

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 4th March 2024 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Larry Piper – Chair, Ken Flood, David Hazell, Andrew Quick, Richard Squires, Duke Westwood
Cllr Kevin Messenger, Cllr Henry Hobhouse, 11 members of the public
Clerk – Lisa Davis

Public session

One member of the public spoke about matters subsequent to the statement that he read at the previous meeting and confirmed that a Code of Conduct referral had been submitted to Somerset Council and that a series of events had been referred to Avon and Somerset Police.

2023

SPC116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Trevor Tuck

SPC117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Larry Piper declared an interest in item SPC126b)

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Ken Flood would chair that item in the absence of the Vice Chair

SPC118 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting on 5th February 2024

SPC119 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No report had been received to date.

SPC120 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR

Cllr Kevin Messenger reported that the No. 1 and No. 58 bus services had been saved. He thanked Trevor Tuck for the information that he provided regarding Dimmer and confirmed that the proposals for the recycling centres would be discussed by Somerset Council Scrutiny Committee. Henry Hobhouse advised that he had spoken to Democratic Services that and was expecting an email to say that there had been no misconduct by the Chair.

SPC121 HIGHWAYS

There was no update.

SPC122 PLANNING DECISIONS

None

SPC123 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) 24/00241/HOU Adresia, Church Road, Sparkford. Single storey extension
Parish Councillors raised no objections to this application

SPC124 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services – McDonalds have still been unable to find an electrician to install the defibrillator.
- b) Local Community Network (LCN) – Richard Squires gave an update on the

LCN meeting that was held on 22 February.

- c) Transfer of land for new village hall – there was no update
- d) Website – Andrew Quick reported that he met with Flaydemouse to discuss the changes to the website server. It was agreed that Andrew would request more details and costs for the suggested options and it would be discussed at the next meeting.
- e) Sparkford Copse – Justin Crawford had confirmed that the tree inspection had been completed. It was agreed to request a copy of the report.
- f) New development sites – there was no update
- g) Quarterly review of outstanding issues – an update report was issued in advance of the meeting

AQ

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SPC125 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payment of £402.93 to Mrs L Davis (Parsh Clerk salary) **Approved**
- b) Payment of £120.00 to SLR Outdoor Maintenance (mowing/strimming)
Approved but agreed that the Parish Clerk would contact SLR regarding outstanding work
- c) To consider grant request from Weston Bampfylde PCC **It was unanimously agreed to award a grant of £150**

SPC126 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter from Somerset Council regarding Highways Services devolution **Noted**
- b) Letter from resident at Long Hazel Mead
Larry Piper left the meeting
The Parish Clerk confirmed that the advice from Somerset Council Democratic Services team was that this item should not be discussed as requested by the resident.
Larry Piper returned to the meeting
- c) Email from Network Rail – notification of Queen Camel Level Crossing Public Footpath **It was agreed to request more information regarding the diversion and access.**

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SPC127 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th April 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.37pm

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.