

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 30 JUNE 2025 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Mike Best - Chair, Trevor Tuck, Duke Westwood, Cllr Henry Hobhouse
In attendance: Lisa Davis, 13 members of public

Public session

One of the candidates for election to the Parish Council asked for clarification regarding the process for co-option / election to fill the vacancies and queried why the Councillors who resigned now wanted to be re-elected. Another candidate, who was previously the Parish Council Chair reported that it was the Clerks fault that candidates were wrongly told co-option could take place and advised that many members of the parish had asked the Parish Councillors who resigned to stand for election. Cllr Mike Best corrected the candidate and apologised on behalf of Somerset Council and confirmed that they had made a mistake and given the wrong information to the Clerk as they were not aware that a request for an election had been received.

The meeting started at 7.38pm

2025

SPC15 TO NOMINATE AND ELECT A CHAIR

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that Cllr Mike Best would chair the meeting.

SPC16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Kevin Messenger

SPC17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC18 APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 31 March 2025 were agreed.

SPC19 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No crime report had been received but Cllr Henry Hobhouse reported that he met with the new Police Sergeant who confirmed that four new Police Officers had moved into the Somerton area team. A long discussion had taken place about issues on the A359 and it was reported that Queen Camel Parish Council has agreed to pay for Police presence on the bridge.

SPC20 SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

Cllr Henry Hobhouse reported that Somerset Council saved £35million on the 2024/25 budget. Cllr Mike Best reported that Adult Social Care is one of the biggest drains on the budget but although costs were high when the five Councils moved to a Unitary they have managed to achieve savings. This was helped by selling assets and being given a dispensation to use capital income as revenue.

SPC21 HIGHWAYS

There was no update. A major crack on the bridge had been reported. Concerns were raised about speeding on the High Street. Cllr Mike Best agreed to raise a query about Police presence at Parish Council meetings.

MB

SPC22 PLANNING DECISIONS

- a) 25/00972/HOU Internal reconfiguration of existing dwelling; demolition of conservatory; single-storey extension with mono-pitch roof; addition of timber porch; alterations to external walls and roofline; additional window and revised window and door openings. Orchard House Little Weston Road Sparkford. **Application permitted with conditions**
- b) 25/00534/HOU Erection of carport – extension of existing garage/carport. 57 Church Road, Sparkford **Application permitted with conditions**
- c) 25/00711/COU Change of use of the old Dairy building from Class B2 to Class E (retrospective application) The Old Dairy, Mill Farm, Weston Bampfylde Road, Weston Bampfylde **Application permitted with conditions**
- d) 25/00534/HOU Proposed two storey front extension to dwelling, Single Storey rear extension and widening of existing vehicular access. Conifer House, Church Road, Sparkford **Application permitted with conditions**

SPC23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

SPC24 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) **To consider membership of CPRE** It was agreed to get more information about costs and discuss at the next meeting.
- b) **To consider purchase of large poppies for display on roadsides to mark Remembrance Day** Horrell and Horrell kindly offered to donate the cost of 20 poppies. Trevor Tuck would liaise with the Royal British Legion Co-ordinator.
RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to purchase 40 large poppies
- c) **To note election of five Parish Councillors to be held on Thursday 24 July** Noted

TT

SPC125 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) **Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved
- b) **Payment of £844.80 to Cary Traders for verge cutting May 2025** Approved
- c) **Payment of £1,284 to SLR for half year mowing and strimming** Approved
- d) **Payment of £2,017.20 to Battens for legal fees for transfer of land for new village hall (work undertaken August 2024 – May 2025)** Approved
- e) **Payment of £50 to Sparkford Playing Field for mowing at Daisy Wood June 2025** Approved
- f) **Payment of £3,456 to BG Down for tree works undertaken at Daisy Wood June 2025** Approved
- g) **To approve section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability**

Return

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

- h) To approve section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

SPC26 CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Mike Best reminded Councillors that nominations could be submitted for the Somerset Chairs Awards. It was agreed that a notice would be posted asking for suggested nominees.

LD

SPC27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 September 2025 at 8pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.12pm

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.

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.

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 could help!