

Sparkford Parish Council

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the parish council meeting held on Monday 10 August 2026 at 1900 at Sparkford Parish Hall.

Present: Councillors J Cattermull (Chair), P Harcourt, L Piper, D Westwood, R Sealey and A Quick

Also in attendance: Kaye Elston (clerk) and two members of the public.

Item 1 26/27/SPC91	Apologies for absence Councillor T Tuck.
Item 2 26/27/SPC92	Public Session No matters raised by public attending.
Item 3 26/27/SPC93	Declarations of interest There were none.
Item 4 26/27/SPC94	Planning Applications received There have been none.
Item 5 26/27/SPC95	Any other Planning Matters 26/00452/FUL Land adjacent to Fletcher Moss, Spark Hill Lane, Sparkford - development of 5 houses – this has now been approved with conditions. The houses are no longer self-build which means it should generate a CIL payment for the parish council. The plot is now up for sale with the approved planning permission. - Glebe land development – Councillor Harcourt reported that on the planning portal, the Service Manager Rights of Way, Somerset Council has responded to planning suggesting that the proposed extinguishment of the footpaths is contrary to NPPF policy in that the scheme neither protects nor enhances public rights of way, produces a disconnect between two parts of the village and brings pedestrians into potential conflict with vehicles. - Land South of Bridge Cottage – the parish council have met with Greenslade Taylor Hunt who are the planning consultants on behalf of the owners of the land for this potential development. Outline planning permission has not yet been submitted. The parish council have expressed their concerns with the consultant in terms of flooding and provided additional information to them regarding the extensive flooding in 2014 and 2023. The consultant was not aware how extensive this flooding was but will now go away and look into this in more detail. The consultant advised that there has been a leaflet drop to 235 houses and there has been 13 responses. Councillors are aware that these drainage and flooding issues, if the development is built will also affect neighbouring parishes.
Item 6 26/27/SPC96	New Village Hall - Five quotes have been received which have been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. - Two quotes were much higher in costs than the others and therefore it was agreed to discard the quotes from GA Doble and ROMA Construction. - Quote from AH Canvin – Councillor Piper advised that the contractor has suggested removing the Heras fencing and the chain link fencing along with removing the tree stumps. This would make the mowing going forward easier. Concern raised in relation to people straying off the playing fields into the new parish hall lands. In the main councillors thought that this was unlikely and agreed to remove both lots of the fencing but to retain and store the Heras fencing which could be put back in place of the chain link fencing if necessary. <i>Proposed: Councillor Piper</i> <i>Seconded: Councillor Harcourt</i> <i>All councillors present in agreement</i> Contractor has advised that this will not increase the cost of the quote. - Councillors remained concerned about dogs potentially coming onto the land and some owners not picking up their waste. It was agreed to purchase signs to put up to make it clear that dogs should not be allowed onto the parish hall land. Councillor Sealey agreed to find out the costs and circulate to councillors. - Councillors reminded themselves of the purpose of obtaining the quotes, which was to make the land more presentable and easier to maintain before the project of progressing with the building progresses. - Councillors have also been made aware that the weeding of the site may have to be delayed as the condition of the land currently due to dry weather would have limited effectiveness.

	Councillors agreed to accept the AH Canvin quote but with the condition that they need a new quote which includes reference to the original specification and which also includes the cost of removing the fences and tree stumps. Proposed: Councillor Sealey Seconded: Councillor Westwood All councillors present in agreement
Item 7 26/26/SPC97	Finance - Parish Online invoice arrived in the sum of £108 as the free trial has now been completed – councillors do not wish to continue the service as they have not found the system easy to navigate and have found some of the information to be out of date. Clerk to email Parish Online to advise. ACTION: Clerk - Balance in current account – currently this is at £4500 and councillors have agreed to keep it at £5000. Councillors in agreement for the clerk to transfer £500 out of the savings account into the current account. ACTION: Clerk
Item 8 26/27/SPC98	Notification of Tree Preservation Order Somerset Council have advised that a Tree Preservation Order has been placed on nine trees on land south of Cherry Blossom Way on 07.07.2026.
Item 9 26/27/SPC99	Date of next meeting Monday 07 September 2026 at 2000

Meeting closed at 2015