SPALDWICK VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 2nd DECEMBER 2009

BACKGROUND NOTES

The village community purchased the old village school in Stow Road from the Cambridgeshire Education Authority on 1st July 1980 to be used as the village hall under governance of a registered Charitable Trust. The Trust to be administered by an elected Village Hall Management Committee as Charity Trustees with the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees.

The old school, converted for use as the village hall, was put to enthusiastic active use, but by 2000 it became clear that it needed extensive refurbishment, that its use had declined, making it financially unsustainable, and that it was no longer fit for purpose. Planning permission for the development of major extension on the site was refused.

The Parish Council called a Public Meeting on 28th March 2001 which carried the proposition that the old village hall should be sold and the proceeds be used to build a new hall. A new Hall Management Committee was elected with the mandate to sell the old hall, obtain a site within the village and build a new hall.

Sale of the old village hall was completed in June 2002.

The response to a Parish-wide questionnaire in November 2002 endorsed the requirement for a village hall with facilities to cater for a wide range of activities and for a village playing field sufficient for field games. It was agreed that the village hall and the long standing need for the playing field should be taken forward in tandem thereby increasing the chances of obtaining both grants and planning permission.

Since then the critical problem has been the unexpected difficulty in finding a suitable site without which, planning and grant applications and the rest of the development cannot proceed. With the exception of the small Parish Charity field off Stow Road and the Parish open space off Ferriman Road all the open spaces in the village are privately owned. "Without prejudice" assessments by the District Council Planning Authority, of the likelihood of planning permission for those sites that could be considered, have drastically reduced, but not eliminated, the possible options.

The response to the Parish Plan questionnaire has endorsed the need for both the village hall and a playing field and the resulting Action Plan calls for a re-vitalisation of the village hall and playing field project. The purpose of the Extraordinary General Meeting on 2nd December is to proceed with this by electing a new Village Hall Management Committee.

PLEASE ATTEND!