

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER AT 8.00PM**

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Present: Mr K Flood - Chair, Mr D Hazell, Mr L Piper, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Westwood  
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, 3 members of Eco Land Co-operative (ELC), 16 members of public

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**Public session**

A resident queried the completion of the works to re-surface Cherry Pie Lane that should have been completed as part of the planning application for residential development. The Parish Clerk would follow up again with Somerset Council.

A resident raised concerns about visibility when exiting the A303 onto the A359. Another resident spoke about the need for a pedestrian crossing on the High Street. It was noted that the SID records data and a request has been submitted to the Police for SpeedWatch in the village.

A resident spoke about ongoing discussions they have had with the Diocese regarding the glebe land and in particular the overgrowth. They reported that they had submitted an application for a TPO to be placed on five of the trees in the field.

The meeting started at 8.25pm

**2024**

**SPC44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Henry Hobhouse and Cllr Kevin Messenger

**SPC45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**SPC46 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting on 1 July 2024 were agreed.

**SPC47 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The crime report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Issues with young people drinking at the playing field and anti-social behaviour at Cherry Blossom Way as a result of this had been reported to the Police. It was also noted that there had been vandalism at the Church in the past few days that had been reported to the Police.

**SPC48 SOMERSET COUNCILLORS**

There was no update.

**SPC49 HIGHWAYS**

There were no updates to report. TT suggested that a date for a site visit with Galliford Try is arranged. KF reported that he had raised the issues with Galliford Try and it was agreed that KF would forward the information onto the

**KF**

Clerk to write to the Project Manager and Minister of Transport.

#### **SPC50 PLANNING DECISIONS**

- a) 21/00899/FUL Change of use from office use to residential, formation of a driveway off of existing access, landscaping between industrial car park and new driveway. Erection of double garage & formation of boundary fencing between Home Farm & industrial buildings, internal/external alterations to include fenestration alterations on south-west elevation & re-introduction of first floor. Woodbine Cottage, High Street, Sparkford **Application withdrawn**

#### **SPC51 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- b) 24/01758/FUL Erection of a detached dwelling and garage with an associated garden and driveway off an unaltered existing vehicular access. Land at Church Road, Sparkford **It proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would object to the proposals as this is a medieval site, the proposal was no different to previous applications that had been refused and there was no evidence to support how the planning policies would be met. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would request further clarification re: the use of land included in the red line on the site plan.**

RS and DH joined the meeting at 8.54pm

#### **SPC52 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

- c) **Eco Land Co-operative – update on long term plans for Wyvern Fields** Representatives from the Eco Land Co-operative reported that they would be holding an Open Day on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The tenants at Wyvern Field had been made aware of potential concerns regarding events at the site hosted by Horrell and Horrell and ELC confirmed that the events are permitted withing the planning consent and terms of the site. ELC confirmed that there are no plans for regular events. ELC reported that their intention is to submit three separate planning applications to retain the current setup on the site when the temporary permission ends. It was agreed that the ELC monitoring report would be sent to SPC at the end of September.
- d) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update** there was no update.
- e) **Transfer of land for village hall – update** Lovells had confirmed that they would be meeting later this week.
- f) **Proposed development of Glebe land adjoining Sparkford playing field – update** LVA had not provided any feedback to date but advised that they would come back to the Parish Council when they were ready to submit a planning application.
- g) **Daisy Wood – to discuss vandalism to summerhouse** KF and DH had removed the glass and it was noted that the benches were being repeatedly upended. It was proposed and unanimously agreed to remove the summerhouse and install some vandal proof benches. It was agreed to arrange for a tree survey to be completed. KF had spoken to Mr Montgomery regarding to the works to clear their trees and agreed to forward contact details for Mr King-Brain so that he could be contacted

about the trees in his ownership.

- h) **Sparkford Stone – update** TT reported that Hadspen Quarry had sourced the stone.
- i) **Financial update – Village Hall** Noted
- j) **Financial update – Playing Field** No update had been received.
- k) **Playing Field inspections – quarterly report and update on faults reported** Noted.
- l) **New play equipment – update on installation** LP reported that installation of the new play equipment would be completed within the next 10 days.
- m) **Local Community Network (LCN)** – there was no update
- n) **New development sites – update and discuss any issues** there was no update
- o) **Village meeting re: development/drainage – to note meeting on 4 September, 6.30pm** Noted.

#### **SPC37 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) **To consider grant request from Sparkford Village Hall** KF and LP regarding other expenditure within the parish. DW suggested that we are prudent regarding expenditure and it was agreed that the request is deferred for three months.
- b) **To consider grant request from Camelot Harriers Explorers** it was proposed and agreed (6 – for, 0 – abstained, 1 – against) that a grant is not offered towards the purchase of a parade flag for the Explorer group.
- c) **To discuss quote from SLR for cutting of additional areas** it was unanimously agreed that there was now no need for the additional areas to be cut.
- d) **Accounts – update** the accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to investigate options for opening a separate account for the Daisy Wood funds and that the Parish Clerk would submit a timesheet each month.
- e) **Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- f) **Payment of £249.84 to SALC (affiliation fees)** Approved

LD

#### **SPC54 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **Letter from Somerset Council re: Enhanced Highway Maintenance Pilot and Volunteer Training – to discuss and consider taking part in pilot** It was unanimously agreed that SPC would take part in the pilot.

#### **SPC55 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 7 October 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.08pm

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

**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.

**Warm Hubs** – Do you have a few hours to spare each week or month? Would you like to help people who may be struggling with the cost of living crisis? Do you like to meet new people? If you answer yes to all these questions then please contact the Parish Clerk to learn more about how you could help with a Village Café/Warm Hub?

**Community Newsletter** – do you have experience in producing newsletters? We are looking for someone to create a regular newsletter for Sparkford. If you are interested then please contact the Parish Clerk to find out more.

**Community events** – are you holding an event in Sparkford? Please send the details to the Parish Clerk so that it can be promoted on the parish website and Community Facebook page.

**Daisy Woods** – please note that in the interests of safety and to protect the habitat Daisy Woods has been closed temporarily to allow the area to recover following recent bad weather.