

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

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Present: Mr L Piper – Chair, Mr K Flood, Mr D Hazell, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires and Mr T Tuck  
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. H Hobhouse, Cllr. K Messenger, 5 members of the public

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**2023**

**SPC39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr D Westwood

**SPC40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

LP declared a personal interest in item SPC46b) but confirmed he had no pecuniary interest.

**SPC41 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES**

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting on 3 July 2023, to be signed by the Chair at a later date.

**SPC42 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

No crime report had been received.

**SPC43 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR**

HH reported that phosphates are continuing to cause an issue. Somerset Council have issued another warning about the budget overspend, the cost of the transfer to the unitary authority is considerably more than estimated. Money is now available for properties flooded in May.

**SPC44 HIGHWAYS**

The Clerk reported that Highways had advised that Sparkford Hill Lane would be patched by the end of August. Once this was completed further works would be looked into.

**SPC45 PLANNING DECISIONS**

- a) 23/01251/FUL The erection of steel portal frame extension to existing building. Sparkford Storage, Compound Way, High Street, Sparkford.  
**Application permitted with conditions**

**SPC46 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- b) 23/01588/FUL Hardstanding area for animals. Land OS 7267, Church Road, Sparkford. **Parish Councillors object to this proposal as the field is unsuitable to sustain cattle and not capable of feeding animals. Concerns were raised regarding phosphates and where the run off would go and also about the entrance into the field which is inadequate.**
- c) 22/01598/OUT Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the creation of commercial buildings under Use Class B2 and B8. Land South of High Street, Sparkford. Amendments to Landscape and Visual

Impact Assessment and further response from LLFA. **Parish Councillors raised concerns about the LVIA report which failed to mention noise pollution or the visual impact when the trees have shed their leaves. It is a huge site with a lot of concrete and roof space which will increase the risk of flooding to existing properties in Sparkford. The alterations to the entrance mean that it is now not wide enough for two vehicles. It was noted that Somerset Council are committed to a greener county and this proposal goes against that commitment. Concerns were also raised about the ditch that is not maintained which during heavy rain results in the manhole overflowing.**

- d) 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. **Parish Councillors raised no objections to this proposal.**

**SPC47 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update**  
It was agreed to arrange a meeting with McDonalds to discuss the installation of the defibrillator.
- b) **Local Community Network (LCN)** the next meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> October. KF and RS would attend the meeting.
- c) **Designating rural settlements as ‘Village’ for development** It was agreed that although communications with LVA were ok, they fell down when the development was sold.
- d) **To discuss damage to Sparkford stone** LP reported that the Sparkford stone had been maliciously damaged. The Clerk suggested that Hazelgrove Services and Galliford Try are contacted to find out if they had CCTV coverage of this area, LP suggested that this was not necessary. It was proposed and agreed to contact the insurance company about replacing the stone. TT agreed to work on a design and contact Hadspen Quarry, Doulton Stone and another company for quotes.
- e) **To discuss terms of renewal of lease for properties at Twines Close** It was agreed that the leases would be renewed with the remaining terms but that the rent would increase in line with the increase when the Parish Council lease was renewed with Greenslade Taylor Hunt.
- f) **To discuss transfer of land for new village hall site** there are still concerns about the land for the new village hall and it was agreed to request a site meeting with Lovells to discuss what had been agreed previously.
- g) **New development sites** TT reported that the metal manhole on the road in front of Bennett Close is sinking. The Clerk reported that the S106 contributions for the Lovells site had now been paid to Somerset Council.
- h) **Quarterly review of outstanding issues**  
*Cherry Pie Lane resurfacing* – reported to SSDC June 2020, advised that enforcement case had been closed 25 October 2021. SSDC asked to re-open the enforcement case in February 2022 as works not completed. Email received from SCC January 2023 advising that SCC are waiting for the developers designer to respond to an audit carried out before works can be agreed. No further update. Awaiting confirmation from Somerset Council regarding who is responsible for ensuring that the planning condition relating to the surfacing works is complied with.

TT

LD

*Goodwood Drive pavement* – Ashford Homes have advised that the block paving works and final wearing course to the footpaths have been completed. All roads within the residential part of the development will then be adopted by SCC Highways. Ashford Homes advised 25 November 2021 that they had initiated the inspection sign-off process. March 2022 Ashford Homes advised that no response had been received from SCC. October 2022 Ashford Homes advised that they were waiting on drainage information relating to the commercial site and that yellow lines had been put down by a third party without permission from SCC Highways or Ashford Homes. December 2022 Ashford Homes advised that they are still awaiting drainage information relating to the commercial site. Ashford Homes confirmed March 2023 that they are still awaiting confirmation that the drainage scheme relating to the commercial site has been approved. Ashford Homes advised June 2023 that they had received confirmation that the drainage scheme for the commercial land has been approved. The final manhole (separating the two sites) can now be constructed. Once these drainage works have been adopted, they will then progress the adoption of the road. No further update.

*Possible planning breach at Hazelgrove Lodge* – reported to SSDC October 2020, advised January 2022 that the enforcement case had been closed. SSDC asked to re-open the case in February 2022. No further update received to date.

*Footpath diversion* – formal application submitted to SSDC June 2021. Response from SCC in April 2022 confirming costs to progress application and advising that it would take 6 – 12 months to deal with an application. Awaiting confirmation of land ownership and clarification of who is responsible for payment before submitting new application to SCC.

*Street lights at High Street* - Ashford Homes have confirmed they will replace but SCC not aware when this will be done. It remains Ashford Homes responsibility until the roads are adopted. There is no further update on this, although LP has advised that there are further works required before the estate roads can be adopted. Update requested from Somerset Council Street Lighting team following confirmation from Ashford Homes that they will be looking to progress adoption of the road once the drainage works are complete.

*Car Wash* – the continuing problem of water running across the road has been reported again to SCC Highways and SSDC Planning. LP spoke to Garretts in March 2022 and asked them to take a look at the problem, they agreed to speak to the people who run the car wash and ask them to come up with a solution. SSDC were asked to look into this again and have confirmed that there is no planning breach. SCC have advised that they will contact the owner again but unfortunately SCC works will not be available to issue/schedule until April 2023 due to budget and resource. John Nicholson has advised that any surcharges on the carriageway will receive extra salting when the road length is gritted. Update requested from Highways.

*High Street nameplate* – missing nameplate at entrance to Haynes Publishing reported. SSDC advised that it would be replaced by end of April but the work has not been completed to date, email sent asking for an update. SSDC asked for clarification of location of nameplate, now awaiting completion.

*Street lighting at Burrows Court* – SCC have provided an approved street lighting plan so the Clerk would follow up with Ashford Homes regarding completion. Ashford Homes have advised that the road is not being adopted and that no street lighting is being provided. SCC have been asked to follow this up. It should be noted that there is now a Private Road sign at the entrance to Burrows Court. Street Lighting team have been asked for an update but no response received to date.

*Potential damage to trees with TPO's off High Street* – reported to Phil Poulton at SSDC who advised that he would visit to inspect. Response received from Phil Poulton in October 2022 who confirmed that he had met with the landowner in person and explained the importance of carefully removing the remainder of the root system (the owner agreed to do this). Phil Poulton would continue to monitor the trees. Email sent January 2023 to advise that building materials still left around trees. Phil agreed to check and speak to the owner again. No further update.

Lying water at entrance to Goodwood Drive – Somerset Council Highways team asked the Development Control team to advise on this in May 2023. No update has been received to date.

Potholes on Sparkford Hill Lane – reported to Somerset Council May 2023. Update received on 28 May to advise that they had been inspected but no action was needed because the problem is not a safety issue and not severe enough to fix it. John Nicholson advised that the patching equipment would be used on Sparkford Hill Lane by the end of August. Once this has been completed, an assessment will be made as to whether further works are required.

#### **SPC48 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) **Payment of £784.00 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- b) **Payment of £250.00 to GTH (playing field rent)** Approved
- c) **Payment of £1,428.00 (work completed to date on transfer of land for new village hall)** Approved
- d) **Payment of £218.40 to Flaydemouose (website hosting December 22 – December 23)** Approved

#### **SPC49 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Letter from business at Cadbury Business Park re: A359 speed limit**  
HH agreed to resurrect the A359 group to try and address these issues.

LP reported that he had received a letter from Boon Brown. An Extraordinary meeting would be held on 11 September to discuss this.

#### **SPC50 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 2 October 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.24pm

## **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