

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Mr L Piper – Chair, Mr D Hazell, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Westwood, Cllr Henry Hobhouse, 2 members of the public

2023

SPC80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr K Flood

SPC81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC82 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting on 6 November 2023, to be signed by the Chair at a later date.

SPC83 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A crime report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

SPC84 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR

HH reported that a meeting would take place on 31 January regarding the river Cam flooding issues. There was relatively good news on the Somerset Council financial situation and it is now unlikely that a S114 notice would be served this year. Some changes are being made to the waste collection services to reduce fuel and staff costs/time. HH has taken legal advice regarding the ROW and is now going to wait until it can go to appeal rather than judicial review. KM reported that a new highways maintenance contract had been signed with Keir for three years.

SPC85 HIGHWAYS

TT advised that the grit bin at Wolfester Terrace had still not been refilled. HH reported that he was awaiting a response from Wessex Water to confirm a date to meet.

SPC86 PLANNING DECISIONS

None

SPC87 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 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 **Parish Councillors had no comments.**
- b) 23/02414/LBC Brooklands Farm, Brains Lane, Sparkford. Replacement of windows and rear door **Parish Councillors had no objections to this application.**

SPC88 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update** The

Manager at McDonalds had asked for more information regarding the electrical connection for the defibrillator

- b) **Local Community Network (LCN) – update** The next meeting is on 6 December.
- c) **To agree schedule of Parish Council meetings for 2024** The schedule of meetings for 2024 was unanimously agreed.
- d) **Letter from Somerset Council to all Town and Parish Councils re: asset/service devolution – to discuss possible opportunities and impact on budgets/precept for 2024/25** The letter was discussed and it was agreed to find out more about the Highways Steward. LD
- e) **Sparkford Hill Lane - to discuss issues and agree response to Somerset Council Highways** It was agreed to ask Somerset Council Highways to erect signs to advise that the road is un-even/dangerous. LD
- f) **Transfer of land for new village hall** It was agreed to contact a Solicitor and obtain a quote to provide legal advice regarding the issues. LD
- g) **Sparkford Stone – update** There was no update.
- h) **New development sites – update and discuss any issues** TT raised concerns about the street lighting at Goodwood Drive as it had still not been completed. LP advised that Ashford Homes would be fitting a hydro break at the gate to the commercial site to improve the drainage.
- i) **Quarterly review of outstanding issues – to report any updates on outstanding issues** An update report was issued in advance of the meeting.

SPC89 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) **To note agreement on NJC pay scales and pay offer for 2023/24** Noted
- b) **Budget – update on budget and S106/CIL contributions** Noted
- c) **Payment of £540.00 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved

SPC90 CORRESPONDENCE

LP reported an incident of fly tipping at Sparkford Hill Lane.

SPC91 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8 January 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.16pm

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