MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 20th March 2018 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

**Present** : Chairman Cllr Robin May

Cllrs – Julian Taylor, George Small, Graham Milford, Clare Lee

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance** : Cllr John Hart (DCC) Cllr Keith Baldry (SHDC), Elaine Budd (Wolf Minerals)

**Apologies for Absence**: Cllr Peacham, Cllr Ashley, Cllr Ruth Pearson-Bunt, Cllr Blackler (SHDC), Tamsyn Dingley (Police)

**18/18 Police Business**

The Clerk read out the Police crime report for February 2018 provided by Tamsyn Dingley:

Crimes; 4

1. Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle. Under investigation - the suspect has been identified and is due to attend the station for an interview.
2. Burglary to dwelling – all potential evidence was cleaned away so no further lines of enquiries. No witnesses, forensics, CCTV or suspects. Nothing was stolen either. Filed.
3. Assault ABH – family related (not DV due to age of suspect) – filed as not in the public interest to purse. Safeguarding is in place.
4. Assault ABH – strangers - Under investigation.

Information;

* Sgt Ray Bower is temporarily covering in Sgt Woodward’s absence. He will primarily be based in Totnes and it is unknown how long he will be covering for.

Elaine Budd (EB) of Wolf said that they had had a suspicious trespass on site, a white Mercedes. Details had been passed on to others including Police and DNPA.

**19/18 District Councillors Business**

The Clerk read out a report for from Cllr Blackler

1. There will only be cashless payments at SHDC from 1st April saving the Council about £35,000.
2. There is only the possibility that SHDC may commence house building again, not yet fully confirmed [see Cllr Baldry report below].
3. SHDC will at some time start using less plastics.
4. SHDC is to receive £80,640 grant for rural service delivery.
5. Council Tax will increase by £5 to give a figure of £160.42 to a band D property for 18/19 £6.072m will be collected.
6. SHDC can show savings of £689,350 over 12 months.
7. Total expenditure for 18/19 is about £8,983,000.
8. There will be a Budget gap for19/20 of £0.64m
9. There will be no Government Support Grant next year.
10. There will be pay to enter toilets in future. [Cllr Baldry commented that while some toilets will be pay to enter, some will be closed, and some will continue as they are.]

Cllr Baldry reported to the Council :

1. Social Housing - SHDC are going back to providing rented social housing using Government money and will also spend some reserves. This is purely on a commercial basis; they might as well invest in housing as the reserves are not earning.
2. Weather arrangements – refuse collection lost 3 days from the first bad weather. After the most recent weather, a decision was taken that rather than trying to catch up, which would take 3 weeks, they would abandon this and go back to normal collection from last Monday. Extra bags etc put out will be picked up.
3. Council Tax – the largest element of Council Tax, 73%, goes to Devon County Council, 9% to SHDC, 10% to the Police, 5% to Fire and 3% Parish Councils. He had carried out a comparison of Parish Precepts and found as follows:

- Sparkwell just over £10,000

- Cornwood £16,000

- Ermington £25,000

- Ugborough £20,000

- Holbeton £9,800.

1. SHDC were running a series of roadshows to encourage residents to sign up to online Council Tax and services. He asked that the PC advertise the Sparkwell date.

**20/18 County Councillors Business**

Cllr Hart reported to the Council:

1. One of the conditions of building the primary school was a no parking zone, however this had never been installed and DCC have now been asked to approve. He asked the PC to approve this also. Councillors checked the map and confirmed that the PC was in agreement.
2. Roadworks were deferred because of the pressure of work. With all the storms it would have been deferred anyway because of the work clearing snow. DCC staff, contractors and others with bulldozers have done a brilliant job in snow clearing; North Devon was particularly badly hit.
3. The PC Minutes of 13th February referred to the public consultation in Lee Mill, specifically that DCC staff were in attendance. He stated that no DCC staff were at the meeting. Cllr Taylor said that the person talking about traffic was giving the impression that DCC had no objection. Cllr Hart will comment further on traffic at the public meeting on Friday 23rd March.
4. Out of the Council Tax going to DCC, it will provide 2% extra for adult care, 2.99% was to cover the extra on roads but this was before the weather and we now have more potholes. There is also talk of another blast of snow over Easter.

Cllr May commented that the media had been talking about potholes and that it was now going to take some 14 years to repair. He asked whether this would generate more funds from Government. Cllr Hart said he was unable to answer that, however funds are being made available from Government for the repairs of the road at Slapton. DCC has £12M in total available to spend on roads, with a focus on drainage as well.

1. Lee Mill Public meeting - Cllr Hart will be attending the meeting. He confirmed that no application has been submitted.

Cllr Baldry said that he believed that residents will be asking for a new primary school if the development were to go ahead.

Cllr Taylor said that he had been to Lee Mill early in the morning and witnessed two cars parking at 6.30am, the occupants got out with luggage and then got the coach to Bristol. Although it was quite legal, this was frustrating for residents as cars were obviously left for days/weeks. A lot of cars also park for car sharing, although residents can park overnight with this. Cllr Hart commented that because of current regulations it was not now viable for residents to put in parking spaces on their property. He believed that resident parking could cause problems and there was probably no answer to New Park Road parking issues.

Cllr Small commented that the grit bins needed refilling and Cllr Hart said that DCC had already started filling, they did a lot between the two snow storms.

Cllr May referred to the water issue at the Railway bridge, he said residents could not get out of the village with the flooding after the snow. There is only one marker and another marker is needed indicating water depth.

***Action –*** *Cllr Hart will check on this.*

Cllr Hart said that he was sad to hearing that Mr Ellis Daw had passed away.

Cllr Hart then left the meeting

**21/18 Open Forum:**

* 1. Wolf Update –Elaine Budd provided a hard copy report to all Cllrs – attached.

Cllr May asked whether the LFN plan was still on schedule? EB confirmed that it was. There had been a higher degree of vibration on steel work on the roof and they were looking at stiffening the roof. While this was unexpected it will not cause a delay. Cllr May then asked whether the funding was available, EB understood that an initial payment had been released.

Cllr May said that an update on blasting had been received but he asked how many residents had provided feedback on the blasts to feed into report. EB confirmed that the feedback had dropped but they were still get feedback anonymously. Rather than scoring each blast, respondents were only asked for comments on blasts that affected them the most so Wolf can identify these blasts.

Cllr May commented that in the blast report there was no clear difference between electronic and non-electronic detonator blasts. He said that it no longer made sense as there was nothing to compare as non-electronic were no longer used. Cllrs May and Small commented that there had been a bad blast today; Cllr Small said it shook the house. EB said they tried to move the blasts around so they were not in the same place day after day. Some geographical features mean that some areas in the pit create a higher impact.

Cllr May commented that if things don’t improve then there no point in recording data. The hope must be that the data will result in fewer bad blasts.

Cllr Small said that residents are saying that blasting has not improved at all, in fact it has gotten worse. EB said all the feedback is recorded. EB said that if a member of the public wanted to witness a blast then it can be arranged.

Cllr Lee said that she is encouraged by what is being done by Wolf in engaging with the public and schools. It should be noted that Clare Lee referred to in the Wolf Update report is not Cllr Lee.

Cllr Baldry referred to what the Incinerator in Plymouth had done with education which is very good and encouraged EB to get in touch. Cllr Taylor confirmed that the power station had also done a lot of good work.

Cllr May asked about the proposed Public meeting which has not taken place. EB explained this was because of all the other meetings that had taken place and Wolf felt that there were not many more people to reach and that it was better to wait until they had more details to impart.

* 1. Lee Mill Development - the Clerk said that she had received communication from a resident in Lee Mill regarding the development and potential traffic problems and asking for a new traffic count. The Clerk gave the resident details of the public meeting and said that this will be discussed but agreed to bring it to the attention of the Parish Council.

It is believed that Wendy Jamieson will be chairing the meeting; Parish Cllrs will be attending. Confirmed the meeting date and time, 23rd March at 6.30pm at the Westward Inn.

**22/18 Declarations of Interest**

None

**23/18 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 13th February 2018 were checked for reference as stated in 20/18 (c) but no reference could be found. The Minutes were therefore approved by all present and signed by the Chairman.

**24/18 Planning**

1. Building adjacent to the old Little Chef Building on Smithaleigh slip road. Application for change of use from office to residential. Cllr Taylor had done a site visit and reported that the property was clearly a house which had been converted to an office. No comment.
2. Princess Yachts – Application for an advert/sign by Garden Close, Plympton. Not expected to be a problem but a site visit will confirm.

***Action*** *– Cllrs Taylor and Milford will do a site visit*

1. Princess Yachts – Application for an extension to the factory near the power station.

***Action*** *– Cllrs Taylor and Milford will do a site visit*

**25/18 Road & Snow Warden**

The Clerk read out the report from Cllr Peacham which, it should be noted, was provided before the recent snow this weekend:

1. Snow - 3 boxes of Salt where placed in Hemerdon (where there are no DCC salt bins at all), 1 at the West end of the village in the Phone box (owned by the hall), 1 in the centre of the village and 1 alongside the hall at the East end. On the morning of the 1st March there were treacherous conditions with the snow and ice, Cllr Peacham along with a bit of help were able to spread the salt throughout the village within an hour or so and the bins have since been replenished. The salt spreader was on standby, but the thaw came quickly so not required.
2. 1 bin was also put alongside the Sparkwell Parish Hall (Western end) in advance of the snow, it was noted that at least 4 DCC salt bins are already in Sparkwell (all were full) so it seemed well covered.
3. A Lesson for the future- now that Hemerdon Hall has a store (shipping container) in the 3-cornered field, a stash of salt and the salt spreader should be kept there during the winter. The tractor should be moved into the store too in advance of such severe weather warnings.
4. There are still 2 boxes available if anybody identify any locations for them.
5. Roads & Potholes - the winter weather has trashed the roads, DCC will start repairs as the weather improves. The PC doesn’t have to do anything, but it would probably be helpful if we put together a list of what we think needs doing with the priorities. Please report these to Cllr Peacham.

Cllr Small commented that some minor repairs had been carried out on the main road, but it was unsatisfactory.

1. Potholes - if everyone can identify sites, Cllr Peacham will put them on the DCC website. Please let him have a precise location (a pin on a google map emailed to him) along with a photo, for scale a tennis or golf ball in the hole would be good. Alternatively, anyone can report on the DCC website
2. Larger issues such as the messy road below the Old School, Hemerdon storm drain (last section of pipe), the ongoing flooding under the railway bridge etc should also be captured for reporting in a single document. Cllr Peacham will take the lead with this and offer solutions. For example, regarding the problem at the railway bridge, work with the landowners and form ideas which we could take to DCC as they have little time/resources to liaise with landowners on drains and soakaways etc.
3. If all the above were in a single list prioritised (Cllr Peacham is happy to collate) it could be sent to highways once a quarter say and request a report on progress.

**26/18 Community Re-Investment Projects**

The Clerk read out the report from Cllr Ashley:

He has investigated but we have missed the deadline for applications which was 28th January. There’s no news yet on another round, (it’s thought it’ll be unlikely) but have registered our interest just in case.

Cllr Baldry commented that this had actually been taken out, there is no community re-investment in the future.

Elaine Budd and Cllr Baldry left the meeting.

**27/18 Review of Policies and Procedures**

1. Review and resolve the Council’s Standing Orders
2. Review and resolve the Council’s Financial Regulations
3. Review and resolve the Council’s Risk Assessment Management
4. Review and resolve the Council’s Statement of Internal Control

Amendments to Standing Orders discussed and approved. All other Polices and Procedures reviewed and resolved. (Cllrs Peacham and Pearson-Bunt approved by email).

**28/18 Chairman’s Business**

1. Chainsaw Training - After our recent success in obtaining TAP funding, Cllr Peacham has arranged for a provider to run a course for Chainsaw training at Newnham Estate on the 26th & 27th April. He has 4 people committed (so more cost effective than booking individually & most of the PPE is included). He can take another 1 or 2 at no extra cost. Cllr May said that he would like to be included.

**29/18 Correspondence**

1. Access to Council’s online services roadshows as referred to by Cllr Baldry. The minibus will be parked in the village hall car park on Tuesday 24th April 9.00 and 10.30. This has been sent to Parish Pump and put on website and Facebook
2. Re: Alleged unauthorised bus company at "Permar", Smithaleigh. Notice from SHDC that no breach of planning control and the case was closed.

**30/18 Finance**

1. The Clerk provided the budget analysis and bank reconciliation for February 2018.
2. Insurance – Our existing provider AON no longer providing cover so BHIB would be taking over policies from June 2018. The previous premium £726.39 and BHIB had confirmed the same premium for this coming year. The Clerk had also obtained a quote from Zurich which was £764.94

***Decision*** *– Stay with BHIB*

1. The Clerk had obtained more detail on the Lee Mill Bus Shelter cleaning. It is an annual invoice to clean the bus shelter opposite the Westward Inn and the one on the slip road under the Bridge. They are Perspex and cleaned once a month

***Decision*** *– Clerk to contact to confirm contract for 2018/19*

1. Banking update – Lloyds TSB do offer what we need in terms of online banking. Need details from signatories to set up.

**31/18 Payments and Receipts**

1. Clerk Salary - £243.58
2. Clerk expenses - £14.38
3. Payroll4Business - £10
4. Receipt - £648.50 VAT Refund

**32/18 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 10th April 2018 at Sparkwell Parish Hall commencing at 7.00pm

The Parish Councillors would like to express their sadness at the passing of Mr Ellis Daw and to recognise his contribution to the Parish and his dedication to Sparkwell.

Mr Daw’s funeral will take place on the 28th March.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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

**Update for Sparkwell Parish Council**

20March 2018

**Noise and Vibration Management Plan**

Monthly update provided by email – subsequently, Innova-gl personnel have been on site to finalise arrangements for health and safety, lay-down areas, welfare blocks etc., and the Project Team has been established and finalised arrangements for overseeing the contractual delivery. Innova-gl is now liaising with scaffolders in relation to a start date. Work is continuing to finalise noise targets for the guarantee which is aligned to Hatch’s work that involves stiffening the roof structure prior to panelling. This does not affect the minimum reduction included in the NVMP and the work will not delay implementation as the roof was not scheduled for replacement until the summer months.

**Traffic Issue**

We had an issue with a non-speaking driver blindly following an old satellite navigation system through Hemerdon last week. A banksman guided the vehicle through the village with a vehicle following and one in front to warn other drivers. A road sweeper is scheduled to come on site tomorrow and has been asked to also go down the lane where the soil was churned up. We have been liaising with Julian regarding proposed amendments to signage. The haulage company has been contacted and instructed not to use the sub-contracted company again.

**Sparkwell Community Support**

We have arranged for Viridor to dispose of the rubber matting from the Children’s Play Area at commencement of works due to the cost of disposal. This has enabled an improved finish to be ordered. I am liaising with Sally Fairman and Beverley Andrews regarding improvements to the Parish Hall such as signage, new chairs and repair of potholes.

**Heritage Project – Book with Chris Robinson**

I have contacted Clare Lee at the Church and Beverley Andrews to ask them to put up details of the project with contact numbers on Notice Boards to invite community members to get involved.

**Support for the School**

We ran two workshops at Sparkwell Primary School last week as part of British Science Week which involved looking at cores to identify the various minerals and carried out two simple experiments to demonstrate density and separation. We also showed a film of a blast and photographs of the process plant and plant machinery. We are now arranging for the groups to have a follow up visit in May.

**STEM Support Generally**

I am currently working on developing a project concept for a 360-degree VR film to enable us to show the process from ground to shipment of tungsten and tin. This can be made available to the local school and as a download on the web site.

**Public Tours**

We have a waiting list of individuals and groups interested in having a tour of the site. Two dates were identified in September with two sessions on each day and two groups in each session equating to about 240 places. All places were snapped up within a day of the invitations being circulated and so a third date is being identified.

**Elaine Budd, Community Relations Manager**