

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4 MARCH 2019 AT 8.00 PM
IN SPARKFORD PARISH HALL**

Present: Mr L Piper – Chairman, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Northcott, Mr R Bell, Mrs A Roylance
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. M Lewis, 4 members of 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 J Tuck

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RB – item 8a

3 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S (4 FEBRUARY 2019) MINUTES

The minutes of the 4 February meeting were agreed.

4 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There were no reports from the Police.

5 COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Lewis confirmed that SSDC are buying properties to secure additional income. They are borrowing money to do this, Mike advised that he has concerns about this as the money has to be re-paid. The Transformation programme is still taking place. Cllr Lewis appreciates that there are ongoing difficulties trying to contact Planning. The new SSDC website is available, some are able to use this easily but others are find it more difficult. LP asked who the lead Planning contact is now for Area East. Simon Fox is the Lead for Planning but there are no area leads.

6 HIGHWAYS

There has been no response to the outstanding highways issues. It was agreed to contact SCC Highways again and request that they respond in advance of the next meeting.

TT reported that some of the gullies in the Weston Bampfylde area were missed last week.

LD

7 PLANNING DECISIONS

None

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) 19/00414/FUL The erection of 2 no. dwellings replacing the 1 dwelling approved under 18/01065/FUL. Land adjoining The Orchard, Cherry Pie Lane, Sparkford. **RB left the room. Concerns were raised about additional properties being approved as there is a need for the lane to be upgraded. It was agreed to contact SSDC**

Planning to identify the trigger points for lane improvements on the previous application for three bungalows and also request a time extension so that this application could be considered further at the next meeting.

9. MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

a) Fencing repairs at Cricket field Sparkford Sawmills have looked at the repairs that have been carried out and have advised that the repair is ok but the timber used has not been pressure treated so it will not last forever. The Sawmills have also given a quote to replace the fence. No further information has been received from the Cricket Club. It was agreed that the Parish Council were happy with the repair. LP has spoken with Phil Paulton at SSDC, who has confirmed that the stump does not need to be ground out and that the tree that has been given to the Parish Council can be planted anywhere in the cricket field, it does not need to be in the exact location of the tree that was hit. It was agreed that if the stump will interfere with the maintenance then the Parish Council would be happy for the Cricket Club to get it removed. LD would write to the Cricket Club and LP would contact the driver.

LD/LP

b) A303 dualling project TT attended examiner meetings last week. The Inspectorate have raised a lot of relevant issues. TT is meeting with West Camel and Queen Camel Parish Council's on 6 March and the next written submissions need to be submitted by 3pm on 8 March. One of the main issues raised was that the three Council's had gone to a lot of trouble to employ a consultant to draw up proposals for an improved junction design but Highways England say that the design is not in the correct format. Fairhurst have now provided these in the correct format and Highways England will be putting an overlay on their plans. The Inspector will look at what has been submitted but will also look at all comments received. The British Horse Society are not happy with the Highways England proposals for bridleways. Highways England have confirmed that in their opinion the traffic flow in the High Street does not warrant any traffic improvement. TT suggested that a proposal for the closure of the southern end of Wolfester Terrace should be considered. It was agreed to draft a letter to residents to ask if they would like the Parish Council to progress this.

LD

Cllr Lewis advised that he raised the issue of the A359 as he could not find any evidence from Highways England that they were going to mitigate the traffic issues from Sparkford to Mudford. The proposals that Fairhurst have produced could create £9million savings. TT raised concerns that Mattia Diner and the Shell garage have not submitted any comments on the proposal.

There has been very little dialogue between Mott McDonalds and the Parish Council's. If the scheme goes ahead then there will be 37% additional traffic through the High Street. It was agreed that there is no issue with increased volume, the concerns are around the speed of the vehicles and the need for traffic calming.

c) Tree Preservation Orders It was agreed to ask Phil Paulton at SSDC when the last inspection of the Parish Council owned trees in the Parish was completed.

d) Playing field inspections quarterly report Details of the first quarterly inspection report were presented. The Playing Field Committee have asked if there would be any problem if the existing single garage is replaced with a double garage. It was agreed that there would be no issue with this providing it is on the same site.

e) SID's Three quotes have now been received. It was agreed that a solar panel would be preferred and that fixings for both posts should be purchased. LD would contact SCC Highways to advise of the proposal and TT would progress the order once Highways approval is sought.

LD/TT

f) Defibrillator Replacement pads would be ordered for the existing defibrillator.

g) Quarterly update of outstanding issues

Fingerpost at Mill Farm – needs to be repaired
Concrete in channel on High Street – reported to Highways but no response received to date

Sparkford sign – awaiting response from Highways

McDonalds litter picking- it was agreed that there had been a noticeable improvement so unless it gets worse again there was no further action required

Road diversion signs in verge – these need to be removed by Highways England

Welcome Pack – this is still with Robin. It was agreed to proceed with the artwork
S106/CIL contributions – it was agreed to ask SSDC how we can secure contributions for the Village Hall from future planning applications.

Old Coal Yard – the area has now been cleared and new pavements completed but this has left the area open to access the railway line. Concerns were raised about the potential risk of children accessing the railway line. It was agreed to contact Network Rail via their website.

h) Financial update – Playing Field Account balance details were provided

i) Financial update – Village Hall Account balance details were provided

j) Financial update – Cricket Club Account balance details were provided

RB

LD

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payment of £301.68 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary) Approved

b) Fairhurst invoice (A303 dualling project costs) An invoice has been received from Fairhurst relating to the further work required for the submission to the Inspectorate. A proposal has been made that the invoice is split between West Camel, Queen Camel and Sparkford Parish Councils. The amount for each Council to pay would be £468.70. RB asked if any income was received by Queen Camel Parish Council from the solar field as they may be better placed to contribute more towards this project. Cllr Lewis was unable to answer this. It was previously agreed that £1,000 was the maximum amount that the Parish Council would contribute towards this project but following discussion it was reluctantly agreed that this invoice would be paid but that any further expenditure must be approved by all three Parish Council's before work is completed to ensure that this situation is not repeated. TT and the Parish Council representatives for Queen Camel and West Camel must ensure that a fee proposal is received before any further costs are incurred.

RB thanked TT for the work that he has undertaken on this project.

c) Contribution towards Playday £250 contribution approved

LD

TT

11 CORRESPONDENCE

Planning application 18/03729/S73A, Land OS 3432 (r/o The Burrows), High Street, Sparkford.

LP left the room whilst discussions took place following a declaration of interest. SSDC Planning have asked that the Parish Council re-consider their objection on this planning proposal because there is no longer a requirement to provide affordable housing on this particular site. It was agreed that the concerns were around the mix of properties and the removal of the semi-detached properties and replacement with detached properties meaning that the properties on the site were now less affordable to buy. It was therefore agreed that the objection was still valid and that an e-mail re-clarifying this would be sent to Planning.

LD

Malcolm Littlewood has sent some links to agencies who may be able to assist with the work to produce an NDP.

12 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

RB has been in contact with the insurance company and they have confirmed that all agenda and minutes for parties covered by the insurance need to be publicised.

TT attended Area East Committee a few years ago and got agreement from the Chairman that no further planning applications should be approved in Sparkford until the drainage/sewerage issues were resolved. It was agreed to contact Simon Fox, SSDC Planning to remind him of the past acknowledgement and assurance from Dave Norris that no further planning would commence.

AR advised that she would be away from 8 – 15 March

RB advised that he would be away from 6 March – 4 April.

13 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Defibrillator

S106/CIL contributions

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 April 2019, Sparkford Parish Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm

LD

PUBLIC NOTICES

Parish Councillor vacancy – We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, if you are interested then please contact 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.