

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Cllr Mike Best – Chair for item SPC28 only, Jane Cattermull – Chair, Paul Harcourt, Larry Piper, Andrew Quick, Richard Sealey, Trevor Tuck and Duke Westwood
In attendance: Lisa Davis, Cllr Henry Hobhouse, Cllr Kevin Messenger, 25 members of public

Public session

The editor of the SPARK magazine requested that a link to the magazine is put back onto the Parish website.

A resident reported that the TPO that they had applied for on Diocese owned land had been approved by Somerset Council.

The meeting started at 8.03pm

2025

SPC28 TO NOMINATE AND ELECT A CHAIR

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that Jane Cattermull would be Chair of Sparkford Parish Council.

SPC29 TO NOMINATE AND ELECT A VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that Richard Sealey would be Vice Chair of Sparkford Parish Council.

SPC30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

SPC31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Jane Cattermull declared an interest in items SPC37a) and SPC37b)

SPC32 APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 30 June 2025 were approved.

SPC33 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No crime report had been received but Cllr Mike Best confirmed that he had spoken to the Area Inspector regarding contact with Parish Councillors. A resident reported that speeding traffic on the High Street is still an issue, it was agreed to follow up with Somerset and National Highways.

SPC34 SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

Cllr Henry Hobhouse reported that four new Neighbourhood Police Officers had been recruited in this area but they are focusing on Yeovil. The Police have advised that they are unable to resource the weight limit on the bridge in

Queen Camel even though the Parish Council have offered to pay. Somerset Council need to find £66million this year due to the continuing high costs of social care.

SPC35 HIGHWAYS

There was no update. Henry Hobhouse agreed to follow up with Somerset Council regarding Sparkford Hill Lane.

HH

SPC36 PLANNING DECISIONS

None

Jane Cattermull left the room

SPC37 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) **25/01800/HOU** Removal of 2 no C20, defective flat roof dormer roof structures and metal framed single glazed windows, and construction of 2 no. replacement pitched roof dormer structures with double glazed timber casement windows. Brooklands Farm, Brains Lane, Sparkford **No objections were raised and it was unanimously agreed to support this application**
- b) **25/00801/LBC** Removal of 2 no C20, defective flat roof dormer roof structures and metal framed single glazed windows, and construction of 2 no. replacement pitched roof dormer structures with double glazed timber casement windows. Brooklands Farm, Brains Lane, Sparkford **No objections were raised and it was unanimously agreed to support this application**

Jane Cattermull returned

- c) **25/02067/TPO** Application to carry out tree surgery works to no. 1 tree as shown within the Yeovil District Council (SPAR 1) 1978 Tree Preservation Order . T1 – removal of epicormic growth. 1 Cherry Pie Lane, Sparkford **No objections were raised and it was unanimously agreed to support this application**
- d) **25/01915/S73A** S73A application to remove condition 6 (restriction on sales) relating to planning approval 19/02160/FUL (as amended by 22/03022/S3A & 23/01360/S73A) for the siting of three temporary agricultural workers dwellings for a period of 5 years together with an agricultural barn with PV array and new vehicular access to provide three affordable small holdings to new entrants to ecological agriculture. Lot B Land and Wolfester, Church Road, Sparkford (Eco Land Co-operative site at Wyvern Fields) **It was noted that this planning condition was included at the request of the Parish Council to protect the Old Parlour Farmshop which has now closed. No objections were raised and it was unanimously agreed to support the proposal**
- e) **PLANNING APPEAL** relating to application 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 **Local residents and members of the community raised concerns about the proposal that had been refused by Somerset Council on more than one occasion. Paul Harcourt advised that he had**

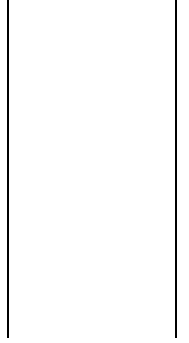
requested a call back from the Planning Inspectorate. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would object to the appeal subject to the same reasons as the objection to the planning application.

Cllr Henry Hobhouse offered to hold a drop in session at Sparkford Parish Hall on Friday 4 September to show people how to access the Planning Inspectorate portal. The Parish Clerk would book the hall and publicise the event.

SPC38 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

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| a) | Re-adopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct It was proposed and unanimously agreed to re-adopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct | |
| b) | McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update the Clerk reported that McDonalds have now found an electrician to install the defibrillator and a date is now awaited so that an order can be placed with SWAST. It was noted that the litter picking is not being completed on the High Street. It was agreed to follow up with McDonalds. | LD |
| c) | To consider signing the Civility and Respect pledge it was proposed and agreed (5 – for, 2 – abstained, 0 – against) that Sparkford Parish Council would sign the Civility and Respect pledge | |
| d) | To consider proposal from Playing Field Committee for addition of a shelter at the playing field it was noted that there may be other projects in Sparkford that could access S106 funding and it would be useful to have an update on these potential projects. Jane Cattermull raised concerns about a shelter attracting more litter and other issues. | |
| e) | Transfer of land for new village hall – update there was no update. The Clerk would contact Battens and ask if there was any update for the next meeting. | LD |
| f) | To review Health and Safety Policy it was proposed and unanimously agreed to re-adopt the Health and Safety policy. | |
| g) | To review Asset Register it was agreed that Richard Sealey would look at the asset register and circulate an updated version | RS |
| h) | Local Community Network (LCN) – update the minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. Jane Cattermull would attend the next meeting. | |
| i) | To consider membership of CPRE No further information had been received. | |
| j) | To discuss disposal of Parish Council mower it was proposed and unanimously agreed to dispose of the Parish Council mower. Larry Piper would arrange for the disposal. | LP |
| k) | Playing Field inspections – quarterly report and update on faults reported a report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. | |
| l) | Financial update – Village Hall Noted | |
| m) | Financial update – Playing Field Noted | |
| n) | To discuss arrangements for weekly inspections at Daisy Woods Duke Westwood agreed to undertake the weekly inspections at Daisy Woods. The Clerk would send the template. | LD |
| o) | New development sites – update and discuss any issues there was | |

p)	no update / issues raised Quarterly review of outstanding issues – to report any updates on outstanding issues a report had been issued in advance of the meeting. It was noted that some of the enforcement issues have been outstanding for several years and that this needed to be reviewed. Cllr Henry Hobhouse agreed to follow this up with the Portfolio holder at Somerset Council. Cllr Henry Hobhouse reported that it had been agreed by Government that in the future any planning application submitted with less than 10 dwellings would not go to a Planning Committee but would instead be delegated to an Officer for decision. Trevor Tuck advised that Hadspen Quarry had confirmed that they were unable to repair the damaged Sparkford Stone.	
SPC39 FINANCIAL MATTERS a) b) c)	To agree authorised signatories for all bank accounts It was agreed that Jane Cattermull and Richard Sealey would be additional authorised signatories. Payment to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary) Approved. Payment of £50 to Sparkford Playing Field for grass cutting at Daisy Wood Approved. Jane Cattermull raised concerns about the high cost of this. It was agreed to discuss the specification for the greenspace maintenance at the next meeting.	
SPC40 CORRESPONDENCE	Larry Piper raised concerns about Sparkford Copse and asked Cllr Henry Hobhouse if he could find out if there was anything that could be done regarding an AGM being held. Trevor Tuck advised that Somerset Council had recommended that the new Parish Council undertake team building skills training. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would contact SALC.	HH LD
SPC41 DATE OF NEXT MEETING	Monday 6 October 2025 at 8pm	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.19pm	



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!