

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 7 MARCH 2022 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Mr T Tuck – Chairman, Mr A Quick, Mr A Voysey
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. Mike Lewis, four members of the public

One member of the public spoke on behalf of Gemma, Manager of The Sparkford Inn regarding the Jubilee celebrations. Gemma is planning to arrange music and children's activities at the pub on the afternoon of Saturday 4 June. It was reported that she would be happy to source and serve a hog roast but would like to request funding from the Parish Council towards this.

The meeting started at 8.07pm.

SPC127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr L Piper

SPC128 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC129 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

The minutes of the 7 February 2022 meeting were agreed.

SPC130 CRIME

The crime report had been previously circulated and it was noted that a Meet the PCSO's session was being held at McDonalds on 13 March.

SPC131 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

ML reported SSDC had approved all precepts. SCC have agreed a 2.99% Council Tax increase and reported that at year end they would have £23 million in reserves. It was noted that Somerset will remain the fourth lowest Band D in the country.

SPC132 HIGHWAYS

There were no updates to report from SCC Highways. The Clerk reported that a meeting with National Highways and Galliford Try had been arranged to take place on Monday 4 April.

SPC133 PLANNING DECISIONS

None

SPC134 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

SPC135 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

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

DH joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor

b) McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update

TT reported that he met with Sarah at McDonalds regarding the ditch and hedge trimming. They also discussed the issue with rodents around the hedge near the lorry park. Sarah agreed to clarify the land ownership of this area but confirmed that they are still undertaking fortnightly inspections.

c) Jubilee celebrations – update on arrangements Sparkford Village Hall Committee would confirm the arrangements for the Cream Teas after their meeting on 24 March. It is hoped that Camelot Growers would plant a tree at Daisy Wood on Thursday 2 June. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact The Sparkford Inn and find out more about the costs for the hog roast.

LD

d) Daisy Wood – update on tree survey and gates TT reported that he had received a quote for tree works, it was agreed that he would circulate the quote to all Councillors. TT advised that the gates would be installed at the end of March. It was suggested that a bench is sited near the stone at the woods to provide a place for people to picnic, concerns were raised about possible increased litter and risk to wildlife but it was agreed that TT would obtain quotes and circulate.

TT

TT

e) New development sites – update and discuss any issues The Clerk reported that Lovells had confirmed that the damage to the verges at Brains Lane had been caused prior to them parking there and that SCC would be responsible for any repair works needed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the residents in the three houses alongside Brains Lane regarding the damage.

LD

f) 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.

TPO's on trees opposite Hazelgrove Lodge – request for TPO's submitted to Planning March 2021. Draft TPO produced October 2021.

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, no response received to date despite several emails being sent to SSDC requesting an update.

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.

Land rear of Bennett Close - possible planning breach reported April 2021 re: early starts on site. SSDC advised no other planning breaches following site visit in Autumn 2021. SSDC advised February 2022 that this case would be closed due to the length of time that had passed since report of early starts.

Barton Court – possible planning breach report to SSDC June 2021. LP advised that the developers installed the garage doors. SSDC have investigated this and confirmed in February 2022 there is no planning breach.

5 Manor Close - possible planning breach reported to SSDC October 2021. SSDC have investigated this and confirmed in February 2022 there is no planning breach.

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

Garretts Commercial - possible planning breach reported September 2021. SSDC Planning have investigated this and confirmed in February 2022 there is no planning breach.

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.

Trees at Wolfester Terrace - Mrs Wake reported height of trees causing a potential issue with electricity lines. Sarah at McDonalds advised November 2021 that trees were being cut by SSE. The trees and hedges were cut in February 2022.

Traffic island on High Street – SCC Highways have installed the new traffic island.

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 has spoken to Garretts and asked them to look at the problem.

High Street nameplate – missing nameplate at entrance to Haynes Publishing reported. SSDC advised that it will be replaced by end of April.

SPC136 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary) **Approved**
- b) Payment to 1st Image Signs (sign for Daisy Wood) **Approved**

SPC137 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that the election nomination packs had been received.

SPC138 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

SPC139 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4 April 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

Parish Council elections – Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday 5th May 2022. Nomination packs are available from the Parish Clerk.

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.