

MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 16th January 2025** at 7pm in Spaldwick Community Room, Spaldwick Primary School.

Present: Councillors S Jackson-Rimmer (SJR- Chair), W Burcham (WB- Vice-Chair), S Isaac (SI), District & County Cllr I Gardener, S Cardwell (Clerk) and four members of the public.

25/1/1 To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Non-Attendance- G Rice (GR), S Parfrey (SP).

25/1/2 Declarations of Interests for Members (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)- none.

25/1/3 To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting on 10th December 2024- Cllr SJR proposed signing and approval of the December minutes as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr WB and carried unanimously.

25/1/4 Matters arising from those Minutes- none.

25/1/5 To receive and consider any applications for co-option (signing of acceptance of office if applicable)- L. White put herself forward, was co-opted and signed the acceptance of office document.

25/1/6 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- Reverend Howson from St James' Church addressed the Council along with G Player from Spaldwick Common Ground group (registered charity) regarding the proposed plans for the Church. The main aim of the project is to secure the future viability of a large, beautiful church which serves a relatively small Church community. Research has shown that people would be interested in the Church as a venue for concerts etc. which would require modifications and separation of the various sections of the church. The project would look at double ownership (community and church) via a lease and the necessary conversion would cost in the region of £300k. Through the collaboration of St James' Church and the Spaldwick Common Ground Group (representing the community), there is now a clear definition of the project and support from the Diocese. The nave (large central section) of the church would be used as a venue and the end section for worship; there would also be a servery, toilet and raised mezzanine. The lease and full architect specification are to be finalised this year. It was noted that liaison with the Parish Council and help with promoting and supporting the ongoing project would be appreciated.

District & County Cllr I Gardener addressed the Council confirming the Tiger bus service (replaced Ting) is now up and running. Bookings can be made by phone for journeys Monday-Saturday 6.30am-7pm. The cost is £2 per trip with concessions available. The Tiger interactive map shows the bus stops. Cllr Gardener noted that he has received complaints that St Neots residents monopolise the bookings with rural areas missing out (feedback that he will pass on). The maximum increase for Council tax is expected from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC), the Fire Authority and the Police.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) has launched its net zero village grants for tackling energy use and nature based solutions (closing date 26th January). New sites are being added all the time to the HDC Call for Sites. The District Council will evaluate these and then come to Parish Councils for comments. The next meeting of the A14 Safety Advisory Group meeting will take place on 4th February. Remote meetings and proxy voting are being discussed. There is also the Government White Paper on reorganization of two-tier governments (combined authority). HDC and CCC are to come up with a broad outline plan for the end of March regarding the boundary. The CCC and mayoral elections are to take place in May this year ; The HDC elections planned for 2026 are to be confirmed. Cllr Gardener advised that Ellington Parish Council are looking to set-up a flood group for the Ellington Brook. He also confirmed that several local villages could provide advice on a neighbourhood plan and it might be worth considering working with other local villages on this should Spaldwick Parish Council wish to proceed.

L. Player from Spaldwick Social Group provided details regarding the Spaldwick Christmas lights and requested a grant to cover the costs.

A. Allsopp, HDC's Volunteer Coordinator introduced himself and offered ongoing help for upcoming projects, including details of other organisations to contact for support.

25/1/7 Planning

To consider new planning consultations: none.

Determined by planning authority: none.

25/1/7.1 Discussion on gaining more information/research regarding a Neighbourhood plan- following advice received from District & County Cllr I Gardener it was agreed contact should be made with Stow Longa and Easton to investigate working together. Grafham PC can also help with advice.

25/1/7.2 To note: Great Staughton (Regulation 16) Neighbourhood Plan will be available to view and comment on between 11/12/24 10:00 and 05/02/25 23:59- noted.

25/1/8 Finance

25/1/8.1 Accounts update. Balance at 08.01.2025: £48,240.70 (updated cashbook circulated)- noted.

25/1/8.2 To discuss various funding options for upcoming projects and support from Hunts Forum- HDC's Volunteer Coordinator attended the meeting and offered ongoing advice and support for any upcoming projects.

25/1/8.3 To discuss a funding request from The Spaldwick Social Group for the community Christmas tree- A representative from Spaldwick Social Group attended and requested a grant for £374.98 to cover the village Christmas lights. Cllr SJR proposed payment, seconded by Cllr WB and carried unanimously. Receipts to be sent to the Clerk and a payment then set-up.

25/1/8.4 To note and approve: Q3 Summary of receipts and payments (file circulated prior to meeting)- Cllr WB proposed approval, seconded by Cllr I and carried unanimously.

25/1/8.5 To note and approve: Q3 Community room receipts and payments document (file circulated prior to meeting)- Cllr WB proposed approval, seconded by Cllr I and carried unanimously.

25/1/8.6 To note and approve Q3 bank reconciliation (file circulated prior to meeting)- Cllr WB proposed approval, seconded by Cllr I and carried unanimously.

Expenditure for approval 16th January 2025

25/1/8.7 To note: Direct debit: Tomato/ Clear Energies- £23.26 debited on 19.12.24- Noted. The Clerk updated the Council that a direct debit of £15.17 would be debited in January for one account and a further £1.01 for the previous two months relating to the second supply account.

25/1/8.8 Clerk's wages (Dec- Jan) **£638.55** (S.Cardwell: TBC HMRC (income tax: TBC + NI: TBC))- Awaiting breakdown of payments from payroll provider.

25/1/8.9 A.Murphy invoice for cleaning of the Community Room (Dec-Jan): **£57.20**.

25/1/8.8 Brookfield Contracting: Village grasscutting (October): **£264.00** (inc. VAT)- The Clerk advised that Brookfield had confirmed the account has no outstanding invoices so no payment to be made.

25/1/8.9 Cambs ACRE membership renewal: **£86.40** (inc. VAT). Cllr SI proposed payment of all totals (Clerk's wages once HMRC totals etc. received and excluding Brookfield Contracting); this was seconded by Cllr WB and carried unanimously. Cllrs SJR and WB will authorise the payments.

25/1/9 Assets – Provision/Maintenance

25/1/9.1 Weekly Ferriman Road Play Area's Inspection & update including funding for wetpour repair- Cllr WB is monitoring the wetpour. The Clerk confirmed the CIL funding application has been submitted.

25/1/9.2 Update regarding the Community Room- Cllrs SJR and WB will complete an initial inventory of the kitchen in January. It was noted that the room does not heat-up very well at this time of year; the Clerk was asked to contact the school for advice. Cleaning requirements are to be monitored with increased use of the space. An email request from the over 60s club to continue using the space free of charge was read out. Following discussions, it was agreed that this could be continued until the end of the year to keep the club running but that no further funding requests should be considered from the group during that time. It was also agreed that if any paid hire requests came in during that time that these should be given precedence.

25/1/9.3 Update from Cllr GR regarding The War Memorials Trust and grant application- The Wooley Windfarm grant application needs to be submitted by 1st February. Clerk to coordinate with Cllr GR.

25/1/9.4 Further discussion of the equipment for the open space or Town and Poors Field in Spaldwick- Possible options for the space are still being discussed and contact has been made with HDC

regarding available support. On HDC's advice, a meeting is also to be arranged with Hunts Forum regarding funding options.

25/1/9.5 Update from Cllr GR regarding the MVAS Flashing Speed signs- deferred.

25/1/9.6 Update regarding grasscutting for the coming year- The Council expressed how they are looking forward to working with Cambs Garden and Property Maintenance.

25/1/9.7 Update regarding the allotment site and the Allotment Association (SCAA) including update of site Regulations- The Clerk updated the Council that she had received confirmation from SCAA that the regulations from May 2024 are correct to be issued. It was agreed that the Clerk should email copies with the invoices in March. Allotment rent for 2026-27 to be added as an agenda item for next month.

25/1/9.8 Update regarding the village noticeboards- awaiting better weather.

25/1/9.9 Update regarding the defibrillator- no update.

25/1/9.10 Further discussion regarding the well near to the Jubilee bench- no update.

25/1/9.11 Update from Cllr SI regarding the offer of trees- pending site visit by Cllr SI.

25/1/9.12 Update regarding maintenance of the Town & Poors field- no update, ok currently.

25/1/10 **Highways, footpaths, byways, gritting bin, trees, etc.**

25/1/10.1 Update regarding Long Lane and the 'no entry' sign at the Green- District & County Cllr I Gardener to follow-up with Highways regarding Long Lane. 'No entry' sign painting needs to be completed in better weather or won't last.

25/1/10.2 Update regarding the 24/25 LHI bid and planned MVAS unit- Following discussions with Cambs County Council (CCC) and various local villages regarding solar units no longer being permitted on lamp posts, Cllr SJR proposed that CCC be asked to install an additional post for the new unit to be attached to. This was seconded by Cllr SI and carried unanimously.

25/1/11 Update regarding contact with Leighton Bromswold Parish Council- no update.

25/1/12 Update regarding St James' Church- Following the open forum update, the Clerk was asked to add a letter of support for the project as an agenda item for next month.

25/1/13 Wooley Windfarm update- Cllr WB advised funding requests must be submitted by 1st February.

25/1/14 IT update including website- The minutes on the website still need to be re-formatted still.

25/1/15 Any items for the next edition of Spaldwick News- Details of the Tiger bus service to be included, also the remaining Councillor vacancy.

25/1/16 Correspondence (-previously circulated- see attached list)- all noted.

25/1/17 Councillors' questions- Allotment rents, Grants policy and Annual Parish meeting invites to be added to the next agenda.

25/1/18 **Date of the next meeting:** Thursday 20th February.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: