

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 6 MARCH 2023 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Mr L Piper – Chairman, Mr K Flood, Mr D Hazel, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Westwood

In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. Mike Lewis

The meeting started at 8.00pm.

SPC119 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Henry Hobhouse

SPC120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC121 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

The minutes the Parish Council meeting on 6 February 2023 meeting were unanimously agreed.

SPC122 CRIME

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

SPC123 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

ML reported that the last Area East Committee meeting would be held this week. From 1st April 13 Councillors would sit on a Strategic Planning Committee to deal with planning across Somerset. This is a major change to the current arrangements whereby all Councillors have a say on planning. ML confirmed that it had been agreed that Somerset Council would fill the grits bins across Somerset this year. ML reported that 98.12% of applicants were offered their first choice secondary school place.

SPC124 HIGHWAYS

ML reported that the works on Sparkford Hill Lane would not be completed before the summer. TT raised concerns about patching as this would not resolve the problem. It was agreed to ask for confirmation of the works that would be completed and to request a site visit to discuss further.

LD

TT asked that the Clerk report a pothole on the High Street, opposite Hazelgrove Lodge and also that three columns on Hazelgrove roundabout and the bollard opposite the services are still not working.

LD

SPC125 PLANNING DECISIONS

a) **22/003251/FUL** Form temporary road to construction area. Construct practice cricket area including perimeter nets. Sparkford Cricket Club, Brains Lane, Sparkford **Application permitted with conditions**

SPC126 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

SPC127 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services** - McDonalds were still awaiting the quote from Crestmoor to complete the works to the hedge. TT advised that LP had instructed Crestmoor to complete the work and invoice McDonalds upon completion. LP agreed to ask that Crestmoor send the quote to McDonalds ASAP. The Parish Clerk reported that McDonalds were happy to have a defibrillator located on the outside wall of the restaurant but requested confirmation of the requirements for the electricity supply. TT advised that he would be happy to meet Sarah to agree the location. LP reported that Hazelgrove Services was being taken over by Shell. **LP**
- b) **Local Community Network (LCN) update** – there was no update as the last LCN pilot event was postponed and re-arranged to take place on 20th April.
- c) **Kings Coronation** – LP reported that a meeting would be held on 16th March to agree the arrangements. All groups interested in being involved in the coronation celebration event that would take place on Sunday 7th May had been invited to attend the meeting. LP confirmed that the toilets and marquee had been booked. LP would update Parish Councillors on the plans after the meeting on 16th March. **LP**
- d) **New development sites** – it was noted that the top hedge at Cherry Pie Lane had now been cut but no mature hedging had been planted. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Lovells to request an update on the progress of the Environmental Plan. The Clerk reported that Lovells were still awaiting a response from the groundworkers regarding the removal of the soil on the Village Hall site. LP expressed concerns about the delay and suggested the Mr Tizzard is asked to follow this up on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would email Mr Tizzard. **LD**
- e) **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. **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. LP reported that the drainage scheme for the commercial site has yet to be approved as a hydro-break should have been installed but it has not yet been done so there are now concerns that there is not enough attenuation on the commercial site to prevent flooding of residential properties. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with SCC Highways.

LD

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. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with SCC Highways to find out when this work would be completed.

LD

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.

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.

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.

Owl boxes for Daisy Wood – DH is still awaiting a response from Pitcombe Falconry. The Clerk agreed to try and get a phone contact number for them.

LD

SPC128 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payment of £660.00 to Paul Hart Welding Ltd. (supply of galvanised bench) **Approved**
- b) Payment of £392.00 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary - February) **Approved**

SPC129 CORRESPONDENCE

An email had been received from the Village Hall Committee regarding issues with the delivery of flyers for events taking place at the hall, unfortunately the Committee members found it difficult to deliver and asked if the Parish Council would consider creating and distributing a newsletter again to remove the need for individual flyers to be delivered. This was discussed and concerns were raised about enough content for a regular newsletter and if people would remember the dates of events if they were advertised too far in advance. It was agreed to post something on social media, the website and at in the notices section of the minutes to ask for volunteers to, although it was acknowledged that this had been done several times over the past few years with no success.

LD/AQ

LP reported that some members of the Playing Field Committee had offered to litter pick around the village and had asked if the Parish Council could purchase litter pickers for them to use. TT advised that if the equipment was purchased by the Parish Council the volunteers would need to wear hi-vis jackets and be issued with a copy of the Health and Safety Policy. LP did not feel that this was something they would want to do so agreed to buy the litter pickers himself. It was noted that McDonalds do a very thorough job of the areas that they litter pick but TT asked if the Clerk could request that they go as far as Sparkford Sawmills and also asked for clarification of how far they cover on Old London Road.

LD

TT reported that he had arranged to meet with SLR on Friday 10th March to discuss the grass/hedge cutting. It was agreed to request six cuts per year.

DH asked when the locks would be changed on the gates to the car park and

Daisy Wood. TT agreed to change them in the next week.

TT

SPC130 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3 April 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.53pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sparkford Community Plan – If you are interested and would like to get involved with this then please contact the Parish Clerk.

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.