

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPOFFORTH-WITH-STOCKELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE LONG MEMORIAL HALL, SPOFFORTH, ON WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2026 AT 7:30PM

04202601 PRESENT

Chairman June Geddes, Councillor Andy Paraskos, Councillor Graham Berville, Councillor Gill Hewitt, Councillor Carl Marston.
Parish Clerk - Mrs Amrit Kaur
One member of the public.

05202602 APOLOGIES

Councillor Gerald Heslop, Councillor James Roberts.

05202603 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

05202604 WELCOME

05202605a THE MINUTES

The minutes from the ordinary meeting of 15th April 2026 were approved as a true record and signed.

05202605b ACTION POINTS

The action points were discussed and updated.

A member of the public raised concerns about the inconsiderate parking in the narrow streets of Spofforth – in particular Castle Street at the Long Memorial Hall at certain times of day, School Lane, Park Lane and Beech Lane. This had been brought to her attention when Emergency vehicles had difficulty in access which caused great stress - the Council were in agreement and the Chairman confirmed she would put it in the Parish Magazine and if appropriate print it to be distributed in crowded roads.

05202606 CLERK REPORT

04202606a The Grit bin on Park Mount has been FILLED – finally, as summer arrives.

04202606b NYCC had issued a “Call for Sites” to all Councils to nominate possible development sites in their locale.

04202606c Alpha Furniture will deliver the chair “Dolleys” on Tuesday 22nd May – Councillor Breville and Councillor Thompson volunteered to put in the hall.

04202606d **Alpha** Furniture will deliver the chairs during week commencing Monday 8th June - Clerk will advise Councillors as soon as we have a delivery date and time as it will be all hands on deck. Councillor Roberts will take away the blue chairs - Church have requested some – Chairman to liaise with Barry Nickels to see how many they want.

05202607 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26/01948/FUL - 9 Park House Green - NO OBJECTIONS.

26/01498/FUL - 2 Park View Planning Application - NO OBJECTIONS.

26/01845/DVCON - Village Farm Planning Variation - Consultancy only.

05202608 ELECTORAL MATTERS.

Councillor Carl Marston offered his resignation from his role on the Council. The Chairman and Council were very disappointed as he has been on the Council for over ten years and has worked tirelessly during that time. Councillor Marston has a young family and runs his own business and is no longer able to devote his time to the Council as he would like. The Chairman thanked him for his constant support and hoped that in the future the Council may be able to welcome him back! Thank you!

Clerk to get in touch with NYCC and advise of Councillor Marston’s resignation so we can start the process of a new appointment.

05202608 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

- 05202608a Indemnity Notices** - Coun. Heslop has had indemnity notices produced and put up at Ginny Greenholes from both directions and on the entrance feature.
- 05202608b British Gas – 360 Dataview platform.** The Chairman has signed the Council up for this feature which will allow Coun. Heslop to identify – Clerk will advise when information is confirmed. In the meantime it is vital that we keep sending readings on a monthly basis so if Coun. Heslop can do this and give readings to the Clerk to submit we can keep a careful eye on costs.
- 05202608c Coun. Heslop has been in touch with Insurance Company** regarding the new playground equipment and the Council is fully covered now indemnity notices are in place. However the insurance company did suggest that including the Councillors for personal indemnity would be advisable and this was agreed at the meeting.
- 05202608d Year-end accounts** are being prepared for the AGAR submission by Auditor – Rachel Marston. The change of Clerk at the critical time of year has made this a very difficult situation.
- 05202608e Retirement of Revd. Barbara Ryan** – Last service will be on Sunday 7th June 2026. Councillors will hopefully be in attendance and to help.
- 05202608f Spofforth in Bloom** - John Horne asked for specific financial help with the planting at the Millennium Garden which is of course part of the Council portfolio. It was agreed that a sum of £150 would be donated, together with their annual donation of £250.00. Total £400.00
- 05202608g YLCA Weekly bulletin** - This is distributed weekly by the Clerk to all Councillors and lists opportunities for training – particularly for new Councillors and Clerks. Councillors asked to put themselves forward for training.
- 05202608h Harland Way signage.** Coun. Hewitt expressed concerns regarding the Harland Way cycle track as the chicane was removed when surfacing works were completed and has not been reinstated. This has allowed access to motorbikes and also horses/ponies which is totally unacceptable as it is a danger to cycles and pedestrians and also is causing damage to the new work surface which was a considerable cost.
Signage is also a problem as there is only one inadequate sign on a tree away from the cycle track which is not clear and concise. Chairman/Clerk to write to Sustrans (now known as WalkWheelCycle Trust and identify the problem.
- 05202608i Promotion of the Long Memorial Hall.** As work on the Long Memorial Hall comes to a conclusion a discussion was held about how to let people know what has taken place and what a transformation has been carried out. It has been a matter of great pride that the works that have been carried out both here and at Ginny Greenholes, have in the main, been done by local tradesmen.
It was suggested an OPEN DAY – on a Saturday 10.00 – 4.00 p.m. with refreshments, with support from local companies and associations so that we can herald all that Spofforth has to offer. **The only date before the School Holidays in Saturday 20th June** so there is a degree of urgency to round up people to shout about what they have to offer and hopefully encourage families from the new estate and throughout the village to attend. We will produce a flyer to be distributed to every house (volunteers please) and also a couple of banners. Chairman will meet with Chris Dutton from the Village Society to ask for inspiration. Can Councillors confirm if they can attend and help. We still need to review the booking form and conditions and research online booking system.
- 05202608j Coun. Breville researched new Savings Account opportunity** - It would appear there are options to earn a higher interest rate for our Savings account so Coun. Breville will do further research and present at a future meeting.
- 05202608k Castle Street** - A resident has suggested that two additional bollards are added to Castle Street on the next stretch as cars swerve on and off the pavement which could end in injury. It is suggested two additional bollards would keep drivers on the road and hopefully slow down traffic which at present zigzags along. Councillors were in favour and Coun. Paraskos will ask at NYCC if this would be possible.
- 05202608l SOLAR PANELS.** Becky Beevers is the only Clerk who has been able to access the supplier to submit our Solar panel readings. Clerk will approach and see if she can recall how she did it!

05202609a

FINANCIAL MATTERS.**Councillors supported the following payments –**

Dean Pallister (DP Builders)	£873.12
BrownHirst Joinery – storage	£3,276.00
Alpha Furniture - chairs	£6,160.28
C. Reavely Interiors (curtains)	£2,326.67
CMH Joinery (redecorating)	£12,100

05202609b

Name of supplier / contact	Payment for	Expenses	Remuneration
British Gas Lite	Gas	£494.66	
British Gas Lite	Electricity	£106.00	
North Yorkshire Council	Recycling	£85.24	
North Yorkshire Council	Bins	£105.38	
BT	Broadband	£51.40	
J Geddes	Expenses	£141.61	
DP Builders	Install electric handdryers	873.12	
Fusion LX Ltd.	50% of installation works	12,707.39	
HMRC	Tax and NI for Cleaner's wages	£61.00	
Swale & Ure Drainage Board	Drainage rates for waste land	£8.10	
Brownhirst Joinery	Storage units (final payment)	£3,276.00	
YLCA	Membership subscription	£492.00	
YLCA	Parish Clerk Training	£47.00	
Alpha Furniture	Deposit for chairs	£2,053.43	
C. Reavely Interiors	Final payment for curtains	£2,326.67	
Amrit Kaur	Parish Clerk		£403.00
E Edwards	Village Hall Cleaner		£244.00
R Harrison	Open Spaces Caretaker		£136.00
J Steggles	Village Hall Booking Clerk		£171.00
B Middleton	Village Hall Caretaker		£136.00
Total			

- i. Bank statements were reviewed by Councillors.
- ii. Current Account Bank balance on 30th April: £13,551.24
- iii. Reserve Bank Account balance on 30th April: £43,195.22

04202610

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS.

04202610a

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.

0520261b0

Clerk to contact NYCC regarding resignation of Coun. Marston.

04202611

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

04202612

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

Future meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month, the next meeting is:

General Meeting:	Wednesday 17 th June 2026 - Long Memorial Hall - 7:30pm
General Meeting:	Wednesday 15 th July 2026 – Long Memorial Hall – 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:45

