

**MINUTES OF INFORMAL MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4 JANUARY 2021 AT 8.00 PM
VIA ZOOM**

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Northcott

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

The minutes of the 7 December meeting were agreed

4 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Nothing to report

5 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

ML reported that the finances for SCC and SSDC are in some difficulty due to covering the additional costs of COVID.

ML is concerned about the SSDC proposal to regenerate the Octagon Theatre. The facility already takes a £300,000 subsidy to keep it going each year.

6 HIGHWAYS

The road surface in Sparkford Hill Lane has eroded and there are several potholes that need addressing. LP agreed to take some photos to be sent to SCC.

Some of the grit bins have not been filled fully, John Nicholson has been made aware and will arrange for them to be topped up when resource is available.

7 PLANNING DECISIONS

None

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

9 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

a) McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services outstanding issues update There were no new issues to report, although it was noted that there had been an increase in rubbish in the over during the Christmas period

b) A303 dualling project update There was no update to report

c) Co-option of Parish Councillor It was agreed that Andy Voysey would be co-opted

d) Traffic calming proposals There was no update to report

e) Health & Safety policy It was agreed that the draft policy be approved if no further

comments by Thursday 7 January

f) Development behind Bennett Close JT advised that he had no issues with the works on site. LP and TT met with the Site Manager to discuss the concerns raised at the previous meeting. It was noted that the properties are now being marketed as Cherry Pie Meadow. The Clerk would contact Lovells to find out if this is the name that they are proposing to use for the development.

g) Playing Field Inspections quarterly report The report was circulated and noted

h) Financial update -Village hall Details noted

i) Financial update – Playing Field Details noted

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payment of £312.18 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary December 2020)

Approved

b) Payment of £250 to Greenslade Taylor Hunt (playing field rent) Approved

c) Grant request – Holy Cross Church Approved

d) Setting the precept for 2021/22 Proposed by TT and seconded by AQ to increase the precept in line with the rate of inflation

11 CORRESPONDENCE

12 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

LP reported that there is debris blocking the river by the bridge. Agreed to report to EA and SCC Highways

Agreed to arrange the first meeting of the Steering Group for the new Village Hall.

13 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 February 2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.58pm

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.