

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 JULY 2023 AT 8.00PM**

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Present: Mr K Flood – Chair, Mr D Hazell, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr D Westwood  
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. H Hobhouse

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**2023**

**SPC27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr L Piper, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Westwood

**SPC28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**SPC29 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES**

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meetings on 3 May 2023 and 5 June 2023, to be signed by the Chair at a later date.

**SPC30 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

A crime report was circulated for information. It was noted that there had been no crimes reported in June.

**SPC31 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR**

HH reported that there are two by-elections taking place on 20 July for the Somerton and Frome Constituency and 10 August for the Castle Cary division.

Somerset Council have recently approved a 10 year tree strategy and the summer surface dressing has just started. In response to a query from AQ regarding issues with footpaths in the parish it was agreed to send the details to HH to follow up.

**AQ/LD**

**SPC32 HIGHWAYS**

AQ reported that the kerbs by the grass area opposite the Church had been damaged by lorries driving on them.

**SPC33 PLANNING DECISIONS**

**a) 23/01069/FUL** Widening of existing access and realignment of boundary wall. Home Farmhouse, High Street, Sparkford. **Application permitted with conditions**

**b) 23/01070/LBC** Widening of existing access and realignment of boundary wall. Home Farmhouse, High Street, Sparkford. **Application permitted with conditions**

**c) 22/03294/OUT** Outline application for the erection of 1 dwelling, with all matters reserved but for access. Land behind Longacres, Brains Lane, Sparkford **Application permitted with conditions**

**SPC34 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**a) 23/01360/S73A** Application to remove conditions 6, 7, 8 and 14 relating to planning approval 19/02160/FUL (as amended by 22/03022/S73A) for the

siting of three temporary agricultural workers dwellings for a period of 5 years together with an agricultural barn with PV array and new vehicular access to provide three affordable smallholdings to new entrants to ecological agriculture. Land North of Sparkford Hill Lane, Sparkford 23/01251/FUL. **Parish Councillors had no objections to this application.**

#### **SPC35 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update**  
It was noted that McDonalds and the services appear to be closing earlier than previously.
- b) **Local Community Network (LCN)** the first official SES LCN meeting was held on 22 June. It was well attended with many parishes represented. KF and RS attended and reported that they hoped that the LCN manages to achieve some positive outcomes.
- c) **Community Plan** the final report had been circulated and comments were made. It was agreed to contact Abri and request details of the rural acceptance nominations process. LD
- d) **To consider proposal for River Cam communications and flood prevention** HH advised that he now has details of what happened on 9 May when two storms got caught between hills. North Cadbury, Yarlinton and Queen Camel would like to work with Sparkford to look at options to improve communications and flood prevention. It was agreed to discuss further with these parishes and identify what could be done.
- e) **To discuss and agree a response to the Somerset Council consultation regarding the Statement of Licensing** It was agreed that there were no comments to submit.
- f) **To consider quotes for noticeboard** It was agreed to contact Lovells and Ashford Homes to find out about plans to install noticeboards on the new housing developments. KF would look at options to fix a noticeboard to the bus shelter. LD  
KF
- g) **To consider ten year maintenance plan for playing field and play area**  
A plan had been circulated by the Playing Field Committee in advance of the meeting. Councillors raised concerns about the figures included and it was agreed to ask for it be amended to include a percentage increase or decrease as appropriate each year as it was unlikely that the costs would remain the same for the next 10 years. LD
- h) **To consider quote for repairs to garage roof at playing field** A quote had been provided by it was dated 2020 so an updated quote was being sought by the Playing Field Committee.
- i) **Financial update – Village Hall** the details were noted
- j) **Financial update – Playing Field** the details were noted
- k) **Playing Field inspections – quarterly report and update on faults reported** the report was circulated in advance of the meeting
- l) **New development sites** it was agreed to request a site visit with Lovells to discuss the removal of the soil on the new village hall site LD

#### **SPC36 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) **Payment of £392.00 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- b) **Payment of £35.00 to SALC for Councillor attendance at social media training** Approved
- c) **Payment of £50.00 to Natural Numbers (Payroll services)** Approved

- d) **Payment of £1,152.00 to SLR Outdoor Maintenance (four months cutting of greenspaces)** Approved
- e) **Payment of £245.00 to M S Collins (installation of bench at Copse)**  
Approved

**SPC37 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Email from resident regarding double yellow lines at Goodwood Drive**  
the Parish Clerk reported that she had spoken to Ashford Homes who confirmed that the double yellow lines were painted by a third party without permission and they would be removed in due course before applying for the road to be adopted by Somerset Council. Somerset Highways had confirmed that double yellow lines would not be permitted on this road.

**SPC38 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 4 September 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

## **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