

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 3rd NOVEMBER 2025 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Mrs J Cattermull – Chair, Mr R Sealey, Mr P Harcourt, Mr T Tuck,
Mr D Westwood, Mr L Piper,
In attendance Cllr Kevin Messenger, Cllr Henry Hobhouse, Mrs A Tuck, locum
Clerk, 12 members of the public

2025

At the start of the meeting The Chair reminded the meeting of the confidentiality clause, that residents that had been Councillors in the past were not allowed to talk about things that were discussed in camera now they are no longer Councillors. The public were reminded that they had 3 minutes each in which to speak at the start of the meeting, that they were not able to talk once the meeting started, but if they had questions to ask they could do so at the end of the meeting.

Mrs Bristow was concerned about graffiti on the new stone and on the back of the large Highways England sign beside the stone. Cllr Westwood will take a look at it.

SPC56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr A Quick

SPC57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct. Cllr Piper in item SPC62b, he explained that the land drain and sewage pipes from his land went under the ground on the field in question.

SPC58 MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting on 1st September 2025 and 6th October 2025. The September minutes were not signed last month as they were only received in the afternoon of the meeting and some Councillors had not had time to read them. The 1st September minutes were proposed by Cllr Sealey and Seconded by Cllr Piper, 6th October minutes were proposed by Cllr Piper and seconded by Cllr Harcourt.

SPC59 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No report had been received to date, Cllrs Cattermull, Sealey and Harcourt had met with the PCSO's at the meeting in The Old School Queen Camel. Cllr Cattermull will contact them about a lack of reports.

JC

SPC60 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR –Cllr Hobhouse advised the meeting that the By Pass in Sparkford have won the best roadworks of the year award at the Civil Engineering Awards. Cllr Hobhouse gave the Council a book written by a lady called Flood Mary whose house had been flooded 4 times with advice on how to make your house flood resistant.

Mr Canvin the applicant for the industrial units on land off the High Street has informed Cllr Hobhouse he is cancelling the application, due to the expense of providing a banksman. We have yet to hear that from the Planning Department.

Increased traffic volumes through the village since completion of the by-pass continue to be reviewed. Clerk to follow up.

SPC61 HIGHWAYS The Clerk heard from National Highways to say they would be transferring the roundabout to Somerset Council. Timescale for the transfer and possible sponsorship/advertising unknown at this stage

The tree stumps left on Hazelgrove Park were left for conservation purposes as hedgehogs were nesting there.

The issue with Hopkins Lorries continues, there was a suspected legal loophole in the planning. The Sutton Montis, Queen Camel, Sparkford, working group are seeking to escalate the issue with the Chief Executive.

SPC62 PLANNING DECISIONS - None Advised.

SPC63 PLANNING APPLICATIONS - An invitation to speak, for up to 3 minutes, on individual applications will be offered

- a) 25/02488/HOU Proposed rear single storey extension, internal remodeling and new fenestration to the front elevation Mr & Mrs J Geddes, Middle Farm, Little Weston Road, Sparkford BA22 7HP comments by 18.11.25 The Parish Council have no objections to this application.
- b) 22/01598/OUT Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the creation of commercial buildings under Use Class B2 and B8. Land south of High Street, Sparkford – update on planning condition relating to traffic We are waiting to hear that this has been withdrawn.

LP

SPC64 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) Location for new Defib – Cllr Piper offered to put an electric feed on the outside of his front gate for the defib to be fitted there and it was agreed to fit two new signs on the posts at the bottom of the Goodwood Drive pointing to the defib.
- b) To consider adoption of IT policy, Paragraph under Management – ref Back up files to be kept. Needs backing up monthly to electronic files, if this amendment is made the Council are happy to adopt the policy. Proposed by RS seconded by LP.
- c) To agree specification for greenspace maintenance in Sparkford – 18 sites are mown on a monthly basis from March to November. The written specification will be shown to new contractors during the next month to have three quotes for the next meeting.
- d) To consider potential projects for S106 / CIL funding. The section 106 is a legal agreement and should planning go ahead on the glebe land more section 106 money will come to the Council. We need a plan on what we would like for the village should the planning go ahead. Ideas were Money towards the new village hall project, or provision of a car park for the village hall which could also be used for the playing field, additional funding for the Cricket club, they emailed their future plans which include a new fence around the cricket club, they have two quotes and need a third one, a new roof for the cricket club building, a new score board and the garages are subsiding that store the ground care equipment. Footbridge over the railway line. Anything for the Church. Purchase of the land on which the playing field sits to buy it for the village instead of renting it from The

TT

AT

Church Commissioners.

- e) Local Community Network (LCN) – Cllrs Cattermull and Harcourt attended the LCN at Milborne Port which included presentations on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Somerset Wildlife Trust. There is a South East LCN Highways meeting on 18th November and the next LCN meeting is scheduled for 21 January 2026.
- f) Daisy Woods update. The land registry document has the wrong address on it. Daisy Wood is looking much better but the summer house needs to be removed, it can't be burnt as it is treated wood. It could possibly go to the Newt biodigester - clerk offered to contact Paul Rawson but it was decided to use the playing field tractor/trailer to remove it with a working party at the end of November.
- g) To consider proposal to re-instate link to the SPARK magazine on the Parish Council website, it was agreed to reinstate the link once the information comes back from SALC .
- h) Neighbourhood planning trg update. Cllr Harcourt attended a training session delivered by SALC on 8 October to better understand Neighbourhood Planning process. it's not for every parish, better for larger parishes, it's a detailed process that takes 18-24 months to complete ahead of a formal referendum process. It is potentially a costly exercise for which no grants are currently available.
- i) Discussion about social value community fund, National Highways (Karen Duffett) is chasing for evidence of what we have spent the money on, they want a photo of the seat at Sparkford Copse, The defib – not yet ordered as we were waiting for McDonalds to fit the electric for it, The Owl boxes have not yet been purchased, the work towards the maintenance of trees at Daisy Wood is complete and we need to send them photographic evidence of what the money has been spent on.
- j) Councillor Training Courses. Cllrs Cattermull and Harcourt have done The Council as an Employer. All Councillors should be attending Councillors Essential Roles and Responsibilities – Part 1 to be held in person in the Village Hall on 12 November Cllr Cattermull would like to know what training courses Councillors have already done.
- . Cllr Cattermull and Cllr Sealey want to do Finance and Governance.

SPC65 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Accounts update – Clerk had done a bank reconciliation and provided accounts, still need to check all VAT has been reclaimed. Cllrs Cattermull and Sealey to investigate new high interest bank account for Daisy Wood.
- b) It was decided that new grit bins were not needed as the last new ones remained empty, existing bins would be moved to cover areas where they were needed. Damaged bin to be disposed of. Somerset Council would need notifying where they were put with What3 Words addresses.
- c) Payment to Mrs A Tuck locum clerk and to HMRC was approved.
- d) Payment to SALC for training courses to date approved

SPC 66 CORRESPONDENCE Somerset and Devon Fire and Rescue Service precept Survey

SPC67 PUBLIC QUESTIONS Concerns were raised about speed of traffic and noise

form that on the A303. Outside of Sparkford Parish Council's jurisdiction.

SPC68 There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.58pm and an in camera meeting followed.

SPC69 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1st December 2025 at 8pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

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 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