MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 9th April 2019 at Hemerdon Village Hall

**Present**: Cllrs May, Taylor, Pearson-Bunt, Lee, Hughes, Ashley, Peacham and Milford

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance**: Cllr Hart (DCC), Cllr Baldry (SHDC), Cllr Blackler (SHDC)

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

**054/19 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Small (to Cllr Taylor)

**Resolved** that the apologies be noted.

**055/19 Agreement of the Agenda between Parts I and II**

Councillors noted that one item of business would be considered in Part II of the meeting.

**056/19 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**057/19 Police Business**

No apology or report received.

**058/19 District Councillors Business**

Cllr Baldry reported

1. Regarding attempts by SHDC to close public toilets. In this ward the most threatened conveniences are Newton Ferrers and Holbeton. The Parish Councils have said they will not take them on, SHDC say they will close in September. Cllr Baldry supports the parishes as he believes public toilets are essential to the community.
2. The contract for the private Spanish company FCC to take over refuse collection and other responsibilities started on 1st April. It is early days but there is little change in service.

Cllr Taylor asked whether all employees were switched over to the new company, yes they were.

1. Director Helen Dobby, who is responsible for public toilets and waste, is leaving SHDC at the end of this month.

Cllr Blackler reported:

1. PCs and SHDC are working together to try and keep toilets open.
2. Residents are reminded to recycle clean items if not they may not be recycled.
3. The Joint Local Plan has been adopted.
4. Working with Plymouth City Council SHDC got funding for £3m for broadband infrastructure to include GP surgeries, hospitals and public buildings such as Council offices.
5. The £60m they are able to borrow will enable a new build development in Kingsbridge, office development on a brown field site in Totnes and £8.5m for community housing.
6. The waste procurement contract with FCC Environment has been signed.
7. SHDC has acquired 10 acres of commercial land in Sherford.

Sadly this is his last report as our District Councillor having completed 12 years, firstly for Cornwood and Sparkwell, latterly since the boundary changes for the larger 2 member ward with Cllr Baldry. Unfortunately over the last year or so he has had health issues. He hopes that he has been able to carry out his duties for the benefit of all the communities.

1. The Boringdon Camp question will carry over but the site is likely to be sold.
2. He is working with Sir Gary Streeter on the question of Lee Mill church which was to be closed. They are looking at whether this could be used as a community hall

Cllr Ashley referred to the £3m for broadband for public buildings and asked what was being done about broadband service more generally? Approximately 2 years ago it was said there was going to be major effort to put dishes up on pylons around the area. Cllr Hart said that was a county matter. There had been a number of issues with the companies involved. The funds were due to be spent by end of 2020 but they now have a two year extension on spending. There are issues with closing roads, working at night and putting cables through fields.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked how can we access the plan for Sparkwell in relation to what is planned. Cllr Hart will endeavour to find the answer. Previously the company has contacted the parish councils when work was proposed.

***Action*** *– Clerk to contact the company direct asking to ask them to provide plans.*

Cllr May, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllr Blackler for all the work he has done and for being very supportive of Sparkwell Parish. He will be sadly missed but he wished him well for the future.

**059/19 County Councillors Business**

Cllr Hart reported:

1. Budget:
   1. DCC is likely to come in on budget even though children services is overspent by £12m. Other services have also overspent.
   2. Payment for some work has been rescheduled as capital rather than revenue.
   3. They had saved money as we have had a mild winter.
2. There was a lot of planning going on for Brexit, they were gearing up for lots of different options as they do not know what is going to happen. DCC are making plans to look after the old, young and vulnerable whatever happens. Devon is a big county with 800000 residents, contingency plans are being drawn up to prepare for different scenarios.
3. Distribution could be a problem with the supermarkets and fuel if people started panic buying.
4. 9000 young people are supported in some way by DCC and this must continue.
5. Adult services are looking after 1900 adults with continuing support.
6. 24000 people had received assessment or services from adult services.
7. Trading standards and emergency teams are being strengthened.
8. The waste application at Challonsleigh has been sent back for further information but a comment was made that there have been few objections.
9. He had inspected Venton railway bridge; the drain had been cleared but piles of mud had been left at the side which need to be cleared. Cllr Hart will be reporting this back. Cllr May said that a depth sign was needed for Sparkwell side of the road.

Cllr Baldry left the meeting at 7.30pm

Cllr Hughes asked about the new proposed slip road at Lee Mill. She had spoken to DCC and understands that now when plans come forward, there is an effort to obtain s106 money towards it and that this could be split into stages such as planning. Cllr Hart said he could not answer this question.

Cllr Pearson Bunt asked about Holland Road, Langage. Cllr Hart said that some travellers have been removed but others were being left at the moment. They would shortly be putting yellow lines around the area, clearing up the mess will be a county responsibility who will pay the district to do the work. Cllr Peacham asked why the road could not be blocked off. Cllr Hart said that the power station wanted the road kept open.

Cllr Peacham commented on the traffic issues in Lee Mill and that if small housing developments were built with a long term view then this could provide a new road. There was a discussion around this sort of planning being included in the Joint Local Plan.

Cllr Blackler asked what was happening to Beech Farm, Lee Mill as it is fenced off? Cllr Hart is not sure but will find out.

Cllr Milford said that there was a pothole in the village that had been filled on the inside of the circle but they had left the hole that was outside of the circle! Discussion that the hole could been outside of the criteria but Cllr Hart said that teams were now being given discretion so that these sort of repairs would be carried out.

Cllr Hart and Cllr Blackler left the meeting at 8pm

**060/19 Open Forum**

1. Wolf Update – Cllr May said that the house Wolf was using for monitoring has now been sold. A very large piece of machinery which was leased was being removed. Groundworks contractors were standing by to move on the re-instatement. Discussion around the reinstatement, planning that was needed and the bond.

**061/19 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the previous meeting and the annual parish residents meeting.

**Resolved** **unanimously** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th March (with the correction of one spelling error) and the Annual Residents meeting also held on the 12th March be approved (with a correction in AM005/19).

**062/19 Matters Arising**

1. 049/19 – Markings on local pavements - DCC have started re-surfacing.

**063/19 Review of Policies**:

Councillors considered:

1. Risk Assessment Management (review)
2. List of Assets (review)
3. Defibrillator Hosting agreement (new)

**Resolved** that all are approved subject to the addition of Bottle Park to the risk assessment, and amendments to the list of assets regarding the crest and flag/pole.

**064/19 Planning** – to consider new applications

1. Planning Reference DCC/4038/2018 Devon County Council

Planning Application at SX 595, 552, Challonsleigh Farm, Smithaleigh, PL7 5AX

Consultation expiry – 27 April 2019

Previously objected to the application.

**Resolved** to object in the same terms.

1. Planning Application Ref: 0653/19/FUL

Description: Change of use from B1 Office to C3 dwellinghouse

Address: Liberty House Ashleigh Way Smithaleigh Plymouth PL7 5AX

Comments Due By: 19 April 2019

It is unclear how much land would be available for car parking as it was not being shown on the plan.

**Resolved** that the PC had not previously objected so would not object to this application.

1. Planning Application Ref: 0632/19/FUL

Applicant Name: Mrs C Serpell

Description: Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of 2 storey house

Address: Moor Cottage Venton Sparkwell PL7 5DU

Comments Due By: 26 April 2019

Cllrs will inspect.

1. Planning Application Ref: 0794/19/FUL

Applicant Name: Mrs Norman - Cowslip Developments Ltd

Description: Conversion of 4 bed property back to original configuration of two 2 bed properties

Address: Briar Cottage Plymouth Road Lee Mill Bridge Lee Mill PL21 9DY

Comments Due By: 26 April 2019

Concerns over parking.

Cllrs will inspect.

1. Cllr Peacham updated the meeting regarding planning application SHDC Planning Application 0190/18/FUL, The Paddock Hemerdon Lane PL7 5BU and the fact that the entrance to the site had been widened but the visibility splay had not been delivered as required by the planning permission. He had contacted the Council who had acted very quickly in a positive manner.

**065/19 Road & Snow Warden**

Cllr Peacham reported that the salt spreaders have been collected.

**066/19 Chairman’s Business**

1. Cllr Peacham had provided a suggested list of roles that councillors could take on so that each councillor is taking on an area of responsibility and the PC is doing more in the Parish.

***Action*** *– Clerk to add this item to the Agenda for the May meeting. In the meantime all to review the list of powers and duties to come up with “headings” so that names can be allocated and it can be moved forward.*

**067/19 Correspondence**

1. Letter of resignation from Cllr Ashley who is not standing as he is moving away from the area. He thanks his colleagues at SPC for support and wishes them the very best for the future.
2. Email from Cllr Hughes saying that she would not be standing.

It was noted that both councillors will be missed and Cllr May, on behalf of the Parish Council, passed on his thanks for their work.

1. Election – Notice of nomination for x7 councillors, leaving four vacancies. Notice of Vacancy to co-opt will be published on 2nd May.

**068/19 Finance**

1. to consider budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for March 2019 (circulated)

**Resolved** **unanimously** that the reports be approved

1. The Clerk requested a retrospective Minute for a virement £100 from Equipment to Admin needed to settle the web hosting invoice.

**Resolved unanimously** that the virement be approved.

1. The Clerk requested a retrospective Minute for approval of Election poll cards £256.75 (25p per poll card) should the Parish Council election be contested and the district not. The decision had to be made between meetings and was approved by the Chairman.

**Resolved unanimously** that the decision be approved.

1. The Clerk had provided three insurance quotes for consideration.
   1. BHIB £624.87 annual (existing insurers)
   2. Parish Protect/WPS £504.00 annual or £478.80 for 3 year agreement
   3. Zurich £619.27 or £581.15 for 3 year agreement

**Resolved unanimously** that the insurance provider should be switched to Parish Protect/WPS for a three year agreement

**069/19 Payments and Receipts**

1. Payments list (circulated)
2. Receipt – Cllr J Hart DCC Locality Fund (contribution to defibrillators) £2,000

**Resolved** unanimously that this report be approved.

**070/19 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 14th May 2019 at 7pm at Sparkwell Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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