

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2024 AT 8.00PM**

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Present: Mr L Piper – Chair, Mr K Flood, Mr D Hazell, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Westwood, Cllr Kevin Messenger, 4 members of the public

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**2023**

**SPC92 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Henry Hobhouse

**SPC93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**SPC94 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES**

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting on 4 December 2023, to be signed by the Chair at a later date.

**SPC95 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

No report had been received to date.

**SPC96 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR**

KM reported that the Somerset Council budget report is available on the website and that the budget consultation runs until 22 January. Concerns had been raised regarding the proposal to close five recycling centres in the county.

**SPC97 HIGHWAYS**

There was no update on issues previously reported.

**SPC98 PLANNING DECISIONS**

- a) 23/02841/TPO 6 Ainstey Drive, Sparkford Application to carry out tree surgery works to No.02 trees included within Yeovil District Council Tree Preservation Order (SPAR 1) 2011 **Approved**
- b) 23/02414/LBC Brooklands Farm, Brains Lane, Sparkford. Replacement of windows and rear door **Application permitted with conditions**

**SPC99 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) 23/02960/FUL Land adjoining The Orchard, Cherry Pie Lane, Sparkford. Erection of a new garage and storage building **Parish Councillors supported the proposal but raised concerns about the road still not being sorted despite partial agreement to resolve the issues between SSDC and SCC**
- b) 23/02956/FUL Brooklands Barn, Brains Lane, Sparkford. Dual use of outbuilding for incidental residential use and for hosting supper clubs; and siting of portable kitchen – retrospective **Parish Councillors supported the proposal although concerns were raised following reports of noise from customers returning to the car park at the end of the events. Councillors requested that Horrell and Horrell provide supervision for people leaving the car park. Concerns were also raised about**

pedestrian safety due to the poor condition of Brains Lane. TT reported that the Parish Hall Committee would be considering amendments to the car park agreement as the current conditions prevent the use by others not using the hall. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

#### **SPC100 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

- c) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update** LP queried if McDonalds were still undertaking the litter picking. LD agreed to contact Sarah about this and to request an update on the works to the ditch. LD
- d) **Local Community Network (LCN) – update** RS gave an update on the LCN meeting on 6 December that he attended.
- e) **Transfer of land for new village hall – update on issues and outstanding matters** There was no update to report.
- f) **To discuss Service 1 (Yeovil – Castle Cary – Shepton Mallet) bus route under threat and agree response to Somerset Bus Partnership/Somerset Council** Councillors raised concerns about the threat to this service and it was agreed to write to Somerset Council to raise awareness of the potential impact. LD
- g) **To agree grass maintenance schedule for 2024/25**  
**RESOLVED: it was unanimously agreed to approve the grass maintenance schedule for 2024/25**
- h) **Financial update – Village Hall** Noted
- i) **Financial update – Playing Field** Noted
- j) **Playing Field inspections – quarterly report and update on faults reported** Noted
- k) **New development sites – update and discuss any issues** There was nothing to report

#### **SPC101 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) **Payment of £250.00 to Greenslade Taylor Hunt (playing field rent)**  
Approved
- b) **Payment of £427.35 to Mrs L Davis (Parsh Clerk salary)** Approved
- c) **Payment of £33.60 to Flaydemouse (website renewal)** Approved
- d) **Payment of £234.00 to Flaydemouse (website hosting 23/24)**  
Approved
- e) **Agree budget and precept for 2024/25** It was proposed and unanimously agreed to set the precept at £19,306 for 2024/25.

#### **SPC102 CORRESPONDENCE**

An email had been received raising concerns about the speed of traffic on Church Road. It was agreed to contact the Police about this and also the issues with speeding/noisy vehicles during the Haynes Breakfast meetings. LD

#### **SPC103 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 5 February 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

## **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