

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 6 JUNE 2022 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Mr L Piper – Chairman, Mr T Tuck, Mr A Quick
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. Mike Lewis, Cllr Henry Hobhouse

The meeting started at 8.00pm.

SPC17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Hazel

SPC18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC19 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

The minutes of the 9 May 2022 meeting were agreed.

SPC20 CRIME

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

SPC21 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HH advised that he is now a County Councillor until April 2023 when him and Mike Lewis will become the new Unitary Councillors. The SCC budget is £28 million above what it should be for the next year. The issues with Planning at SSDC are not improving because they are unable to employ planning staff. The turnover of staff is causing issues throughout SSDC and in other Districts. There is still no solution to the phosphate issues but HH clarified that the decision for 200 houses in Ansford that was recently approved by the Planning Inspectorate was not delayed due to phosphates as mitigation was put in place to take 100 acres of land out of production for 100 years.

ML confirmed that £28 million is needed to balance the SCC accounts at year end but advised that this type of deficit is not un-common. £14 million is linked to the new Somerset Council and the remaining £14 million is split between the four District Council's. ML stressed the importance of the Local Community Networks moving forward and encouraged Parish Councils to attend the next event on 29th June.

SPC22 HIGHWAYS

There were no updates to report from SCC Highways.

SPC23 PLANNING DECISIONS

a) **22/00992/FUL** The erection of a timber office building and welfare building (retrospective). Sparkford Hall Equestrian Centre, rear of Sparkford Hall, Sparkford Road. **Application permitted with**

- conditions**
b) **21/03630/S73A** S73A application for the variation of planning conditions. Land at Cherry Pie Lane, Sparkford. **Application permitted with conditions**

SPC24 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) **22/01552/TPO** Application to carry out tree surgery works to no. 3 trees as shown by South Somerset District Council (SPAR 1) 2003 Tree Preservation Order. Land at Ainstey Drive, Sparkford. **Parish Councillors had no comments on this application.**

SPC25 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) **Co-option – to fill vacant seat on Council** It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Ken Flood be co-opted onto the Council.

KF joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor

b) McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update

McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services had confirmed their arrangements regarding deliveries and overnight parking. It was agreed to check the planning conditions relating to the application for 24 hour use of the site.

c) New development sites – update and discuss any issues TT queried the number of parking spaces provided by Lovells for Bennett Close residents but it was agreed that the planning condition was for four spaces, which have been provided. The Clerk would request that a sign is erected to advise that the parking spaces are for Bennett Close residents only. LP raised concerns about the amount of top soil that is needed to be removed from the proposed Village Hall site and suggested that a saturation test is required due to the containment pond. TT raised concerns about the new surface water drain when there is heavy rain.

d) Quarterly review of outstanding issues – to report any updates on 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. No further update received to date.

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. No further update received to date.

Possible planning breach at Longhazel 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.

LD

LD

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. Need to confirm ownership of land before new application submitted to SCC.

LD

Meadow View, High Street - possible planning breach reported October 2021, no update received.

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.

Car Wash – the continuing problem of water running across the road has been reported again to SCC Highways and SSDC Planning. A response is awaited from SSDC Planning. LP offered to speak to Garretts. SSDC have been asked to look into this again and SCC have been chased for an update on works to be completed.

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.

Street lighting at Burrows Court – SCC have provided an approved street lighting plan so the Clerk would follow up with Ashford Homes regarding completion.

LD

e) 2021/22 Audit submission – approve paperwork for the Chair to sign Section 1 and Section 2 of the AGAR were approved.

SPC26 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary) **Approved**
- b) Payment to Mr Daniel L Taylor (gates for Daisy Wood) **Approved**
- c) Payment to Mr K Davis (re-imburement for fuel for mower) **Approved**

SPC27 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that a complaint had been received regarding noise from an event held at Sparkford Hall. They had been advised to contact SSDC.

It had been reported that fires/disposable barbeques had been lit in some green spaces in the parish. It was agreed to contact Ansford Academy and the local primary schools to ask them to re-iterate the dangers of lighting fires.

LD

SPC28 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4 July 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.57pm

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Neighbourhood Development Plan – we are keen to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Sparkford but this is not possible without a group of committed volunteers to lead and progress the work involved. 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.