

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2024 AT 8.00PM**

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, Cllr Henry Hobhouse, Robert Tizzard – LVA Planning, Alex Bullock – LVA Planning, 35 members of public

Public session

One member of the public read a statement regarding Vantage Business Park.

One member of the public raised concerns regarding late night working at Vantage Business Park.

The meeting started at 8.12pm

2024

SPC1 TO NOMINATE AND ELECT A CHAIR

RS proposed, LP seconded and it was unanimously agreed that KF be elected as Chair.

SPC2 TO NOMINATE AND ELECT A VICE CHAIR

LP proposed, RS seconded but it was not agreed (2 – for, 6 – against) that TT be elected as Vice Chair.

DH proposed, KF seconded and it was unanimously agreed that LP be elected as Vice Chair.

SPC3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Kevin Messenger

SPC4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

LP declared an interest in item SPC10b)

SPC5 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 8 April 2024 were agreed.

SPC6 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No crime report had been received.

SPC7 SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

Cllr Hobhouse reported that he had been doing a lot of work to address the flooding in Podimore due to the A303 dualling works but was finding it difficult to make contact with National Highways.

SPC8 HIGHWAYS

There were no updates to report. Cllr Hobhouse agreed to contact John Nicholson at Somerset Council regarding Sparkford Hill Lane.

HH

SPC9 PLANNING DECISIONS

- a) 24/00498/HOU 6 Green Close, Sparkford. Formation of permeable off road parking hard standing, close board fencing with drive access gates and dropped kerbs **Application withdrawn**

SPC10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- b) **24/00909/P3MA** Woodbine Cottage, West 303, High Street, Sparkford. Prior approval for proposed Change of use from commercial, business and service use (Class E) to dwellinghouse (Class C3) **Parish Councillors had no comments to make on this application.**

LP left the room

- c) To discuss Parish Council response to objections to planning application 22/01598/OUT **It was agreed to write to Somerset Council Planning to support the recent objections submitted and also to flag that the commercial literature in the Boon Brown statement is incorrect.**

LD

SPC11 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- d) **Presentation from LVA Planning regarding proposals for development of Glebe land adjacent to Sparkford Playing Field** Alex Bullock from LVA Planning presented details of their plans to submit an outline planning application for 60 dwellings to be accessed off Cherry Blossom Way. They advised that this is the first point of the engagement process and confirmed that due diligence would be completed before a pre-planning application is submitted. Concerns were raised by members of the public regarding surface water drainage, increased risk of flooding to existing properties, an increase in the volume of traffic, the suitability of the access road, lack of infrastructure and loss of greenfield space. Alex advised that this would be infill development and that consultees would assess the site as appropriate. A pre-planning application would be submitted within one month, public consultation would take place in July before a planning application is submitted. A query was raised regarding what the Diocese would do with the funds from any sale of the land. LVA Planning would report back to the Diocese and advised that the Parish Council could also contact them with comments and queries.
- e) **Re-adopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct** The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct with re-adopted with no amendments.
- f) **To review Registers of Interest and note that members needing to make changes, must submit completed forms to the Clerk within 28 days** Councillors were reminded to complete a form if any amendments were required.
- g) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update** There was no update to report.
- h) **Transfer of land for new village hall** The response from Battens had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Robert Tizzard from LVA Planning advised that they have an ongoing legal obligation and retained contractual requirement with Lovells. A request was made for the Parish Council to consider working with LVA Planning to address the issues.

LD

- i) **River level monitor on A303 bridge – update following meeting with Environment Agency** DH and KF met with the Environment Agency and Somerset Rivers Authority to agree the position of the river level monitor. There is a huge amount of debris in the river that needs to be removed. Cllr Hobhouse agreed to contact the land owner and arrange a meeting. HH
- j) **Sutton Farm Working group – update following meeting on 12 April** DH attended the meeting regarding the lorry movements and the licence / planning approval. A letter has since been sent to Somerset Council and a response is now awaited.
- k) **Sparkford Stone – update on replacement** The insurance claim had been settled. LP would contact Hadspen Quarry to progress the works. LP suggested that the broken stone is repaired and re-located, it was agreed to contact Somerset Highways to discuss this further. RS suggested that the vandalism of the stone should be investigated further. LP
- l) **To review Social Media Policy** It was proposed and unanimously agreed to re-adopt the Social Media Policy.
- m) **To review Asset Register** It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the Asset Register
- n) **To consider quotes for website update** Quotes were awaited so this was deferred until the next meeting
- o) **Local Community Network (LCN)** RS and KF attended the last LCN meeting and gave an update. It was noted that the next meeting is on 13 June.
- p) **New development sites** – there were no update or issues raised.

SPC12 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- q) **Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- r) **To consider grant request from Sparkford Church** A grant of £300 was approved
- s) **Insurance – to consider the renewal quote for 2024-25 and agree contributions to be requested from the Village Hall and Playing Field Committees** The renewal quote was accepted and it was agreed that the contributions towards the insurance for 2024-25 would be £325.00 from the Village Hall and £325.00 from the Playing Field.

SPC13 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Letter from Somerset Council re: Parish Rights of Way – to agree response** It was agreed that AQ would complete the survey AQ

SPC14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3 June 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

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.