

Present: See attendance list (12 people)

Apologies: Stephen Bowring, Maureen Vickers, Jean & Roger Haines,

Opening remarks

Grahame Leach (GL) opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed those people who were attending. GL thanked the Committee members by name and asked the meeting if anyone would like to join the Committee. The Committee would like someone to represent the Youth Groups in Village. GL outlined the process for electing the new Committee. GL also thanked Jim White and the Chairman of the Parish Council for their help and support.

Progress Report

Survey

GL then outlined some of the responses to the recent survey - approximately 30% of Spaldwick residents had completed the survey! A printed survey report was provided. (See Secretary's folder)

GL asked the meeting for any comments/questions regarding the Survey -

The response of approximately 30% was thought to be low! Further comment regarding maintenance costs of being too low - figure of £8000-10000 per annum was provided by GL.

Further investigation is being carried out by the Committee regarding maintenance costs experienced by other local village halls. David Henrick (DH) is meeting The Treasurer of Alconbury Memorial Hall on Tuesday 2 February 2016 and will report back.

Nominations for the Village Hall Committee

The following Village Hall Committee members were seeking re-election:

Peter Edwards	(PE)	proposed Kevin seconded D.Henrick
Lyndy Pullan	(LP)	proposed D. Stowell seconded Y. Webb
Raine Thompson	(RT)	proposed Stuart seconded Y. Webb
Grahame Leach	(GL)	proposed Y Webb seconded D Henrick

It is the intention of the committee to co-opt our Vicar Stephen Bowring on to the Village Hall Committee - and hopefully someone to represent the Youth Groups.

The Parish Council will, in due course, nominate someone to be their representative on the Village Hall Committee.

There were no nominations from the floor - the meeting voted in favour of all nominees.

Financial statement

RT provided a copy of the financial statement (see attached) the balance of the Village Hall fund at 1 February 2016 is £259847. The annual return to the Charities Commission is due in April 2016.

Further Discussion

Offer letter received from representative of local developer.

PE briefly described the offer and stated that the Committee would be considering what is on offer and would report back to the Village.

GL stated that any change to the Trust Deed would require a 75% majority at a special general meeting to change the purpose of the Deed.

Further discussion took place regarding the terms of the Trust Deed. The Committee accepted an action to look at the terms of the Trust Deed for the mention of a time limit.

A question was asked if there are any strings attached to the offer - PE replied that 6 houses would be built in order to achieve the aims of the offer.

Further comment came from the floor regarding the offer - would the view of the Church be impaired and therefore stop planning permission being given. Would the site in question (Known as Bury Field) become a large housing estate?

PE replied that the terms of the offer would not allow for additional housing to be built.

LP suggested that something smaller than a Village Hall may be a possible solution given the limited budget.

Comment from the Floor that previous Village Halls did not pay - and could become a burden on the Village.

Question - is the Bury Field area within a Conservation Area? DH replied that there had been previous investigation into the area. There was a view that the site may be of archaeological interest but there was no conclusive evidence to-date.

Concern was expressed by residents of Stow Road regarding access to the Bury Field area - the bend is a dangerous point in the Village and is believed to be a potential road safety hazard - DH commented on his experience with Speed Watch in that area. Part of any planning application would require approval by HDC and consideration of the access requirements.

A question was asked regarding the planning permission required - GL replied that any offers considered by the Committee would be put to residents of Spaldwick as part of the process.

LP asked the meeting for their views on using an on-line survey application. The response was favourable for those residents with internet access - consideration should be given to approaching residents who do not have the required Technology.

GL thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 8.30 pm