

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 9 APRIL 2018 AT 8.00 PM  
IN SPARKFORD PARISH HALL**

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Present: Mr L Piper – Chairman, Mr T Tuck, Mr R Bell, Mr S Flood  
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. M Lewis, Mr R Tizzard, Mr J Read – Chesters  
Commercial, Kelly Oaten – McDonalds, Tim Patrick – MRH, 15  
members of the public

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After a short opportunity for members of the public to address the Council, the Chairman opened the meeting at 8.02 pm.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mrs A Roylance and Mr D Northcott

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**3 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S (5 MARCH 2018) MINUTES**

The minutes of the 5 March 2018 meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**4 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Vandalism occurred at the cricket club – this has been reported to the police

**5 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Phase 1 of the Superfast Broadband project is now complete. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will involve a different system throughout Devon and Somerset. More details are available on the Connecting Devon and Somerset website. SSDC are still withholding their contribution because they are awaiting confirmation of where superfast broadband will be installed.

One year after their difficult Ofsted inspection SCC Children's Services are now looking good.

Fostering in Somerset is an issue. Fostering can be very rewarding so people are encouraged to talk to SCC.

**6 HIGHWAYS**

TT reported that the drain is still blocked in Manor Close.

Concerns were raised by a parishioner that lorries are using Sparkford Hill Lane and damaging the verges as the road is too narrow. If photo evidence and/or vehicle details can be sought then the incidents could be reported to the Police.

**7 PLANNING DECISIONS**

a) **17/04618/REM** Application for reserved matters following approval of 16/01436/OUT

to include details of appearance, landscaping and scale. Land OS 4859 Part Chapel Cross to Hazelgrove roundabout westbound, Sparkford. **Application permitted with conditions**

## **8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**a) 18/00613/S73** Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans), 12 and 13 (drainage) of planning permission 17/01442/FUL to amend design, drainage and layout. The Orchard, Cherry Pie Lane, Sparkford. Councillors support this application subject to the drainage concerns being addressed.

**b) 18/00646/S73** Application to vary condition no. 01 (approved plans) of 17/002840/REM to show brick detailing on the proposed dwellings. Land OS 9032 Part, Old London Road, Sparkford. No objections were raised by Councillors.

**c) 18/00810/OUT** Residential development for up to 50 dwellings and associated works. Land at Cherry Pie Lane, Sparkford.

Concerns were raised by a parishioner regarding the entrance to Bennetts Close, it was felt that this was beyond reasonable and existing parking spaces will become difficult to enter/exit. There are already issues with cars parked on the roadside causing an obstruction when exiting Bennetts Close. The field should remain as an open space.

The field has three ponds that are covered over, a lot of drainage works need to be undertaken before any development could be considered.

The current proposal is for 50 dwellings but there is mention in the application of a further 100.

Concerns were raised about the capacity at the local schools and also the doctors surgery.

Local residents raised concerns about the drainage, it currently looks like a swimming pool following the recent heavy rain.

The village only has a pub, garage and shop. The amenities need to increase to support any additional housing.

There had been previous dialogue with the developer about possible provision of land for a new village hall but there are insufficient funds at the current time.

John Read, agent for the application explained that one of the key concerns with the site is the surface water issues which they are keen to find a solution to. Smaller schemes that have already been added into or will do in the future will only add to the problem. The client is investing a lot of money to alleviate the issues. A specialist consultant has been working with Wessex Water and is confident that the proposals will alleviate a lot of the existing flooding problems. The idea is to take the water out of the existing system and into the river. Wessex Water would approve the works and would be the responsible body.

The access at Bennetts Close was designed to accommodate increased traffic flow. It is appreciated that at the moment it is quiet cul-de-sac but it was also designed to allow further development.

It was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss this application further and for a request for a time extension to respond to planning to be made. Wessex Water would be invited to attend this meeting.

## **9. MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

**a) McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services issues** Traffic was extremely busy and the site was hazardous during the bank holiday weekend. There are ongoing issues with the speed and volume of traffic through the site. At a previous meeting it was agreed to look at the possibility of installing speed bumps, this has been looked at but would not be fit for purpose. There is a major problem with the services traffic flow when lorries are re-fuelling, cars are using the entrance as an exit and there is a high risk of an accident occurring. There are also issues with vehicles parking on the grass area and digging up the daffodils that have been planted there. McDonalds are looking at using professional traffic management during bank holiday and summer holiday periods. Both businesses are keen to work together to address these issues and improve the area.

TT suggested that they make contact with Highways England regarding the proposals for the A303.

**b) Small Improvement Scheme works** Works are progressing, with new 30mph limit signs being erected. There is a road closure planned for 16/17 April to enable further works to be completed. The works will provide some improvement but do not meet the suggestions made by the Parish Council.

**c) Parish Plan/NDP update** The Parish have been advised to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) rather than a Parish Plan. This would enable increased funding through CIL contributions. The Parish need to have an agreed viable scheme to draw down S106 and CIL funds. The NDP carries weight and would stand us in good stead for the next 10 – 30 years but would cost around £10,000. The Parish Council are keen to identify volunteers to assist as it cannot be done solely by the Parish Council.

**d) Adverse conditions Parish contacts** Following the recent snowfall it was agreed that an action plan for adverse weather should be put in place. Information should be held for people who may be able to help with care, those who have 4 x 4 vehicles to enable access to difficult areas.

**e) Wessex Water quarterly update** A verbal update from Wessex Water was read to those present. Wessex Water are still awaiting confirmation of the design and funding for works to be completed.

**f) Castle Cary and Ansford NDP consultation** Councillors to let the Clerk have any comments by the end of April

**g) Draft Somerset Strategic Housing Framework 2018-2022 consultation**

Councillors to let the Clerk have any comments by the end of April

**h) Review of Local Government ethical standards consultation** Councillors to let the Clerk have any comments by the end of April

**i) Change to name of Castle Cary County Election Division – public consultation** Councillors to let the Clerk have any comments by the end of April

**j) Website update/advertising banners** A module could be purchased to enable local businesses to advertise on the website. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting

**k) Annual Parish meeting** Agreed that this will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 14 May

## **10 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) **Annual accounts** Deferred to next meeting
- b) **Payment of £283.94 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- c) **Payment of £30 to Grant Thornton (audit 2016/17)** Approved
- d) **Payment of £1,080 to Flayde mouse (website design)** Approved
- e) **Payment of £1,500 to Harris and Harris (playing field lease legal fees)** Approved
- f) **Payment of £1,320 to Greenslade Taylor Hunt (playing field lease agent fees)**  
Approved
- g) **Payment of £49 to SSDC (playing field land registry fee and searches)**  
Approved
- h) **Payment of £3.90 to Mrs L Davis (postage stamps)** Approved
- i) **Consideration of contribution to Sparkford Playday costs** Agreed to contribute up to £250
- j) **Receipt of £481.50 from SALC (website contribution)** Noted

#### **11 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **12 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

As no response had been received from SSDC Planning regarding the building to the rear of Church Road it was agreed to chase again.

RB thanked Councillors for distributing the flyers and encouraged residents to apply.

#### **13 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Website update/advertising banners

#### **14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 16 April 2018, Sparkford Parish Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.46pm