MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

held on 9th September 2020

**Present**: Cllrs May, McEwing, Peacham, Pearson-Bunt,

Cllr Milford joined later in the meeting

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance**: Cllrs Hart (DCC), Thomas (SHDC), V Ansell

**Part 1** (Open to the Public)

**076/20 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Lee, Taylor

**077/20 Agreement of the Agenda between Parts I and II**

Councillors noted that two items of business would be considered in Part II of the meeting.

**078/20 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**079/20 Special Motion**

Cllrs passed a Motion to reverse the Resolution to suspend normal business made on the 11th May 2020. Special Motion required under para 7.a Standing Orders.  
The Clerk’s delegated powers should remain for the time being.

**080/20 County Councillor’s Business**

Cllr Hart delivered his report:

1. The Covid situation had calmed down but was bubbling up again now. He is on the Beacon Councils for Devon as one of 11 in the country. The South West has fared a lot better than other areas but there were problems starting here with the common denominator being youngsters returning from Zante and Croatia. They are not affected but have passed it on to members of their families. There are approximately 40 in the County and are being traced.

His message is be careful of restaurants and keep out of busy pubs.

1. There is a team to look after the vulnerable; there are 2600 people in 330 care homes and there was Covid in about 30 homes. This was actually very low and there was a low death rate. Care Homes are well geared to deal with it as they are used to dealing with viruses and looking after people.
2. He is trying to get back to looking at the Parishes. Lee Mill was due to have a public meeting in April regarding the new road junction. They are still looking at consultation in Lee Mill; the money is in the budget and the scheme is in process of being designed.
3. Sherford Road opened last Friday and they immediately had complaints that the cycle way does not exist. However, the roads are not yet finished.
4. There had been a large influx of travellers at Langage. County is trying to deal with it with the Police and safeguarding visits have taken place. An Injunction is being sought but he is not sure of the status of this.
5. He has been contacted regarding a pothole in Hemerdon. He had driven around the ward to try to find the pothole but he couldn’t find it. He understands that it has now been recorded on pothole listings.
6. The recent torrential rain had caused flooding. There was 60mm in an hour in some places and most drains are geared to take 10mm an hour away. He saw the depth gauges on Venton Bridge and have been used.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt thanked Cllr Hart for DCC putting markers on the bridge.

She had been contacted by several residents with regard to the travellers at Langage. Residents are on high alert as there had been reports of people looking around.

Cllr Peacham asked whether the double yellow lines had been painted at Langage? Cllr Hart confirmed, but nobody will enforce. There was a discussion as to what further could be done to prevent the travellers moving on to the site.

Cllr Peacham said that there are a number of potholes that do not warrant emergency repairs but the road through the village of Hemerdon is in a poor state of repair.

***Action*** *– Cllr Hart will check the position and whether it is on a priority listing.*

Cllr Hart asked whether we had picked up that the mine is moving aggregate? There was a full discussion including:

* DCC had given permission to move 1M tonnes
* Cllr Hart believed it was 150,000 and that 1M would be refused until they applied for proper planning
* Cllr Peacham had the letter confirming that they have been given permission to move what amounts to 1M pa, starting on the 1st September for six months
* The Parish Council was not consulted and was extremely disappointed. We had hoped to start with a good rapport but were not getting information from our own County which it is not good enough
* Cllr Hart believed that the PC was consulted but the PC confirmed that it was not and only found out by our own investigations

***Action*** *– Cllr Hart will look into this tomorrow; it is a Tungsten Mine not a quarry.*

*Cllr May thanked Cllr Hart and said that the PC would appreciate him investigating the matter.*

Cllr Hart left the meeting at 7.26pm

**081/20 District Councillor’s Business**

Cllr Thomas delivered his report:

1. As predicted, the District has a financial shortfall due to Covid of £1.2m which is a significant sum of money. Overview & Scrutiny have made recommendations on cutbacks on spending and the use of unearmarked reserves. He will be able to report further when it has gone to full Council.
2. There is going to be changes to refuse collections, specifically the change of collection days in Lee Mill. All residents will be receiving a letter.

The Clerk confirmed that an SHDC officer had been invited to October meeting to give a briefing.

1. Cllr Thomas confirmed that he had attended a site meeting with CL and JT and reached a satisfactory conclusion which we could be fed back to planning.

Cllr May thanked Cllr Thomas for his support.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked whether the Leisure Centre in Ivybridge is still closed ? There had been a lot of discussion with Fusion, but there is no definitive date yet.

Cllr Peacham asked if Cllr Thomas could follow up on Boringdon Camp as this was part of our climate change plan (tree planting) ? Cllr Thomas said that he was hoping that things could get back to normal and to projects; officers had been re-directed to other jobs during the pandemic.

***Action*** *– Cllr Thomas will investigate.*

Cllr Milford joined the meeting at 7.36pm

**082/20 Public Forum**

No members of the public were present.

**083/20 Climate Change**

Cllrs considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the Climate change statement.

The Clerk reported that Shaugh Prior had arranged a Green issues meeting which was led by residents with guidance and support from the PC.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt referred to a village wildlife project featured on Countryfile. Again this was led by residents with support from the Parish Council. She believed that residents would like to do more on green issues and there is scope to involve the school/nurseries in things like wildflower meadows, hedgehog highways.

Cllr Peacham confirmed that Hemerdon Hall had paid for 20 trees and he had planted them.

***Action*** *– Item for the October agenda to put together ideas on projects and initiatives.*

**084/20 Hemerdon** **Mine**

1. Cllr May asked whether the PC felt that we should write to Devon County Mineral Planning. He and Cllr Peacham are both on the liaison committee and are extremely disappointed at the lack of communication. Plymouth City Council was not consulted either. Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked whether it was possible to ask for livery on the lorries as it is impossible to monitor it? DCC is going to ask for copies of the weighbridge tickets and we can then get this and see the trucks being loaded up.

The main concern here is that the PC was not notified.

***Action*** *– Cllrs May and Peacham will draft a letter and send to the Clerk to forward on.*

**085/20 Fibre Broadband project**

Cllr Pearson Bunt reported that the delivery due date is April next year, however Covid may cause some delays. A survey of poles is being carried out. She had a visit to her farmyard just before the Bank Holiday weekend by Openreach who were inspecting works needed on their telephone poles. The run starts at Langage, down Ledgate Lane, through the village and past the zoo. Some of the run will be underground and comes out when it goes into the village, with a pole to individual houses. There will inevitably be road closures for the works.

**086/20 Newnham Community Solar Fund**

* 1. Review revised Finance Regulations
  2. Review Statement of Internal Control

The Clerk explained that the changes were proposed because the RFO and Administrator were previously one in the same but the CIC now has a separate administrator. The RFO has to remain with Sparkwell, the signatories should be Directors, there is no need for audit as the CIC has to file accounts with Companies House and the RFO will be supplied with copies of everything.  This needs SPC approval as it is amending what was set out in the Community Benefit Agreement, to which SPC was a party.

Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the revised Finance Regulations and the Statement of Internal Control.

**087/20 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 14th July 2020

**RESOLVED** **unanimously** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th July 2020 be approved and signed at a later date.

**088/20 Actions and Motions**

Councillors considered the Actions and Motions from 3rd July 2020 to 2nd September 2020 and published on the website.

**RESOLVED unanimously** that the Actions and Motions be approved.

**089/20 Special Motion**

Cllrs passed a Motion to reverse the Resolution to suspend the Grant Scheme made on the 2nd April 2020. Special Motion required under para 7.a Standing Orders.

**090/20 Bottle Park Play Area**

Cllrs considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the new Agreement proposed by SHDC.

**091/20 Planning**

1. Planning Application Ref: 2597/20/FUL

Applicant Name: Mr N Passmore Unit build (SW) LLP & Plymouth City Council

Description: Sub-division of Unit 1 (previously approved 1878/19/FUL) from 1no. business unit into 3no. business units (Classes B1(a)(b)(c), B2 & B8)

Address: Field South of Langage Business Park Langage South Road Langage Business Park Plympton

**RESOLVED** that the PC has no objection

**092/20 Road and Snow Warden**

Still have 2 tonnes of salt and a working salt spreader. GP will keep chasing Cllr Hart on the poor condition of the road in Hemerdon.

There is a section of road from Sparkwell to Mount Pleasant where water pours out from the road.

***Action*** *- Cllr McEwing will photograph and report on the DCC site.*

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 8.15pm

**093/20 Chairman’s Business**

1. Public rights of way - Cllr McEwing offered help and assistance with this and will liaise with Cllr Peacham.

**094/20 Correspondence**

1. Devon County Council road closure notice 26 October 2020 for a maximum of 5 days. Roads affected – Sparkwell Cross to Shipland. Temporary restriction to enable detailed examination of underbridge. Works to be carried out overnight
2. Lee Mill Road Closure 27th October 2020 for 3 nights from 19hrs - Lee Mill Bridge. Diversions are via A38, Deep Lane and Ivybridge junctions. Work for DCC

**095/20 Review Risk Assessment Management**

Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Council’s Risk ManagementPlan

**096/20 Finance**

1. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Statement of Assets
2. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Investment Strategy
3. Cllrs considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the renewal of Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) membership
4. Cllrs considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for August 2020

**097/20 Payments and Receipts**

1. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for August 2020

**098/20 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 13th October 2020 at 7pm - remote meeting using Zoom.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

Name ……………………………………………………………….. Date …………………………………………..