

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2023 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Mr L Piper – Chair, Mr K Flood, Mr D Hazell, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Westwood
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr. H Hobhouse

2023

SPC15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

SPC16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

SPC17 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

Not all Councillors had seen the minutes of the meeting on 3 May so it was agreed to defer approval until the next meeting.

SPC18 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A crime report was circulated for information. It was noted that LP had been informed that Hazelgrove Services were no longer accepting £50 notes so some drivers could be recorded as a non-payment and drive off if they have no other method of payment.

SPC19 SOMERSET COUNCILLOR

HH reported that a memorial service will be held for Mike Lewis at 2pm on 14 June at North Cadbury Church.

HH advised that although Sparkford had not been hit as badly as other villages he had written to request the rainfall statistics for that day. HH thanked Somerset Council Officers for the work that had been undertaken to clear the mess and house people in emergency accommodation. Drop-in sessions would be held at the Davis Hall, West Camel on 7 June and North Cadbury Village Hall on 12 June and people were encouraged to attend, particularly those who were impacted by the flooding. It was agreed to write to the Environment Agency regarding their offer made a few years ago to install warning equipment to the north of the bridge. DH reported that the water levels reached 2m high at Daisy Wood on the evening of the flooding.

LD

SPC20 HIGHWAYS

TT reported that the potholes on the High Street are still causing an issue. It was noted that vehicles were being parked on the pavement opposite the Parish Hall. It was agreed to inform the Police and ask them to speak to the owners of the vehicles.

LD

SPC21 PLANNING DECISIONS

a) 21/00902/LBC Change of use from office use (Use Class E (B1) to residential (Use Class C3) with associated demolition of existing outbuilding, first-floor extension and single-storey flat roof extension, and part boundary treatments

(walls and fences) to allow for the re-arrangement of external amenity areas and manoeuvrability of vehicles and alterations to existing access. Home Farmhouse, High Street, Sparkford. **Application permitted with conditions**
b) 23/01086/PDE Proposed Single Storey Flat Roof Rear and Side Extension (i) the projection of the rear extension beyond the rear wall is 4.94 M (ii) the maximum height of the extension is 2.90M (iii) the height at the eaves of the extension is 2.90 M. 9 Burrows Court, Sparkford **Application permitted**

SPC22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) 23/01251/FUL The erection of steel portal frame extension to existing building. Sparkford Storage, Compound Way, High Street, Sparkford. **Parish Councillors had no objections to this application.**

SPC23 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update**
It was noted that since Shell had taken over the service station the grass area at the front of the parking had not been maintained. It was agreed to contact McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services and request a quote for the area to be cut if necessary. LD
- b) **Local Community Network (LCN)** the first official SES LCN meeting would be held on 22 June. It was unanimously agreed that KF and RS would be LCN representatives for Sparkford Parish Council.
- c) **Community Plan** Smart Communities had sent the final copy of the report that would be circulated.
- d) **To consider request for additional noticeboard** A request had been received from a local resident for an additional noticeboard to be sited near the bus shelter on the High Street to enable groups to advertise events as it is difficult to find volunteers to deliver flyers door to door. It was agreed to get three quotes and consider the options at the next meeting. LD
- e) **New development sites** the Parish Clerk reported that Lovells had advised that they were with meeting with Somerset Highways and an update about the removal on soil on the new Village Hall site would be provided after that meeting.
- f) **Quarterly review of outstanding issues**

Cherry Pie Lane resurfacing – reported to SSDC June 2020, advised that enforcement case had been closed 25 October 2021. SSDC asked to re-open the enforcement case in February 2022 as works not completed. Email received from SCC January 2023 advising that SCC are waiting for the developers designer to respond to an audit carried out before works can be agreed. No further update. Awaiting confirmation from Somerset Council regarding who is responsible for ensuring that the planning condition relating to the surfacing works is complied with.

Goodwood Drive pavement – Ashford Homes have advised that the block paving works and final wearing course to the footpaths have been completed. All roads within the residential part of the development will then be adopted by SCC Highways. Ashford Homes advised 25 November 2021 that they had initiated the inspection sign-off process. March 2022 Ashford Homes advised that no response had been received from SCC. October 2022 Ashford Homes advised that they were waiting on drainage information relating to the commercial site and that yellow lines had been put down by a third party without permission from SCC Highways or Ashford Homes. December 2022

Ashford Homes advised that they are still awaiting drainage information relating to the commercial site. Ashford Homes confirmed March 2023 that they are still awaiting confirmation that the drainage scheme relating to the commercial site has been approved. Ashford Homes advised June 2023 that they had received confirmation that the drainage scheme for the commercial land has been approved. The final manhole (separating the two sites) can now be constructed. Once these drainage works have been adopted, they will then progress the adoption of the road.

Possible planning breach at Hazelgrove Lodge – reported to SSDC October 2020, advised January 2022 that the enforcement case had been closed. SSDC asked to re-open the case in February 2022. No further update received to date.

Footpath diversion – formal application submitted to SSDC June 2021. Response from SCC in April 2022 confirming costs to progress application and advising that it would take 6 – 12 months to deal with an application. Awaiting confirmation of land ownership and clarification of who is responsible for payment before submitting new application to SCC.

Street lights at High Street - Ashford Homes have confirmed they will replace but SCC not aware when this will be done. It remains Ashford Homes responsibility until the roads are adopted. There is no further update on this, although LP has advised that there are further works required before the estate roads can be adopted. Update requested from Somerset Council Street Lighting team following confirmation from Ashford Homes that they will be looking to progress adoption of the road once the drainage works are complete.

Car Wash – the continuing problem of water running across the road has been reported again to SCC Highways and SSDC Planning. LP spoke to Garretts in March 2022 and asked them to take a look at the problem, they agreed to speak to the people who run the car wash and ask them to come up with a solution. SSDC were asked to look into this again and have confirmed that there is no planning breach. SCC have advised that they will contact the owner again but unfortunately SCC works will not be available to issue/schedule until April 2023 due to budget and resource. John Nicholson has advised that any surcharges on the carriageway will receive extra salting when the road length is gritted.

High Street nameplate – missing nameplate at entrance to Haynes Publishing reported. SSDC advised that it would be replaced by end of April but the work has not been completed to date, email sent asking for an update. SSDC asked for clarification of location of nameplate, now awaiting completion.

Street lighting at Burrows Court – SCC have provided an approved street lighting plan so the Clerk would follow up with Ashford Homes regarding completion. Ashford Homes have advised that the road is not being adopted and that no street lighting is being provided. SCC have been asked to follow this up. It should be noted that there is now a Private Road sign at the entrance to Burrows Court.

Potential damage to trees with TPO's off High Street – reported to Phil Poulton at SSDC who advised that he would visit to inspect. Response received from Phil Poulton in October 2022 who confirmed that he had met with the landowner in person and explained the importance of carefully removing the remainder of the root system (the

owner agreed to do this). Phil Poulton would continue to monitor the trees. Email sent January 2023 to advise that building materials still left around trees. Phil agreed to check and speak to the owner again.

Lying water at entrance to Goodwood Drive – Somerset Council Highways team have asked the Development Control team to advise on this.

Potholes on Sparkford Hill Lane – reported to Somerset Council May 2023. Update received on 28 May to advise that they had been inspected but no action was needed because the problem is not a safety issue and not severe enough to fix it.

- g) 2022/23 Audit submission** it was agreed to submit an exemption for 2022/23

SPC24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payment of £392.00 to Mrs L Davis (Parish Clerk salary)** Approved

SPC25 CORRESPONDENCE

None

SPC26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3 July 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.02pm

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.

Warm Hubs – Do you have a few hours to spare each week or month? Would you like to help people who may be struggling with the cost of living crisis? Do you like to meet new people? If you answer yes to all these questions then please contact the Parish Clerk to learn more about how you could help with a Village Café/Warm Hub?

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