MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPOFFORTH-WITH-STOCKELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE LONG MEMORIAL HALL, SPOFFORTH, ON WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7:30PM

09202601 PRESENT

Chairman June Geddes, Vice-Chairman Gerald Heslop, Councillor Graham Berville, Councillor Mike Thompson, Coun. Gill Hewitt, Coun. Peter Shipston.
Parish Clerk - Mrs Amrit Kaur
1 member of the public.

09202602 APOLOGIES

NYCC Councillor Andy Paraskos – arrived at 8.00 pm.
Councillor James Roberts – on holiday.

09202603 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

09202604 WELCOME - Peter Shipston was welcomed to the meeting as a Parish Councillor.

09202605 To listen to the member of the public.

Concern from a resident regarding parking on Castle Street where two houses have no parking facilities and cars are damaged by the traffic weaving in and out and being unprepared to wait. There is an agreement to increase the number of bollards by two on one side of the road to allow those houses to have access to their homes and drives. It was agreed there was no solution but hopefully the proposed reduction in speed to 20 mph will encourage better and more considerate driving.

09202606a THE MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 15th July, were approved as a true record and signed.

09202606b ACTION POINTS

The action points were discussed and updated.

09202607 CLERK REPORT

No report from the Clerk as everything covered in general matters.

09202608 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a). No. 15 Grange Avenue - Front extension. No objections.

b). No. 26/05266/FUL. Erection of two storey dwelling house.

Objection - the Council feels this is an overdevelopment of this location with already heavy traffic from the Percy Way and Massey Fold developments onto the A661 at the narrowest point.

Spofforth has far exceeded the requirement for additional housing for NYC both in recent development and also the approved planning of houses which are already in place.

09202609 No Planning Decisions or Planning Enforcement.

07202610 ELECTORAL MATTERS.

Coun. Shipston was requested to complete the election forms and return to the Clerk for submission.

09202611 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

09202611a YLCA Bulletin and Training Opportunities. Coun. Geddes reiterated that Councillors should attend training opportunities offered through the YLCA to cover the roles and responsibilities of Councillor, Clerk and Financial Officer.

09202611b Long Memorial Hall – sub Committee

The Long Memorial Hall sub-committee met in August and discussed all aspects of the LMH – Councillor June Geddes led the Long Memorial Hall Committee with Councillors – Graham Berville, Mike Thompson and Peter Shipston.

The Chairman has written an outline of the facilities etc. for the new website and has discussed with Chris Dutton the opportunities for design and creation. Photographs are needed for specific oopportunities and pilates and line-dancing groups have already offered photos for the site. Coun. Heslop pointed out that it is an old photo of the hall in the magazine not showing the new disabled access - Coun. Geddes will take photo and send to magazine.
HallMaster seems to be the best options for bookings so we will set up a demonstration.
Two web names will be registered - Spofforth village hall and Spofforth Long Memorial Hall and both will direct to the same website.

Need to revisit the final touches for the hall - Coun. Heslop will discuss the changing of the socket pads; Coun. Geddes will talk to Charles Hodgson to produce wooden rings to fit around the radiator pipes.

Still to be agreed - electronic key lock system; new notice board etc.
Proposal is to upgrade car park with new tarmac and white lining so parking opportunities are improved. At present no indication of disabled access etc.
Social media

Councillor Gerald Heslop will lead the Open Spaces sub-Committee with Councillors Gill Hewitt and James Robrts.

Ginny Greenholes -

to review the future investment in the site and look at ways to increase our eco-friendly facilities etc. It is looking to the future to keep improving the facilities and amenities which we have to offer. Wildflower meadow etc....
Also meet with Phil Tonks to discus possibilities for adult gym training equipment.

Millennium Garden – liaise with Tim regarding future developments..

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Working with Coun. Heslop will be Coun. Gill Hewitt and Coun. James Roberts.

The full Council will discuss the opportunities for the Centenary Year 2027 at the next meeting.

09202611c The opportunity was discussed at length for streets in the village to have residents only parking permits. There were concerns as the whole village has parking problems and it would push parking to other areas. Residents would have to fund the permits which can be expensive.

09202611d Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church. There was much excitement from Councillors wishing to help – in the absence of James Roberts on holiday this was passed to him for inspiration.
The Parish Council will take part. Chair to book.

09202611e Christmas lights at the Long Memorial Hall.

The Christmas tree will be in place as usual but will be secured in a barrel which will be obtained by Coun. Thompson.

To bring attention to the improvements at the hall there was a discussion as to if we could have more lighting actually on the building – stars …. Or icicles right round. Coun. Hewitt and Amrit will research and see what can be found which will complement the building and enhance it for the Christmas period.

09202611f Autumn and Winter Film Nights.

The Councillors were very keen to support Film Nights so Council to liaise with Village Society to alternate responsibility for the administration of the film nights – chairs, money, refreshments etc. **Councillors to submit some film proposals ASAP to Coun. Geddes.**

Proposed these will start in October and carry on with special family films at Christmas – Home Alone etc. and Love Actually.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

09202612a The AGAR has been submitted but there are still two final queries to be answered before it can be signed off. These must be completed by Friday 18th September.

Name of supplier / contact	Payment for	Expenses	Remuneration

09202612b August bank statements reviewed by Councillors and approved

09202612c Bank accounts as at 01.09.2026 - Current account - £5,958.22

Reserve account - £56,113.13

09202613 **EMPLOYMENT MATTERS.**
To resolve to exclude members of the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the business at agenda item 14 being prejudicial to the public interest.

Forms for appointment of Coun. Shipston to be completed and returned to NYC.

09202614 **Review Correspondence -**

09202614a J.Cooke - further complaint regarding Pharmabox and Parish Council. Coun. Berville has volunteered to respond and request officially any relevant correspondence from Councillors.

09202614b Further communication from residents about developments at Spofforth Golf Course. Coun. Geddes to set up meeting with the owners at the GC - Coun. Berville and Thompson keen to attend. Coun. Geddes to follow up with Harry Hunt.

09202614c Communication from Chris Keddle, Chief Planning Officer – NYC – advised there are breaches that need regularised. There are animals including goats and ponies on the land. Planning applications to be submitted. We need to keep in touch regarding timetable.

09202614d Communication from NYC confirms that they are considering reducing speed on Castle Street to 20 mph and on the Follifoot Road to the bridge at 30 mph. It was agreed to write and confirm we would support both suggestions but in addition would like consideration for 20 mph throughout the village between the 30 mph signs on Harrogate Road and High Street.

09202614e A letter from a resident asking if the person responsible for starting the fire at East Park Road would be considered for rehousing in Spofforth in the future. There are great concerns. Coun. Geddes to write to Liz Meade voicing these concerns.

09202615 **TO NOTIFY THE CLERK OF MATTERS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

09202616 **Chairman asked Councillors to put Sunday 8th November in their diaries for Remembrance Day which hopefully will be at Spofforth Church. All Councillors are to attend if possible.**

TO NOTE THE DATE, TIME, AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

General Meeting: **Wednesday 21st October – 7.30 pm**
Wednesday 18th November - 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.40