

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 8th April 2024 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Larry Piper – Chair, Ken Flood, Andrew Quick, Richard Squires,
Duke Westwood
Cllr Henry Hobhouse, 14 members of the public
Clerk – Lisa Davis

Public session

One member of the public spoke about issues with anti-social behaviour at Goodwood Drive and raised concerns about light pollution from industrial units at Vantage Business Park and the possible siting of an additional building.

One member of the public raised concerns about planning application 22/01598/OUT and asked that the Parish Council request that Somerset Council make the whole village aware of the application.

One member of the public provided an update following previous statements made at Parish Council meetings.

One member of the public provided an update on the planning application that had been submitted for a new building at Vantage Business Park.

The meeting started at 8.12pm

2023

SPC128 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

David Hazel, Trevor Tuck and Kevin Messenger

SPC129 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC130 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting on 4th March 2024

SPC131 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that a rough sleeper had been sleeping at the old Haynes Publishing site.

SPC132 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR

Cllr Henry Hobhouse reported that the A303 dualling works had resulted in Podimore receiving all of the water from the A303. Henry also reported that Wessex Water had confirmed that there were hoping to resolve the issues with sewage in the High Street before the end of this year.

SPC133 HIGHWAYS

The Parish Clerk advised that the potholes at Sparkford Hill Lane had been reported to Somerset Council and a request had been made to close the road if the resurfacing works were not completed in the near future.

SPC134 PLANNING DECISIONS

- a) 24/00241/HOU Adresia, Church Road, Sparkford. Single storey extension
Application permitted with conditions

SPC135 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) 24/00498/HOU 6 Green Close, Sparkford. Formation of permeable off road parking hard standing for 3 cars, close board fencing to 1m high with drive access gates and dropped kerbs to highway **Parish Councillors raised no objections to these proposals.**

SPC136 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services** There was no update
b) **Local Community Network (LCN)** – The Parish Clerk reported that the next LCN meeting is on 18 April at Queen Camel Memorial Hall
c) **Transfer of land for new village hall** – The Parish Clerk reported that Battens were hoping to issue a formal response to the request regarding the S106 agreement before the Parish Council meeting in May. The request from Lovells Solicitors to hold a conference call was discussed and it was agreed not to accept the request.
d) **Sparkford magazine** – A resident gave an update on their proposals to produce a new magazine for Sparkford and confirmed that advertising charges would cover all costs.
e) **Website** – Flaydmouse had provided more detail and had been asked to provide an example of the updated format. It was agreed to seek additional quotes and discuss at the next meeting.
f) **Sparkford Stone** – the insurance claim had been agreed and Hadspen Quarry had been asked to progress the replacement of the stone.
g) **Repairs to garage roof at playing field** – the insurance claim had been agreed and the repairs would be completed in due course.
h) **Financial update – Village Hall** Noted
i) **Financial update – Playing Field** Noted
j) **Playing Field inspections – quarterly report and update on faults reported** Noted
k) **New development sites – update and discuss any issues** A query was raised about an advertisement for veg boxes by Off Grid Organics. The Parish Clerk advised that they had confirmed the boxes were being delivered and not sold from the site.

AQ/LD

SPC137 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parsh Clerk salary) **Approved**
b) Payment of £2,160.00 to South Western Ambulance (defib) **Approved**

SPC138 CORRESPONDENCE

A resident raised concerns about a chemical smell near a tree with a TPO off the High Street. It was agreed to report to Somerset Council.
A request was made to include more information on the noticeboard so that residents were aware of what was happening in the community.
Montgomery's had been unable to access the land to clear the river at Daisy Woods due to the weather.

LD

SPC139 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8th May 2024 – Annual Parish meeting starts at 7.30pm and Parish Council meeting starts at 8pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.46pm

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.