

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF SPARKFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2024 AT 8.00PM**

Present: Mr K Flood - Chair, Mr D Hazell, Mr L Piper, Mr A Quick, Mr R Squires, Mr T Tuck, Mr D Westwood
In attendance: Mrs L Davis, Cllr Henry Hobhouse, Cllr Kevin Messenger, David Norris – Boon Brown, 24 members of public

2024

SPC15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

SPC16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

LP declared an interest in item SPC23a)

SPC17 APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 8 May 2024 were agreed.

SPC18 TO NOMINATE AND ELECT A VICE CHAIR

KF read a statement from LP and confirmed that he stepped down as Vice Chair with effect from 10 May.

LP proposed, DH seconded and it was agreed (5 – for, 1 – abstained, 0 - against) that TT be elected as Vice Chair.

SPC19 CRIME/NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

No crime report had been received. It was noted that the Police were trying to identify the owner of the old Haynes Publishing building.

SPC20 SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

Cllr Messenger reported that a new Enforcement Officer has been appointed. An update was provided on the Sutton Farm report. Cllr Hobhouse reported that he had received confirmation that sewage had been dropped into the River Cam on 122 days. He requested that warning notices are put up to advise that children and dogs should not go into the water.

SPC21 HIGHWAYS

There were no updates to report. Cllr Messenger advised that he is encouraging the Local Community Network (LCN) to pick up the issues with the A359 as it covers several parishes. KF reported the LCN Highways Working Group has identified the A359 issues as a priority.

It was noted that there is an issue with the drain in the road opposite Goodwood Drive and that the manhole opposite the entrance to Bennett Close still has not been repaired.

SPC22 PLANNING DECISIONS

None

LD

SPC23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

LP left the room

a) 24/00940/FUL Erection of single storey building to be used as welcome/meeting area at entrance to business park. Land east of Entrance to Vantage Park, Goodwood Drive, Sparkford.

Concerns were raised by residents from neighbouring properties regarding the height of the building due to the raised level, worsening of the existing drainage issues, the detrimental impact on residential properties nearby, loss of parking, an increase in foot traffic within the vicinity of residential properties and possible inaccuracies on the planning application form. It was noted that many of the comments in support of the application were from people not impacted by the proposed structure. A request was made that the Parish Council support the objections from neighbouring properties and those directly impacted.

In response to a query, David Norris confirmed that the building proposed would be used as a refectory for staff and is not envisaged to be used for events. David reported that the existing railway carriage forms part of this planning application and would remain and advised that current parking provision was over what was required.

A resident raised concerns about current breaches of operating hours on the site. David Norris advised that enforcement was a separate matter and that he was only dealing with the planning application submitted.

Parish Councillors raised concerns regarding the height of the building and it was agreed to request that this is checked by Planning to ensure that it is no higher than the existing railway carriage. It was agreed that the building should not be used as a Café and should only be for employees at Vantage Park and their customers and not for use by the general public. It should only be used within the current operating hours for the site.

It was proposed and agreed (5 – for, 0 – abstained, 1 – against) that the Parish Council support the proposal in principle subject to the height of the building being checked and reduced if necessary and conditions being included should permission be granted by Somerset Council.

LP returned to the meeting.

SPC11 MATTERS ARISING NOT INCLUDED IN OTHER SECTIONS

- a) **McDonalds and Hazelgrove Services - outstanding issues update**
There was no update to report.
- b) **Update on quotes for website** it was agreed that AQ and KF would present a proposal for the website to be considered at a future meeting.
- c) **2023/24 Audit submission** it was agreed to submit an exemption for 2023/24
- d) **Transfer of land for new village hall** an update from Battens was provided and it was agreed to respond to confirm that the Parish Council are happy to

AQ/KF

LD

accept the land subject to the terms of the S106 being complied with. It was agreed to progress a possible enforcement breach of the S106 with Somerset Council and that KF would contact LVA Planning to provide an update.

KF

- e) **Local Community Network (LCN)** It was noted that the next meeting is on 13 June.
- f) **Quarterly review of outstanding issues** an update report was issued in advance of the meeting.
- g) **New development sites** – the letter from LVA Planning following their attendance at the last meeting was noted.

SPC25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

SPC26 CORRESPONDENCE

TT raised a query regarding an event taking place at Wyvern Field and reported that complaints had been received when the previous event was held. Horrell and Horrell confirmed that the appropriate licences had been applied for and that parking was available on site for up to 25 cars. ELC had confirmed that the event would comply within their planning consent.

TT reported that a group of Cherry Blossom Way residents have agreed with Live West that they can use a piece of land that is currently not maintained as a vegetable patch. The Parish Clerk asked that the residents are advised to ensure that they have any appropriate insurance in place and that a risk assessment is completed.

TT

SPC27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 July 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.56pm

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.

Daisy Woods – please note that in the interests of safety and to protect the habitat Daisy Woods has been closed temporarily to allow the area to recover following recent bad weather.