

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023 AT 8.00PM**

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Present: Mr L Piper – Chairman, Mr K Flood, Mr D Hazel, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr T Tuck  
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. Mike Lewis, Mr S Travers – Boon Brown, one member of the public

The meeting started at 8.00pm.

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**SPC95 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Henry Hobhouse

**SPC96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**SPC97 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES**

The minutes the Parish Council meeting on 5 December 2022 meeting were unanimously agreed.

**SPC98 CRIME**

No crime report received from the Police.

**SPC99 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

ML reported that SSDC and SCC are finding it difficult to communicate with residents in South Somerset and resource is still an issue. There is no certainty about Planning, Finance or the phosphate issue at the moment. SSDC are looking for additional funding for the refurbishment and extension of the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil, ML expressed concerns that this project could face the same issue as the town centre regeneration project.

**SPC100 HIGHWAYS**

TT requested that the Police are asked to do radar checks along The Avenue as high speeds had been recorded on the SID along this stretch of road.

LD

The Clerk reported that SCC Highways would be removing the bollard on the High Street in the new financial year. It was agreed to request that it is not removed until traffic calming is in place as it helps to reduce speed and provides a slightly safer crossing.

LD

**SPC101 PLANNING DECISIONS**

**a) 22/02877/TPO** Application to carry out tree surgery works to No. 1 Tree as shown within the Yeovil District Council (SPAR 1) 1976 Tree Preservation Order **Application Permitted with conditions**

**SPC102 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) 22/03294/OUT Outline application for the erection of one dwelling, with

all matters reserved but for access. Land behind Longacres, Brains Lane, Sparkford **Parish Councillors support this proposal but would like to see a condition included to ensure that the road surface is improved and that a passing bay is provided by Brains Lane.**

b) 22/003251/FUL Form temporary road to construction area. Construct practice cricket area including perimeter nets. Sparkford Cricket Club, Brains Lane, Sparkford **There were no objections raised to this application.**

c) 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. **There were no objections raised to this application.**

d) 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 (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION) **Parish Councillors still object to this application. Councillors asked if local residents had been contacted to gauge their views as requested when the applicant attended the Parish Council meeting previously. Concerns were raised about the failure to meet Policy SS2 and the additional traffic movements, there is disparity between the actual traffic data that has been collected from the SID and what has been provided as part of this application. There are still major concerns about the drainage and surface water issues in Sparkford. A report produced by the Environment Agency in 2016 identified the issues. The main issue is that the development relies on the main carrier ditch that goes under the railway line. During periods of heavy rainfall, overtopping of the sewer occurs. There is no demand for commercial development in Sparkford and concerns were raised about units remaining empty like the brand new units that have been built in Yeovil. Councillors asked what the split would be for B2 and B8 uses. The applicant advised that this had not yet been decided but confirmed that the units would be used for manufacturing and there would be no refrigeration units.**

**SPC103 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

a) **Co-option – to fill vacant seat on Council** TT confirmed that he had been in contact with the other resident who had expressed an interest and was awaiting a response. It was proposed and agreed to co-opt Mr D Westwood if he was still interested.

b) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services** It was agreed to remind McDonalds that the works to the hedge must be completed before 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**LD**

c) **Local Community Network (LCN) Pilot update** – the Clerk reported that a report would be taken to the SCC Executive on 18 January.

d) **Youth Feasibility report** – the report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that it may be more beneficial to look at opportunities to transport young people from Sparkford to the local towns to access provision. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Queen Camel Parish Council to discuss their plans.

**LD**

e) **Community Plan update** – the Clerk reported that 83 surveys had been completed and a report showing the results was now awaited.

f) **Financial update – Playing Field** – the details were noted

g) **Playing Field inspections quarterly report** – the Playing Field

Committee had advised that there had been some changes to the Committee membership which were taking some time to get up to speed but the reports would be sent in due course.

**h) Meetings timetable** – the meeting dates for 2023 were agreed.

**i) Kings Coronation** – LP reported that the Playing Field Committee were happy to lead on the arrangements and were looking at support available from local businesses. It was suggested that the Cricket field would be a good location to hold an event. The Clerk would write to the Playing Field Committee and ask them to liaise with the Cricket Club and the other groups in the parish to agree the plans and report back to the Parish Council.

**j) Access to Playing Field from Cherry Pie Orchard** – TT suggested that a gate be installed to enable access to the playing field from Cherry Pie Orchard. It was agreed that this should be looked at as part of the plans for the new Village Hall.

**k) New development sites** – Jake had been in contact to advise that Lovells would be meeting with the groundworkers the following day.

**l) Quarterly update 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.

*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.

*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 to submit 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

LD

on this, although LP has advised that there are further works required before the estate roads can be adopted.

*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.

*Private Road sign off Wolfester Terrace* – damaged sign has been reported to SCC Highways. This has been repaired.

*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. It was noted that the building rubble has not yet been moved so the Clerk would contact Phil Poulton again.

LD

*Double yellow lines at Bennett Close* – SCC Highways advised that lines will be painted but no date given yet. Andy/Gary have been chased several times but no update on date that work will be completed. The yellow lines have now been completed.

*Double yellow lines at Wolfester Terrace* – SCC Highways have been asked to confirm enforcement arrangements for double yellow lines as drivers are continuing to park on the roadside. SCC have confirmed enforcement arrangements are in place.

*Vehicle parked on pavement on High Street* – vehicle details reported to Police who are monitoring and will agreed to contact the owner of the

vehicle.

**SPC104 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) Payment of £67.92 to Flaydemouse (website and domain renewal)  
**Approved**
- b) Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary – December) **Approved**
- c) Agree budget and precept for 2023/24 **It was proposed and unanimously agreed to set the precept at £11,200 for 2023/24.**

**SPC105 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**SPC106 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 6 February 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

## **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?