

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY AT 8.00PM**

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Present: Mr K Flood - Chair, Mr D Hazell, Mr L Piper, Mr A Quick, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Westwood  
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr Henry Hobhouse, David Norris – Boon Brown, 15 members of public

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**Public session**

A member of Sparkford Playing Field Committee reported that the Annual Duck Race had been a success and £1,500 was raised for ongoing maintenance.

The editor of the SPARK magazine asked that details of any events taking place in the local area are sent to her for inclusion in the magazine.

The meeting started at 8.02pm

**2024**

**SPC28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr R Squires

**SPC29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

LP declared an interest in item SPC35a) and SPC35b)

**SPC30 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting on 3 June 2024 were agreed.

**SPC31 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

No crime report had been received.

**SPC32 SOMERSET COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Hobhouse advised that he would arrange a meeting with Mr Montgomery regarding clearing the debris in the river.

**SPC33 HIGHWAYS**

There were no updates to report.

**SPC34 PLANNING DECISIONS**

a) 22/01331/OUT Outline application with all matters reserved for the redevelopment of the brownfield site, Dairy House Yard, adjacent to the Haynes Motor Museum to create commercial employment space (Use Classes E (a,b,c,d and g), B2 and B8) to support and enhance the activities of the adjoining Haynes Motor Museum. Land At Dairy House Yard Cary Road Sparkford **Application permitted with conditions**

**SPC35 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

LP left the room

- b) **24/00891/FUL Construction of new unit (use class E, B2 and B8). Land to South West of Unit 1, Goodwood Drive, Sparkford.** No objections were raised, although it was noted that the other buildings on the site did not have Class E. It was proposed and unanimously agreed to support the application.
- c) **24/00940/FUL – to discuss response from Planning regarding building height and agree if any further comments are to be submitted.** Concerns were raised regarding the height of the building due to the close proximity of neighbouring properties. It was proposed and agreed (4 – for, 1 – abstained) that the initial response to Planning is still valid and that a condition must be attached to any permission to ensure that the height of the new building is not higher than the existing railway carriage.

LP returned to the meeting.

- d) **24/00841/FUL Development of a new Trunk Road Service Area incorporating a farm shop and restaurant/café, hotel/lodge accommodation, energy station, photovoltaic solar arrays, truck stop, strategic landscaping and other ancillary works. Land OS 6143, Sparkford Road, West Camel. Application in West Camel to be noted and feedback from public meeting on 19 June.** TT and DH gave an update following the public meeting in West Camel on 19 June. It was noted that the proposal could impact on local services and facilities in Sparkford. Residents were encouraged to submit comments regarding the application.

#### **SPC36 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update**  
There was no update to report
- b) **Transfer of land for village hall – update** The Parish Clerk reported that Somerset Council had been informed of the potential S106 breach and Lovells had been updated.
- c) **Proposed development of land off High Street – feedback from public exhibition held by Boon Brown on 20 June** Unfortunately there had been no feedback to date from Boon Brown following the exhibition. Concerns were raised by Parish Councillors and members of the public regarding the short notice of the public exhibition and the approach/response from the team managing the event.
- d) **Website development – update** AQ gave an update and it was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Western Web.
- e) **Defibrillator training – to agree a date for community training session**  
it was agreed to look at possible dates in September.
- f) **Community Speedwatch – update** At the present time there was no Speedwatch co-ordinator in place so it was not possible to progress this at the present time.
- g) **Local Community Network (LCN) – update** RS attended the meeting and had circulated an update in advance of the meeting.
- h) **Village event – to discuss holding a village event** a local resident had suggested holding a village event to bring the community together, perhaps at the Cricket Field. A member of the Playing Field Committee felt that this

was already in place through their annual fun day. It was agreed to discuss further with local residents and groups and defer discussion until a future meeting.

- i) **New development sites – update and discuss any issues** It was noted that LVA Planning are holding a public consultation event on Thursday 18 July regarding their plans to develop the Glebe land adjoining the playing field.

#### **SPC37 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) **Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- b) **Payment of £1,284 to SLR (mowing and strimming)** Approved  
It was noted that the areas are not always cut in the same day, TT confirmed that this was agreed with SLR but it would be reviewed in October when looking at the contract for the coming year. Concerns were raised about other areas in the parish that are overgrown. The Parish Clerk reminded Councillors that property/land owners are responsible to cutting back hedges/trees/vegetation that is fronting the highway and that issues must be reported to Somerset Council.
- c) **Payment of £250 to GTH (playing field rent)** Approved
- d) **Payment of £35 to SALC (Councillor training)** Approved

#### **SPC38 CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **SPC39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 2 September 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.21pm

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Neighbourhood Watch** – we are looking to re-instate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. If you would like to get involved then please contact the Parish Clerk.

**Speedwatch** – we are looking for volunteers to get involved with Speedwatch in the Parish. If you are interested then please contact the Parish Clerk.

**Warm Hubs** – Do you have a few hours to spare each week or month? Would you like to help people who may be struggling with the cost of living crisis? Do you like to meet new people? If you answer yes to all these questions then please contact the Parish Clerk to learn more about how you could help with a Village Café/Warm Hub?

**Community Newsletter** – do you have experience in producing newsletters? We are looking for someone to create a regular newsletter for Sparkford. If you are interested then please contact the Parish Clerk to find out more.

**Community events** – are you holding an event in Sparkford? Please send the details to the Parish Clerk so that it can be promoted on the parish website and Community Facebook page.

**Daisy Woods** – please note that in the interests of safety and to protect the habitat Daisy Woods has been closed temporarily to allow the area to recover following recent bad weather.