

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 31 MARCH 2025 AT 8.00PM**

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Present: Mr K Flood - Chair, Mr L Piper, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr T Tuck  
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr Henry Hobhouse, 9 members of public

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**Public session**

The meeting started at 8.00pm

**2024**

**SPC116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr D Hazel

**SPC117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr K Flood declared an interest in item SPC123c)  
Mr L Piper declared an interest in items SPC122f) and SPC122g)  
Mr A Quick declared an interests in item SPC123b)

**SPC118 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting on 3 February 2025 were agreed.

**SPC119 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Crime reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

**SPC120 SOMERSET COUNCILLORS**

Henry Hobhouse reported that a TRO is now in place to put signs up when flooding becomes an issue in Queen Camel. This is a trial and it is hoped that signs will be made available to other parishes next year. Henry has spoken to Mr King-Brain and Paul Elliston from Somerset Rivers Authority is now in contact with the Environment Agency.

**SPC121 HIGHWAYS**

There was no update.

**SPC122 PLANNING DECISIONS**

- a) 24/01758/FUL Erection of a detached dwelling and garage with an associated garden and driveway off an unaltered existing vehicular access. Land adjoining Mill Cottage, Church Road, Sparkford **Application refused**
- b) 21/00901/FUL Change of use from office use to residential with associated demolition of existing outbuilding, first floor extension and single storey flat roof extension and part boundary treatments to allow for the re-arrangement of external amenity areas and manoeuvrability of vehicles and alterations to existing access. Home Farmhouse, High Street, Sparkford **Application permitted with conditions**
- c) 19/02373/OUT Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of 6 no. dwellings. Land at Long Hazel Farm, High

- Street, Sparkford. **Application withdrawn**
- d) 19/01123/FUL Erection of seven dwellings and conversion of barn to dwelling. Land rear of Sparkford Inn, High Street, Sparkford **Application withdrawn**
  - e) 19/01100/LBC Internal and external alterations to barn to convert to dwelling. Sparkford Inn, High Street, Sparkford **Application withdrawn**
  - f) 24/00940/FUL Erection of a single storey building to be used as welcome/meeting area at entrance to business park. Land east of entrance to Vantage Park, Goodwood Drive, Sparkford **Application permitted with conditions**
  - g) 22/00991/COL Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of building as a residential dwelling. Sparkford Hall Equestrian Centre, rear of Sparkford Hall, Sparkford **Application permitted**
  - h) 21/01617/REM Reserved matters application of appearance, landscape and scale, following outline approval 18/03536/OUT for the erection of 2 no. dwellings and construction of access thereto. Land adjacent Fletcher Moss, Sparkford Hill Lane, Sparkford. **Application refused**
  - i) 21/01615/REM Reserved matters application of appearance, landscape and scale, following outline approval 17/04916/OUT for the erection of 4 no. dwellings and construction of access thereto. Land adjacent Fletcher Moss, Sparkford Hill Lane, Sparkford. **Application refused**

#### **SPC123 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) **25/00517/HOU Ground floor extension of the existing modern accommodation, also the creation of a porch and internal remodelling. The Octagon, The Avenue, Sparkford.** There were no objections raised.
- b) **25/00534/HOU Proposed two storey front extension to dwelling, proposed single storey rear extension and widening of existing vehicular access. Conifer House, Church Road, Sparkford** It was agreed to request a time extension to respond to this planning application as not all Parish Councillors had had the opportunity to look at the plans.
- c) **25/00522/OUT Outline application for some matters reserved except for access for residential development of up to 60 dwellings (including 35% affordable housing), access from Cherry Blossom and associated works. Land South of Cherry Blossom Way, Sparkford** Parish Councillors objected to these proposals as concerns were raised about flooding, drainage and access in addition to the loss of greenspace and the lack of infrastructure for any further development in Sparkford.

#### **SPC124 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services – outstanding issues update**  
TT agreed to visit the Manager at McDonalds to discuss the installation of the defibrillator
- b) **Transfer of land for village hall – update**  
**RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed unanimously to discuss this item in camera and move to the end of the agenda**  
Correspondence from Battens Solicitors was discussed and a response agreed.
- c) **Local Community Network (LCN) – update** RS reported that he attended the last Highways Working Group meeting where there was a demonstration on how to clear drains. Volunteer training would be

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available for works on the kerb but it was confirmed that any other works would require a Chapter 8 trained person.

- d) **New development sites – update and discuss any issues** There were no updates or issues raised.
- e) **To consider quote for grass cutting and strimming for 2025/26** One quote had been received and it was agreed to obtain two further quotes for consideration at the next meeting. TT would circulate the specification for further quotes to be obtained. It was agreed that outstanding works to remove the fence and clear the wood at Daisy Woods would be completed for the Woods to be re-opened by the end of April. LP offered to clear the wood and cut it up and agreed to make a donation in return.
- f) **Sparkford Village Hall – financial update** Noted
- g) **Sparkford Playing Fields – financial update** Noted
- h) **Sparkford Playing Field inspection reports – update** Noted

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#### **SPC125 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) **Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- b) **Payment of £40.70 to Anne Tuck for Locum Clerk services in February 2025** Approved
- c) **Payment of £250.00 to GTH (playing field rent)** Approved
- d) **Budget update** The budget year to date was reviewed. KF requested that a different method of presenting the accounts was looked into. Two additional bank accounts would be opened so that monies related to CIL and Daisy Wood are held in separate accounts. A statement to explain how the precept is spent would be published on the website.

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#### **SPC126 CORRESPONDENCE**

KF reported that bottles of urine had been left on the side of the road at Sparkford Hill Lane. This would be reported to the Police.

KF advised that if any parishioners were interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should any vacancies arise in the future then they should submit an expression of interest to the Clerk to be kept on file.

A request was made to ban dogs on the cricket field all year round. This would be discussed with the cricket club and publicised as appropriate.

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#### **SPC103 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 8pm

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 May at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.07pm

## **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.

**Emergency Plan** – would you like to get involved in producing an emergency plan for Sparkford? Please get in touch with the Parish Clerk to find out how you help!