

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 15th February 2022 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Peacham, May, Hartley, McEwing, Serpell Denman, Millford, Hutton-Fellowes
Sophie Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Baldry (SHDC), Alex Dawson (Tungsten West)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

021/212 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Pearson-Bunt, Webb, Harvey, Lee

022/22 Agreement of the Agenda between Parts I and II

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

023/22 New Councillor to sign Declaration of Acceptance forms

Signed in front of Clerk

024/22 Declarations of Interest

None

025/22 County Councillor's Report

No update from Cllr Hart

026/22 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Baldry presents his monthly brief to the council. He begins by expressing his confidence that the brown bin garden waste collection service will be restored in March 2022. He has been assured there are enough contractors to provide this service. Cllr Baldry recognises that despite this the public haven't been given the service they deserve, but he's grateful to achieve the restoration of garden waste collection in Spring. Unfortunately, the food waste will continue to go to the incinerator.

On Thursday 10th February, the SHDC met and agreed on a 4.85% increase in council tax – this equates to an additional £5 a year for Band D.

Cllr Peacham has asked Cllr Baldry for clarification on the Certificate of Lawfulness at Ledgate Lane. Both Cllr Baldry and Cllr Thomas weren't consulted prior to it being granted. There has been questions raised over the validity of the application which Cllr Baldry will investigate.

Cllr Peacham has informed Cllr Baldry that the SPC were told that there are people living in caravans on the Goodamoor Farm site and South Hams Enforcement need to investigate. Cllr Baldry will look into this.

Cllr Hartley spoke about a consultation given by Cllr John Hart and Sir Gary Streeter MP in September 2018 regarding traffic on Plymouth Road. The top 15% of speeding traffic wasn't calculated or included in the final figures. Cllr Hart was due to investigate this but there has been no response as of yet.

ACTION – Clerk to draft letter to Sir Gary Streeter MP and Cllr John Hart regarding Cllr Hartley's query.

027/22 Public Forum

No comments

028/22 Hemerdon Mine

Alex Dawson presents his monthly update from the mine. Tungsten West are continuing to prepare their mining, construction and blasting contracts. They have appointed engineering contractors and some parts of the demolition has started on the existing processing facility. They are also putting the foundation in for additional buildings. In mid-March they will begin the bulk earth movements.

TW have a HR team onsite, necessary due to the huge expansion in teams as they now have 90 plus employees. They have had one noise complaint regarding the AggWash. Within two hours, the noise was investigated, the issue was found (one of the bars was loose) and the machine was shut down until it was fixed.

TW currently have a Permit Application ongoing, the EA have issued a Schedule 5 notice. They are taking an ongoing, robust approach regarding the noise so will continue to work on it. Regarding Planning Permission, the section 73 is in progress and TW are scheduled to submit it the end of March 2022. They will be arranging a public consultation event at Sparkwell Parish Hall on 9th March between 1pm and 7pm, it's an open door for members of public. Invites will be sent out to community shortly.

Lastly, TW are preparing plans for car parking at the main gate.

Cllr Peacham asks if the tree planting has been started. Alex says they have cleared the fence line to install deer fencing over the next couple of weeks. The trees will be planted this year and the area in front of Hemerdon Hall will also be looked at.

Cllr Peacham also raised the issue of a piece of machinery that beeps rather than producing white noise. Alex was aware and they have changed the sound emitted. He does explain that a few pieces of machinery have turn on alarms (such as crushers) due to Health and Safety but these are rarely moved so shouldn't be heard very often.

Cllr Peacham has informed Alex that he will be discussing dust and noise monitoring at the next LLG meeting. He's asked if there is any monitoring machinery to be installed and can it be installed prior to the site start date in order to get an accurate base level of dust and noise. Cllr Peacham has also asked if there is a complaints procedure, for example, a flowchart explaining who to contact regarding what the issue is.

Alex has said that the flowchart is simple to do and will arrange it. There is currently permanent 24 hour noise monitoring onsite, the dust monitoring will follow shortly afterwards.

Cllr May has asked for more details regarding the hydroelectric equipment proposal.

Alex explains that they are currently involved in a preapplication advice proposal for DCC in order to decarbonise the mine. It will use a huge amount of diesel so they like to explore ways to reduce it. One of the ideas is to take advantage of the topography of the site by using High Density Hydroelectric. It involves pumping a high density liquid to the top of the hill and recovering energy as it flows back down. They will investigate if it causes any noise pollution, but it won't be anything like LFN. They are proposing to put generators at the bottom of the valley.

Cllr May also adds a huge thank you to Alex for arranging for Sparkwell Parish Council members to tour the Tungsten West mine.

029/22 Community Fibre

No update

030/22 Climate Change

- a. Cllr McEwing and Cllr Hutton-Fellowes updates the council on the £1,500 grant awarded to clear the woodland behind Sparkwell Hall. They will clear away the laurel and holly and build a woodland walk. Native flowers will also be planted. They are hoping to start the project at the end of March 2022 through to September 2022. They do need people who are insured and trained to use a chainsaw to help. Cllr McEwing and Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will put together a proposal and present it to the SPC. It will then be published on Facebook, the SPC website and The Parish Pump to let the community know.

ACTION – *Add Sparkwell Hall Woodland Path to next March's agenda*

Also, regarding Community Engagement, Cllr McEwing and Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will write a piece on hedgehogs to be published in PlymLinks, The Parish Pump and iMag. Each month they will address a different topic.

031/22 Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Hartley has researched Neighbourhood Plans and discovered that SPC may not be eligible for the current intake of applications. He will find a contact number for someone to provide advice and see if there is scope for an extension period. Cllr Hartley recommends SPC put a hold on the Neighbourhood Plan until they know for sure if they can put forth an application.

Cllr May has asked if we could be granted an extension due to Covid disrupting meetings for 2 years. Cllr Hartley will find out and inform the council.

ACTION – *Cllr Hartley will send a list to the SPC regarding the power of the Neighbourhood Plan.*

ACTION – *Cllr Hartley will find a contact number for Neighbourhood Plan advice. Also, if the money within the budget already been spent.*

ACTION – *Cllr Hartley will speak to someone at Ivybridge Council to gauge how much value a Neighbourhood Plan brings to the community.*

032/22 P3 Scheme Footpaths

Cllrs McEwing, Webb and Hutton-Fellowes will take on the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme. Cllr McEwing is in the process of measuring the bridleways and footpaths in order to apply for a grant. The scheme is currently awarding £30 per mile, unless a special project is required such as benches, etc. An officer will educate the Cllrs on how to survey the conditions of the paths and create programmes. The grant will then be awarded. They are hoping to get the community involved and have various proposals in how to do that. Cllr Peacham suggested that those who take on the work for a bridleway can then chose a name for it.

ACTION – *Cllr Peacham will assist in finding the measurements of the paths. Cllr McEwing will allocate him some paths.*

033/22 Queens Jubilee

The SPC feel that it is important to arrange an event for the jubilee in order to celebrate with the community. Cllr May explains that Sparkwell Hall has an event planned, they will arrange a picnic in the park, a bouncy castle and entertainment. They are also hoping to put a tent up as a place for the elderly to sit and relax. It will be on the Sunday from 2pm until 6pm and open for the whole of the parish.

Cllr Hartley is aware that Lee Mill have something planned too.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes suggested creating a plan for the whole weekend consisting of a timetable of events. The Treby, Wellbeck Manor and Dartmoor Zoo may be planning events too so an itinerary could be created for the community to see what's happening within the parish. It can then be published online and in local magazines.

Cllr Peacham suggests Hemerdon and Sparkwell combine to make one big event. He asks if the Sparkwell Parish Councillors are happy to contribute £500 towards the Queens Jubilee celebrations.

RESOLVED – Unanimously agreed that SPC contribute £500 towards the Queens Jubilee celebrations.

034/22 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 11th January 2022

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 11th January 2022 be approved and signed

035/22 Planning

- a. SPC will inform neighbours that they can object to plans if they feel necessary.
- b. SPC has no comment.

036/22 Road and Snow Warden

No update

037/22 Review list of Councillor’s Responsibilities

No update

038/22 New Councillor Training Courses

Clerk explains to SPC the courses and training that are available to them. Various Cllrs are interested.

ACTION – Clerk to email SPC with course details and book places for any interested Cllrs.

039/22 Chairman’s Business

Chairman had nothing to report. Cllr May informed Cllr Peacham that he had received an anonymous call from a person wishing to speak to the Chairman. This was in regards to the movements of vehicles from the Dorton Group at Smithleigh on a Sunday, and the number of mobile homes now on site. The caller would like it to be investigated.

040/22 Correspondence

The Clerk discussed the cleaning of Lee Mill Bus Shelter.

ACTION – Clerk to speak to previous maintenance and get quotes.

041/22 Finance

- a. **RESOLVED** – Unanimously that the budget analysis and bank reconciliation for January 2022 be approved

042/22 Payments and Receipts

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for January 2022

043/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be an **Annual Residents Meeting** held at **6.15pm** on **8th March 2022** in **Hemerdon Village Hall**. This will immediately be followed by the monthly Sparkwell Parish Council meeting at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at 21.37

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date

