

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 AT 8.00PM**

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Present: Mrs J Cattermull – Chair, Mr R Sealey, Mr P Harcourt, Mr T Tuck,  
Mr D Westwood, Mr L Piper, Mr A Quick  
In attendance Mrs A Tuck, locum Clerk, 4 members of the public

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**2025**

At the start of the meeting 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.

**SPC70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – none received

**SPC71 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. None

**SPC72 MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November** were signed as a true record – Proposed by Cllr Piper, seconded by Cllr Westwood – all in favour.

**SPC73 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

A report had been received from the PCSO there had been 2 incidents or burglary and 2 cases of violence against a person though we don't know any more than that and would like further information so we can inform the parish and support parishioners/

**SPC74 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR** – No report, Somerset Councillors didn't attend.

**SPC75 HIGHWAYS** Sparkford Hill Lane is getting worse, small cars are grounding Clerk to contact Highways

**AT**

**SPC76 PLANNING DECISIONS** - None Advised.

**SPC77 PLANNING APPLICATIONS** - An invitation to speak, for up to 3 minutes, on individual applications will be offered

- a) 25/02860/COU Change of use of Unit 2 from storage and distribution (Use Class B8) to a flexible use of light industrial (Use Class E(g)(iii) (formerly Use Class B1), general industrial (Use Class B2) and Storage and Distribution (Use Class B8) Retrospective. Cllr Harcourt Had spoken to Boom Brown about this development which had happened a year ago with no adverse effects, The Council decided they had no comments to make on this application.

**SPC78 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS**

- a) Quotes for Green Space Maintenance in Sparkford. Cllr Tuck had received 2 quotes, The playing field also had a quote but had not sent it as yet, they wanted to know if they paid to get their members trained that they would get the work as they didn't want to undertake training for nothing, but stated if they get the work they will cut the grass at Daisy Wood within the quote provided. Councillors thought it was better to keep the work in the village and agreed to the playing field committee doing the work.
- b) LCN update – only a Highways meeting – Next LCN in January.

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| c) Daisy Woods Land registry – Registered as belonging to Sparkford Parish Council but at Sparkford Hall, Not Sparkford Parish Hall, - the error had not previously not been noticed, the address can not be changed without a solicitor, Cllr Sealey to look for solicitor's details in the paperwork.  | RS |
| d) It was agreed to reinstate link for Spark Magazine on Website and other local business but with a disclaimer for the Parish Council, Proposed by Cllr Sealey, seconded by Cllr Harcourt.  | AQ |
| e) Neighbourhood planning training – report at last meeting no further update  |    |
| f) Discussion about Social Value Fund (email from Karen Duffett). £4,300, We applied for the grant using the money for purchase of owl boxes, a new defib, the seat at Sparkford Woods and the remaining money towards the gates at Daisy Wood. Clerk to take photos and send report to KD   | AT |
| g) Councillor Training Courses Cllr Cattermull booked on two courses in January, chairing a meeting and finance and governance, and Cllr Sealey wants to do Finance and Governance Cllr Piper to do Councillors Essential Roles and Responsibilities – Part 1 on 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 6-8pm. Clerk to book. Need Councillors to attend Assertion 10 training.  | AT |
| h) Cricket club fence, 4 quotes were received, not all using the same sizes of timber or same number of rails. It was agreed to accept the quote from A G Fenced It, for £9171.60 (including VAT £1528.60) they also offered to trim both sides of the bank where the new fence is being installed, once a month between March and October FOC. The Parish Council will use Cil money for this. Clerk to accept quote  | AT |
| i) Cllr Sealey is working on this but it has changed again. There is a query over the Parish Hall, its value and whether it is in a charitable trust or not. Daisy Wood has not been put as an asset, its approx 3 acres, classed as woodland/amenity land. New Village Hall land, should that be added? Its not been handed over yet. Cricket Pitch land should that be on the asset register the lease in 1962 was for 21 years which ran out in 1983. Will from the cricket club will speak to Jon King Brain and get back to us on this. | RS |
| j) Parish Hall – covered in last item  |    |
| k) Documents and laptop from old clerk several more attempts have been made to contact LD she has said she will collect the items this weekend and deliver to AT.  |    |
| l) Purchase of owl boxes for Daisy Wood from A303 funding It was agreed to buy 4 owl boxes estimate from The Nest Box Company for £300. TT to obtain, Mr Cattermull to fit.  |    |
| m) Quarterly Review to be reviewed next month.   |    |

### SPC79 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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| a) Accounts update – Clerk had done a bank reconciliation and provided accounts, still need to check all VAT has been reclaimed.   |       |
| b) Cllrs Cattermull and Sealey are investigated a new high interest bank account for Daisy Wood with Hampshire Trust Bank they are to open a 5 year fixed rate account with them both as signatories. All in favour and to open a second Barclays account an instant access account with interest once the new clerk is in situ. | JC/RS |
| c) Payment to Mrs A Tuck locum clerk and to HMRC, SALC for Councillors training was approved.  |       |
| d) Payments for Grants were discussed, it was decided to give grants of £200 to the following, St Mary Magdalene Church, Sparkford, Holy Cross Church Weston Bampfylde, Sparkford Playing Field, Sparkford Parish Hall,  |       |

Sparkford Cricket Club and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sparkford Scout Group, In addition to this it was agreed, this year, to give an addition sum of money for the tree work in the Church Yard of £995 from CIL money. Next year Groups will be invited to apply for grants in June -clerk to draw up grant request form.

AT

**SPC 80 CORRESPONDENCE** 2 applications for clerk position have been passed to HR Committee,

Email from Mr C Edwards, as he still has not received the financial information he wants. The is still trying to sort out the accounts but is working on this.

Email from The Octagon theatre requesting financial support it was discussed and though it was a good cause it was decided that we needed our money to support our village and that with all the building planned for Mudford Road in Yeovil, and in Mudford they could get S106 money from those developments.

The clerk had received a phone call from a member of the public on the Sparkford Road South Barrow about motor sales going on from a field opposite her house, asking if they should have planning permission? It was suggested she approach the planning department at Somerset Council.

AT

**SPC81 PUBLIC QUESTIONS** A member of the public asked if we could have another dog waste bin in the village, one resident has a dog leaving waste outside her front door every day. Clerk to ask the Council if we can have another bin if we pay for it and for it to be emptied each week and what that would cost.

AT

**SPC82** There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.58pm

**SPC83 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 8pm

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Speedwatch** – 5 people have stepped forward to volunteer to get involved with Speedwatch in the Parish, training will take place next year. 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