

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 8.00PM**

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

2023

SPC68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

SPC69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC70 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting on 2 October 2023, to be signed by the Chair at a later date.

SPC71 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

SPC72 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR

HH reported that he had lost the case against the ROW application and had requested a judicial review. If the financial situation at Somerset Council does not improve by February 2024 there is a risk of a Section 114 notice being issued. Somerset Council are doing everything they can to improve the situation.

SPC73 HIGHWAYS

There was no update on the outstanding issues. HH reported that all highway activity had been cancelled to allow the team to deal with the recent flooding. TT reported that the grit bin at the end of Wolfester Terrace had not been re-filled, it was agreed to follow this up with Somerset Council. TT reported that the manhole outside Bennett Close is sinking.

LD

It was agreed to ask SLR to cut the grass areas that had not been cut by Somerset Council / Abri and to request an update on the areas that they are responsible for.

TT

SPC74 PLANNING DECISIONS

a) 22/02780/FUL Erection of one dwelling (revised application on part of site following planning permission 20/02743/FUL). The Orchard Cherry Pie Lane Sparkford. **Application withdrawn**

b) 22/02274/FUL Single storey detached dwelling and detached garage. The Orchard Cherry Pie Lane Sparkford. **Application withdrawn**

c) 23/01883/TPO Application to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 1 Tree as shown within the Yeovil District Council (SPAR 1) 1981 Tree Preservation Order. Oakley, Church Road, Sparkford. **Application permitted with conditions**

**d) 23/01588/FUL Hardstanding area for animals. Land OS 7267 Church Road
Application permitted with conditions**

HH advised that unfortunately the divisional members have no influence on planning decisions now or requests for Committee referral. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to Planning to express the Councils concerns about the new process.

LD

SPC75 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) 23/02535/FUL Construction of 8 no. Industrial Units (Class E and B2) and Retention of Service Yard. Land adjacent to Cadbury Business Park, West Galhampton Road, North Cadbury. **Parish Councillors supported the proposal but raised concerns about the additional traffic on the road, particularly as this was the latest in a series of applications for the site in recent years.**

SPC76 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update** TT reported that he met with Sarah at McDonalds on 1 November to agree the location of the defibrillator and discuss the ditch clearance and hedge cutting works.

b) **Local Community Network (LCN) – update** KF and RS attended the LCN meeting on 4 October and gave an update on the discussions. The next meeting is on 6 December.

c) **To discuss the formation of a River Cam flood warning group** it was proposed and unanimously agreed to write a letter to FWAG to support the funding request for flood defences for Sparkford, North Cadbury and also to be part of the Flood Warning group. Concerns were raised about the continuing issues with the foul sewers during periods of heavy rainfall. HH agreed to follow this up with Wessex Water. It was agreed to write to Somerset Council planning to re-iterate the issues in Sparkford and concerns about further issues if further development is approved in the parish.

LD

HH
LD

d) **Transfer of land for new village hall**

i. **Update on actions agreed at site meeting with Lovells on 22**

September the response from Lovells had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Concerns were raised about the accuracy of the survey completed to obtain the levels and also the material that has been buried and been used to create the bund. It was agreed that TT would mark the proposed access for the new village hall on a plan to be sent to Somerset Council and that quotes would be obtained for a post and rail fence to be erected once the bund has been removed. The Clerk would write to Lovells to request that the electricity cabinet is moved as agreed at the site meeting and contact Somerset Council regarding the terms of the S106 agreement.

TT

LD

e) **Sparkford Stone – update on design and quotes for repair and/or replacement of stone** Quotes had been obtained for the repair and replacement of the stone. It was agreed that TT would send the quote to the Clerk to contact the insurance company and progress the insurance claim to replace the stone.

TT/LD

f) **To agree plans and quote for new playing field equipment and discuss**

draw down of S106 monies the updated quote was agreed. The Clerk advised that approval for the installation of the new play equipment from the Diocese was awaited before the S106 application could be submitted. LP reported that the Playing Field Committee would fundraise for the shortfall and it was noted that an order could not be placed until the full amount had been raised.

- g) New development sites – update and discuss any issues** TT asked if Lovells could be contacted to find out if a non-return valve had been fitted on the river for surface water drainage.

LD

SPC77 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) **Payment of £392.00 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- b) **Payment of £1,152.00 to SLR (grass cutting and strimming)** Approved
- c) **Payment of £233.64 to SALC (affiliation fee 2023/24)** Approved

SPC78 CORRESPONDENCE

DH reported that he encountered a near miss at the Copse at the weekend. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Justin at the Copse Trust regarding the health and safety concerns.

LD

SPC79 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4 December 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.41pm

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