

Spaldwick Village Hall AGM

31st May 2018 8pm at Spaldwick Community Room

Present: Raine Thompson (RT), Lyndy Pullan (LP) and attached sign in sheet

Apologies: None.

1) Welcome – Purpose of Meeting

LP opened the meeting by welcoming all those attending the meeting. LP explained that the AGM's meeting purpose is to report on the finances for this year and to appoint a new committee. It would be helpful to obtain new suggestions and ideas for the Spaldwick Village Hall funds also.

2) Apologies and Changes in Committee

At the moment there are only two committee members remaining – the Chair and Vice Chair have both moved out of the village and other committee members have had to resign for various reasons, which means that there is only LP and RT currently on the committee.

3) Appoint Chair for the Meeting

Before the meeting could continue a Chair had to be appointed to conduct the meeting. LP was appointed as Chair for the meeting (proposed: Nick Thompson; seconded: Alison Heath and voted by the attendees).

4) Minutes from Previous AGM

Those attending the meeting were given the opportunity to read the minutes of the last AGM (2017) and were asked to approve them. This was approved unanimously (vote was at the end of the meeting to allow people to read them who had not seen any copies before).

5) Report of Finances

RT presented the end of year finances to the meeting. RT stated that the annual return for the financial year 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017 have been submitted to the Charities Commission. Trustees who have stepped down from the committee before the AGM have been removed.

RT stated that the funds are receiving a poor level of interest, interest throughout the year reduced from 0.367% to 0.226%. RT explained this was not unusual in the present financial climate. RT has researched the sector and can find no other accounts that can offer a better rate of interest. RT highlighted that unfortunately, the interest rate has gone down but building costs are increasing so it is becoming increasingly unlikely that the funds would be enough to build a substantial village hall and would definitely not be enough to cover the cost of both purchasing some land and building a village hall.

6) History of Village Hall

In 2000, the old village hall was deemed too costly to repair so it was sold. The money from the sale of the hall was put into a trust. Since 2000, the Spaldwick Village Hall Committee have looked at several pieces of land within the village and after much research the pieces of land have been deemed unsuitable – this has been going round and round in circles.

All the pieces of land that have been looked at with regard to a village hall are detailed on the Spaldwick Village Hall website with the reasons they did not go further.

This committee has always aimed to be transparent and approachable.

The feedback that the committee have received is that there is very little appetite for a village hall. Since the sale of the village hall, the school building/community room provide some areas that are suitable for village activities. There is also some concern as to the continuing costs that running and maintaining a village hall would mean to future generations – a legacy of debt.

As there have been difficulties locating suitable land and a lack of support for a village hall, there have been suggestions of what could be done with the fund instead of building a village hall. These suggestions have not been dismissed but the committees focus has been on a village hall previously. In the past the committee have asked the village for suggestions and there has been very little response. Prior to this meeting two emails were received with apologies for absence. . RT read out the two emails that have been received:

7) Ideas and Suggestions Discussion

a) BURY CLOSE (William Brown):

LP read out an email from William Brown regarding Bury Close (the field next to the Church):

'To Spaldwick Village Hall Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the future of a new Village Hall. Starting in 2010 there have been a number of discussions between Robinson and Hall of Bedford, on my behalf, and the Village Hall Management Committee,

Spaldwick Parish Council and HDC, and more recently Bernard Plumber and Graham Leach over the possibility of a Village Hall situated in the grass field next to the Church.

Lately however the discussions have dried up.

I believe a Hall or Pavilion would be in the interest of the village, and possibly the Church as well, and part of the field could also be used for sports and amenities for villagers of all ages.

If it is felt that this may be worthy of consideration I am open to suggestions to take this forward and would welcome such an approach.

William Brown'

i) ACTION: LP to get more specific details from William Brown.

b) SAINT JAMES CHURCH

John Blatch (JB) was asked to present the situation regarding the Church building. JB stated the Spaldwick is not unique in having no village hall and an under used Church. Some villages have found a way around the situation and they have combined the Church (PCC – Parochial Church Council), village hall and Parish Council. They have a village hall committee that leases part of the Church building for village activities. All the villages that JB has researched have to had to do lots of fundraising to obtain the money for the required refurbishment of the Church, Spaldwick is in a slightly different situation in that there is money from the village hall fund potentially available.

This money would be solely used for the refurbishment of the interior of the building to make it suitable to village activities and would not be used for the repair of the structure of the Church.

To ensure that the building remains available to the village, the PCC have been looking into how it can make the building a more useable space (similar to Easton Church) so that it can encourage people to rent it which would generate income for the continued maintenance of the building. They had been waiting to see what was happening with the village hall because they didn't want to duplicate services and didn't want to make the investment into the refurbishment if the facilities were not to be fully utilised. The Church income is low and the costs are high. Fundraising by the PCC are restricted due to the lack of basic facilities within the Church building, i.e. no running water or toilet facilities. With this in mind they have already had plans drawn up which show the new refurbishment of the structure. The PCC have approved the new plans, planning approval is now required and lots of fundraising. They believe that the refurbishment will cost between £100,000 and £200,000. They are looking into funding options but are worried that organisations such as English Heritage may refuse their application due to the fact that the village has the village hall fund which is not being utilised.

- c) LP distributed pens, paper and envelopes to those attending the meeting inviting them to give the committee ideas on what they think the money should be used for. Lots of ideas were made verbally but were not discussed in detail, e.g. a portion of the fund going to the refurbishment of the Church (which would be ring fenced just for the refurbishment) to make it a useable village space and the remaining money used purchase land next to the Church for a car park and landscaping of the area to make it a relaxing family space with benches with the potential to put up a marquee and possibly a village hall in the future.

RT stated that the most popular ideas would be looked at by the committee and a feasibility study would be done for each. In approximately 6 months these would then be presented to the village for a vote on how they would like the committee to proceed.

The committee will look at ways to actively promote the village hall fund and look at ways to proceed collecting ideas from village residents.

- d) VILLAGE PLAN

- 8) Jason Pope reminded those attending the meeting that a village plan was conducted (over ten years ago) and the results from the survey highlighted that the young people of the village stated that they wanted a village hall. However, a village hall would need to be big enough for sporting activities. Jason just wanted to prevent the committee from looking into too much of a specific route.

9) Committee Members Resign

LP and RT resign from the committee.

10) Committee Members Appointed (by votes from the floor)

Committee Member	Proposer	Seconder
Lyndy Pullan	Nick Thompson	Alison Heath

Raine Thompson	Lynda Haley	Margaret Taylor
Amba Harbour	Yvette Webb	Sue Stone
Paul Webb	Robert Taylor	Simon Parker
Shayne Parfrey	Pete Rimmer	Denise Fane de Salis

Spaldwick Primary School headmistress, Mrs Louise Worrell, was happy to be a representative for the school.

Other representatives needed from the following clubs. It was agreed that it may be possible to have a rotation of representatives from these clubs to avoid nominating one individual; a trial of 6 months was agreed:

Bowls Club

Escape Youth Club

11)Close Meeting

LP thanked everyone for attending the meeting and she hoped that the committee would be able to present some ideas back the community within 6 months.

Meeting closed 9:09pm.