

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 6 AUGUST 2018 AT 8.00 PM
IN SPARKFORD PARISH HALL**

Present: Mr L Piper – Chairman, Mr R Bell, Mr D Northcott, Mr J Tuck
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. M Lewis, 3 members of the public

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

Mr T Tuck and Mr S Flood

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S (2 JULY AND 18 JULY 2018) MINUTES

The minutes of the 2 and 18 July 2018 meeting were agreed.

4 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr Littlewood reported that a fire had been started at the Copse last month. The fire brigade were called and put the fire out.

5 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Lewis advised that there are still issues with SSDC planning applications because the administration team are unable to cope. They are trying to address the shortfall but it is likely to continue for several weeks. The planning structure is not where SSDC need it to be, this is partly due to the administration but also due to the loss of three Planning Officers. The Transformation programme is not yet complete but new procedures will be in place in January 2019.

RB asked if Planning have a statutory duty to make a decision on planning within a set timescale. Cllr Lewis advised that they do have a statutory duty and that applicants could appeal on grounds of non-determination if no decision is issued. The Parish Council should contact Simon Fox at SSDC Planning if they have concerns.

SCC are trying to address the budget shortfall due to Children's services. They are £12 million adrift for Children's services and also have a shortfall in Adult services as budgets have had to be increased due to the numbers accessing the services. They are trying to address the issues and anticipate making changes before Christmas to set the budget next year

6 HIGHWAYS

SCC have completed verge and hedge cutting at Wolfester Terrace but the area opposite the cricket field has not yet been cut, it was agreed to chase Highways.

LD

7 PLANNING DECISIONS

- a) **18/01065/FUL** The erection of a bungalow. Land adj. The Orchard, Cherry Pie Lane, Sparkford. **Application permitted with conditions**

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) **18/01913/FUL** The installation of 3 no. windows to north elevation and the installation of 2 no. patio doors to west elevation in place of existing windows. Ivy House, 10 Ainstey Drive, Sparkford. There were no objections raised by Parish Councillors.

Mr Littlewood raised continued concerns about planning applications being approved and the need for a Neighbourhood Development Plan. It was agreed that Mr Littlewood would provide contact details for the four people who had expressed an interest in assisting with the plan and LD would then arrange a meeting with Rosemary Heath-Coleman to discuss what would be involved.

ML/LD

9. MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

a) **Co-option of Parish Councillor** Following a vote Mr James Tuck was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

b) **Insurance for Parish Hall** The Parish Council insurance now includes the Parish Hall, which has created a saving in excess of £300 for the Parish Hall Committee. It was agreed that the Parish Hall Committee would contribute £200 towards the insurance costs.

c) **Speeding issues on High Street** A letter has been received from a resident who lives on the High Street, raising concerns about the speed of traffic. LP advised that speeding has been an issue for a long period of time and the Parish Council are currently in negotiation with Highways England and SCC regarding traffic calming measures linked to the A303 improvement works. An extension to the 30 mph speed limit has previously been requested but if the decision taken was that it was too far out of the settlement. The old A303 is still a classified road so this also creates issues, it was suggested that the de-classification of this road should be explored again. There used to be an island outside of the entrance to Pipers but following two accidents this was removed.

It was agreed to request a greater frequency of presence by the Police bike, particularly on the High Street at weekends and early evening.

LD

A suggestion was made that the Neighbourhood Watch and Speedwatch programmes should be re-introduced.

Cllr Lewis advised that West Camel PC are looking into possible options for hiring out their Speed indicator device so it was agreed to contact them to get more information.

d) **Councillor training opportunities** Details of forthcoming training courses would be re-circulated and it was agreed that SF, DN and JT should attend the Councillor Essentials training.

LD
LD

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) **Annual grant request – Sparkford Church** Approved £150 grant
b) **Payment of £283.94 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved

11 CORRESPONDENCE

An invoice totalling £250 has been received from Townsend Consultants for the highways site visit that was carried out. The payment of this invoice was approved.

A letter has been received from Mr Quick expressing concerns about the reduced level of communication of the Extraordinary meeting held on 18 July compared to communication of the meeting held earlier in the year. He also expressed his continued objection to the planning proposal.

12 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

JT reported issues with parking in and around Bennett Close on 21 July. It was agreed to monitor and report to Yarlinton Housing if problems persist with residents.

JT suggested that a communication strategy is needed for the parish. LP advised that communication issues are trying to be addressed via the website but there is more that could be done.

RB reported that the Welcome Pack has not yet been agreed.

RB has been chasing Network Rail regarding the upgrade of the railway crossing but has not received a response to date.

RB suggested that minutes of the Playing Field and Parish Hall Committee meetings are uploaded onto the PC website.

13 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services outstanding issues update
Welcome Pack
Neighbourhood Watch
De-classification of old A303
Communication strategy

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3 September 2018, Sparkford Parish Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm