

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 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, one member of the public

A tenant of Wyvern Fields spoke regarding the planning application to reduce the size of the agricultural barn. She advised that the reason for the change was due to an increase in costs of materials and also a change to the position of the barn. She confirmed that two further tenants would be moving onto the site (a mobile catering business and a market gardener). Following a query regarding the generator that is being used, the tenant confirmed that it is only used for two hours per night and would not be used once the barn had been completed, although there would be a backup generator in case the batteries fail. If the business was successful after 5 years then an application for a permanent dwelling would be submitted.

The meeting started at 8.06pm.

SPC107 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Henry Hobhouse

SPC108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC109 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

The minutes the Parish Council meeting on 9 January 2023 meeting were unanimously agreed.

SPC110 CRIME

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

SPC111 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

ML reported that there is a consultation regarding planning that includes a proposal for only one person to speak in favour and one person to speak against a planning application with a time limit of three minutes. Mike advised that it is still difficult to contact staff at SSDC, although it is beginning to improve if contacting someone at the new Somerset Council. The new IT system will be up and running soon. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the consultation to oppose the three minute time limit and one person representation.

LD

SPC112 HIGHWAYS

TT asked that SCC Highways cut the area between Wolfester Terrace and Sparkford Hill Lane as part of their annual cutting programme.

LD

SPC113 PLANNING DECISIONS

a) **22/03194/HOU** Erection of two storey side extension to replace existing

single storey garage and replacement of front porch. Meadow View, Church Road, Sparkford **Application Permitted with conditions**

- b) **21/00900/FUL** Alterations to include the creation of additional access, re-arrangement of external amenity areas to provide additional garden area, the replacement of existing low-level hedge and fence with new landscape buffer, erection of 1.8m fence and new garden wall to separate dwelling from other buildings and industrial car park. No alterations are proposed to the external appearance of Rose Cottage. Rose Cottage, High Street, Sparkford **Application Permitted with conditions**

SPC114 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) **22/03022/S73A** Application to vary Condition 02 (approved plans) to allow for minor amendments to the siting, finish and size of the 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 **Parish Councillors were supportive of the reduction in size of the agricultural barn, although raised concerns about the possible sale of goods from the site. It was agreed to request that a planning condition is included to ensure that a super silent generator is used if needed in the event of an emergency situation. It was also agreed that Planning be asked to confirm that the proper drainage had been installed.**

b) **22/03248/HOU** Erection of a two storey and single storey extension to rear of dwelling and erection of new side porch **There were no objections raised to this application providing that the existing parking was retained to avoid excess parking on the road.**

SPC115 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 Crestmoor were awaiting a response from SCC Highways before submitting the quote.

b) **Local Community Network (LCN) update** – the Clerk reported that SCC Executive had agreed that there would be 18 LCN's in the new Council structure. The next LCN pilot event would take place on 2nd March.

c) **Community Plan update** – the Clerk reported that the report had been received and it was agreed that the summary and synopsis would be sent to Smart Communities to be formatted.

d) **Kings Coronation** – LP reported that he had spoken to the Cricket Club who advised that they were unable to host the Coronation celebrations at the Cricket Field. Arrangements were therefore being made to hold an event at the playing field. The Village Hall Committee had offered to provide the refreshments, local businesses had agreed to sponsor a marquee and band. LP confirmed that the Playing Field Committee would sort and the music licence and Temporary Events Notice as soon as the final details were confirmed. It was suggested that the Scout and Explorer Groups are invited to help with the event. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contribute up to £500 towards the cost of the toilets that had been booked. LP agreed to send the details of the booking to the Clerk.

LP

e) Update on application to A303 social value fund – the Clerk reported that the Playing Field Committee had already submitted an application to the fund. LP agreed to circulate details of what had been applied for. It was agreed that the Parish Council would submit an application for funding towards owl boxes, defibrillators and the bench at the Copse.

LP

f) To review Health and Safety policy – It was agreed to re-adopt the Health and Safety policy with no amendments.

g) To discuss consultation on Somerset Council Statement of Community Involvement – it was agreed to send any comments to the Clerk by end of February.

ALL

h) New development sites – there was no update from Lovells following their meeting with the groundworkers. It was agreed to remind them that the hedge cutting at Cherry Pie Lane would need to be completed before 1st March and the embargo regarding nesting birds.

LD

SPC116 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payment of £250.00 to Greenslade Taylor Hunt (playing field rent)
Approved
- b) Payment of £392.00 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary - January)
Approved
- c) To consider quote for grass cutting for 2023/24 mowing season **Three quotes had been requested and two had been received. It was agreed that the Clerk would make contact to discuss further**

SPC117 CORRESPONDENCE

RS and DH reported that they would be interested in assisting with a Community Speedwatch in Sparkford. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with the Police.

LD

AQ raised a query regarding a TPO tree that had been felled at Catalina, Church Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with Phil Poulton at SSDC.

LD

TT confirmed that the Village Hall Committee would deliver flyers to promote the mobile library.

SPC118 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6 March 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.27pm

LD

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?