

**MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

**Present:** Cllrs May, Hutton-Fellowes, Lee, Nicholson, Webb, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr Hart (DCC), 14 Members of Public (MOP)

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

**1/25 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Serpell Denman (SPC), Cllrs Edie and Thomas (SHDC).

**2/25 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.

**3/25 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes declared an interest in Planning Application 3746/24/HHO

**4/25 County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Hart attended the meeting to update the council on the progress of Devolution. There is no clear blueprint as of yet but we hope to know more by the end of January 2025. Cllr Nicholson noted that as a peninsula, we need to work out what is best for all and be united as Plymouth and surrounding areas are all interdependent on each other.

Cllr Nicholson also asked Cllr Hart what Devon County Council are doing on the speeding on the road by the mine. Cllr Hart said that DCC are relying on Tungsten West to tackle the speeding on the road. Cllr Nicholson asked for the statistics of accidents on that road to be shared with DCC as TW can't solely be relied upon for tackling this issue.

**5/25 District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Edie was unable to attend but emailed a report prior to the meeting, which the clerk circulated.

**6/25 Public Forum**

The public in attendance were present to discuss item 13 of the agenda (see minute 13/25)

**7/25 Hemerdon Mine**

There was no update from Hemerdon Mine.

**8/25 Planning**

- a. 3746/24/HHO – Comments submitted by SPC (Cllr Hutton-Fellowes left the room during this discussion)
- b. 3997/24/FUL – Comments submitted by SPC
- c. 3998/24/LBC – Comments submitted by SPC
- d. DCC/4413/2024 – SPC object to this application
- e. 2871/24/FUL – SPC object to this application
- f. 3641/24/FUL – SPC support this application

## 9/25 Minutes

- a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**RESOLVED** – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December be approved and signed.

## 10/25 Climate Change and Biodiversity

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes updated the council on water monitoring within the parish and that the project is gathering momentum within the public eye. A resident has sent Cllr Hutton-Fellowes a document regarding making cemeteries a spot for encouraging wildlife. She will contact the church regarding doing this.

Cllr Webb noted that water quality measurements may be taken in the wrong place at Lee Mill. The readings are always clear and within acceptable range. She has been informed that there is a better spot along the path/downstream from the waterworks. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will investigate if there is a better spot to record the measurements. Readings will be taken within the next few months.

## 11/25 Road Concerns

Cllr Webb noted that the Lengthsman raised concerns that Venton bridge keeps flooding.

**ACTION** – Clerk to speak Nick Colton regarding the flooding at Venton Bridge.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes asked if we could investigate getting double yellow lines in certain areas of the parish where parking is causing an issue to traffic/access.

**ACTION** – Council to raise this with Cllr Hart.

## 12/25 Boringdon Camp

**ACTION** – Clerk to write to SHDC to ask to take on liability for Boringdon Camp (parks department) or lawyer (head of legal).

**ACTION** – Clerk to write to SHDC and DCC to identify all assets for their authorities listed under SPC

## 13/25 Fairway Gardens

Mike presented an overview of the rejuvenation project at Fairway Gardens. The land has been cleared and many of the materials have been reused and converted for other

purposes. It was noted that the land is very close to the back gardens of some properties, so ensuring the residents privacy needs to be considered. The idea is to support wildlife such as birds, bees and butterflies. There are plans to put more native flowers into the area. Mike asked whether there is a location somewhere within the parish where a bat box could be attached to the side of a building.

Following Mike’s presentation, Sparkwell Parish Council wished to convey their gratitude to Mike for his comprehensive presentation.

**RESOLVED** – *It was unanimously agreed that Sparkwell Parish Council will award a grant of £500 towards the Fairway Gardens project.*

**It was noted that despite the grant from the Sparkwell Parish Council, the land at Fairway Gardens is not publicly accessible.**

**14/25 Tree Warden**

No update from Cllr May.

**15/25 Chairman’s Business**

Nothing to raise from Cllr May.

**16/25 Correspondence**

Clerk circulated all correspondence prior to the meeting.

**17/25 Finance**

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the draft budget for 2025/26.
- b. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the precept demand for 2025/26.
- c. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for January 2025.

**18/25 Payments and Receipts**

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for January 2025.

**19/25 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at **7pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Hemerdon Village Hall.**

**Meeting closed at 21.15**

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

Name ..... Date .....