collaboration from the village clubs, shop and school. Special thanks are due to Rachel Prior for the use of the school and all the dedicated workers and supporters on the day. The 2014 Spaldwick Fete, which was the

biggest ever! 650 visitors attended the event an increase of 20% from the previous year. A hog roast was again provided in the evening.

Father Christmas comes to Spaldwick December 2014 - Villagers flocked to see Father Christmas travelling around Spaldwick with his team of Elves in their new outfits to giving presents to young children and 30 boxes of chocolates to older residents. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Christmas spirit come to our village.

Valentine's Ball

Unfortunately the Valentine's Ball which was planned for February 14th was cancelled due to low ticket sales. However, a very successful Luxury Valentines Raffle was held with fantastic prizes and a total of £829 was raised for SANDS.

7. CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Annual Report to March 2015 by Club Chairman, Bernard Plummer

The club has enjoyed another successful year. It has held a full programme of internal competitions and winning nine and losing five of their 14 matches with local village teams. Social events held during the year included a summer barbeque and a very successful Annual Dinner and trophy presentation at "The George". The club has just managed to remain financially viable without raising the membership subscriptions and despite losing some members and reduced attendance due mostly to illness. The club continues to meet in the School Hall and Community Room at 7pm every Tuesday evening during term time. Vacancies now exist for new members who would be most welcome.

8. WELCOME CLUB

Report by Maureen Vickers, Chairperson

The club is self-funded and for the over 55s with fifty full time members. We meet on the first Friday of each month (term time only) here in the community room. At our monthly meetings a two course meal (main/dessert) is provided by volunteers (committee members). This costs £5. After lunch we have a brief club meeting to discuss any matters from previous months, then entertained normally by a guest speaker, or on occasions enjoy a games afternoon. There is also a monthly competition which usually relates to topical events.

Throughout the year our social secretary arranges varied trips. Among these last year we went to the Dickinson and Morris pie shop in Melton Mowbray. Their pies are made by hand, and we got the chance to make our own. We also went to Stevenage to see an evening of entertainment by Pam Ayers. We have an annual holiday each year. At the end of last month forty people made up of members, associates and friends enjoyed a five day trip to the Isle of Wight.

Last Saturday we held in the school hall our major fund raiser of the year, when entertainer James le Bec treated us to an evening of song and dance. Also provided on this night was a ploughman's supper and a raffle.

At the beginning of December every year the club members get the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch at a local hostelry.

Even though we are self-funded we still find time to raise money for a local charity. Last year this was the Woodland cancer centre at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

9. VILLAGE HALL

Grahame Leach gave a brief report on the work of the new committee following its election at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 9th February. It is hoped to have some costed proposals for villagers to examine by September.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm