

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 8th March 2022 at Hemerdon Village Hall

Present: Cllr Peacham, Pearson-Bunt, Serpell, Hartley, May, Millford, Lee, McEwing, Hutton-Fellowes

In attendance: Sophie Jones (Clerk), Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Alex Dawson (TW), Angie Scott (TW), 2 MOP

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

044/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Webb, Cllr Harvey

045/22 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.

046/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

047/22 County Councillor's Report

No update from Cllr Hart.

048/22 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Thomas began his brief with an update on Boringdon Camp. He has the times in which Rob Sekula is available to visit Boringdon Camp. He agrees it will be a perfect place for tree planting and a site meeting has been confirmed. Cllr Thomas is currently liaising with Cllr Harvey regarding the site meeting and Cllr Peacham will also attend. They can then press ahead with plans.

Cllr Peacham noted that the site has been closed to the public for 5 years and wonders if it will reopen. Cllr Thomas said there are no plans to reopen but the tree planting will benefit from it being closed. The decision to reopen will be between SPC and SHDC.

Cllr Peacham told Cllr Thomas that the SPC can help to manage it locally. There is maintenance and scope for forming a Boringdon Camp volunteer group as it's such a unique site. Cllr Harvey has also spoken of ideas for using the site going forward.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt said that there were thoughts in the past to have a memorial woods in Boringdon Camp in recognition of deaths from covid. The idea was put forward but haven't had a response yet. There are lots of tree planting schemes currently and the PCC committed to planting a forest.

Cllr Thomas also said to expect an interesting couple of weeks ahead as the brown bins will be collected again. There is a fear of individual issues arising, such as the sheer weight of bins being too heavy to move due to being filled up since August 2021. Cllr Thomas has asked for parishioners to please let himself know when things aren't going well. If

collections are being missed then we need to get it right in the first couple for weeks. He will get locality officers out to help people but need to know where the issues are. Please also be aware that some of the bins might be quite heavy. Contractors know to make some leeway with the contents of bins. As long as the initial collections go right, things can go back to fortnightly. Cllr Thomas has been told the current situation is very different from 8 months ago. They have more staff and are retaining them. The stages will consist of round 1; to collect all of the brown bins and round 2; to get the whole of the district on to brown bins rather than co-mingling.

Cllr May has asked what can be done about missing bags, bins, etc due to the storm.

Cllr Thomas said to email the district council for replacements.

Cllr Peacham asks if there will be an interim period as people aren't currently separating waste.

Cllr Thomas knows this is a serious point and understands there is a process in thinking of what you're recycling.

Cllr Thomas raised awareness on an application in Tesco Lee Mill for a new locksmith and encourages the council to look at the planning application. The SPC won't be officially informed as it's not within the parish but it's close by so may affect parishioners. Can comment on it by end of month.

049/22 Public Forum

Nothing to raise.

050/22 Hemerdon Mine

Alex Dawson began his monthly update by introducing the SPC to Angie Scott. She has now begun her post with TW and has taken on the role of communications. Alex will still be around to support Angie in this role.

Alex also gave an update on the project. Fairport engineering signed contract and work is underway to deliver schedule to get started. They are continuing to prepare other key contracts onsite, such as mining and blasting. They are undergoing preparations to make public consultations.

Regarding Health and Safety, TW now have 90+ employees (not including contractors). They are on 830 days loss time injury free. There have also been a number of interactions in February and early March with regards to Section 73 variation of planning.

There were reports of blasting last Friday. Which were investigated – it was not Hemerdon Mine as they are currently a long way off blasting. TW will ensure that SPC know when blasting is due to begin.

TW have resubmitted technical questions that they've received from EA. There is a draft permit consultation which SPC will see and can comment on. EA will look at that to see if they are satisfied or not and will put restrictions such as water quality, etc. Then they will issue it to operator and statutory consultees. Everyone will have access to the draft permit.

Alex said they are behind on the mineral processing facility. Complexity is the EA and level of detail that has been asked regarding LFN, audible noise, jaw crusher, etc. They are currently preparing a design for project and the mitigations that need to be in place. Step behind on that permit.

TW have had prior approval for accommodation onsite in the form of Portacabins. They will be installed on the same footprint as previous with Wolf Minerals.

The tree planting is ongoing. They have cut vegetation back and cleared the bracken and gorse. Fencing work starts next week.

Regarding the Public Consultation, it will take place in Sparkwell Hall at 2pm (1pm for Councillors). It will be a good forum to get questions answered. Cllr Pearson-Bunt has asked how TW will be capturing any feedback. Angie explains that there will be iPads available throughout the session in which comments can be input by themselves or TW. Members of the public can also do this online after the consultation.

Cllr Peacham has asked if issues are raised, will they be included in report? Alex explains that they will and it will influence technical analysis. It is essentially another mechanism within the planning application to engage the community and share results with technical and environmental studies that have been taken into consideration.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes has asked if the Public Consultation will include alternative routes for the increase in traffic movements. Alex said that aggregates produce 3.5million tonnes a year. The scale of operation and the economics mean they have already considered all viable alternatives. Therefore, alternative routes won't be considered in this proposal.

Cllr May has asked if TW will use the B3417 road for 4 or 5 years? Alex said if it's a viable route for the lorries then it facilitates the schedule that's been produced, which includes widening.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes asks if there is a lot of objection from Plympton, will TW reconsider traffic volume or routes? Alex said they will consider feedback and prepare an application for submission with DCC, who will either approve or say yes with conditions, or will say no. It is unlikely they will say yes. More likely yes with conditions or no. Wherever TW get to in the next couple of months, they expect to have conditions on those vehicles, e.g. stick to the route, limit traffic movements between certain times, even planting along route might be a condition.

Regarding the tree planting, Alex said TW have employed a groundsman who is looking after the estate including the existing planting and any new tree planting.

Angie Scott introduces herself to the SPC. She says in the first few months of her role, she will be meeting people to find out what the issues are and what is important to parishioners. Once she understands the community better, she will work out the best way to keep people informed. She has seen from previous minutes that having a clear robust process for complaints is important. A flow chart was mentioned so she will complete that as one of her first jobs. She wants to get involved in parish life and see how/if TW can become part of various community projects (Queen's Jubilee, the Path Scheme, etc).

051/22 Community Fibre

Cllr Pearson-Bunt updated the council on Community Fibre. The last outstanding connection is yet to be made. It has been chased but they have had no reply from Open Reach or the manager. All DCM vouchers need to be claimed for it to be funded. People can join even if they weren't part of the voucher scheme but they don't count as it needs to be approved prior to scheme start. When the last DCMS voucher is approved, the public interest company can be closed.

052/22 Climate Change

- a. Cllr McEwing updates the SPC on the Sparkwell Woodland project, which has been awarded a grant of £1,500. She wants to be certain that she follows the correct procedure to ensure the area is protected. Cllr May has said that Sparkwell Parish Hall arrange the insurance for it, she just needs the trustees to agree and support the plan. The meeting with the trustees is on the 16th March 2022.
Cllr McEwing has also been advised by Cllr Peacham to obtain 3 quotes from various contractors for any work that needs to be done.

053/22 Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Hartley has investigated the potential of a Neighbourhood Plan and will be routinely checking the website to see if any funding is available. The funding is £10,000, with the average Neighbour Plan costing £7,000 and a minimum of 2 years work. The SPC will wait to see if money is available, if not then will postpone the neighbourhood plan.

054/22 P3 Scheme Footpaths

Cllr McEwing provides an update. She is currently waiting for the forms to be signed and will proceed once that's done. She has discovered there is 7.6 miles of footpath and 4.6 miles of bridleways which means SH will provide annual support of £366.90. She has all the numbers of the footpaths and drawn up a grid. She will divide the paths between everyone involved in the project and put online/magazines to ask for involvement. Cllr McEwing will check the footpaths and hopes to have volunteers to check them once a month. Cllrs Hutton-Fellowes, Webb and McEwing will have to check once a year. As a reward, the volunteers can name a bridleway. Volunteers will feed info back to SPC who can maintain them to a degree. More funds can be applied for if a problem arises (gate fallen, etc).

Cllr Pearson-Bunt has noted that no streets can be named after people anymore so the policy needs to be checked. If the path names are made official then SH may have an issue.

ACTION – Cllr McEwing to check that using a person's name for a path is acceptable.

055/22 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 8th February 2022

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 8th February 2022 be approved and signed

056/22 Planning

- a. After a full discussion it was decided that the SPC will object on the grounds that the road isn't suitable for an increase in traffic.
- b. Cllrs delegated to Cllr Lee to speak to Cllr Thomas for clarification on time frame and complaints. Will be agreed via email.
- c. A resident has raised an issue with a planning application within Smithleigh, planning ref: 0493/22/PDM. After a full discussion it was decided that SPC will object and raise questions regarding prior use, parking, etc.

057/22 Road and Snow Warden

No updates from Cllr Harvey. Cllr Peacham has suggested a plan to make the area around the well more attractive – can apply to Newnham Solar Fund. The project may take a couple of years to complete. Cllr McEwing has asked how safe access can be created to visit well, is there access by the school? Cllr Pearson-Bunt suggested a competition to submit proposals.

ACTION – update needed from Cllr Harvey regarding potholes, well, etc. As the roads are not improving.

058/22 Review list of Councillor’s Responsibilities

All Approved. Update regarding Tree Warden, no new trees needed at the moment. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes has been offered a landmark tree, just a couple years old. Need a location for it. Cllr May has said it can be planted for the Queens Jubilee in a specific spot.

059/22 Chairman’s Business

Letter to Gary Streeter and John Hart.

ACTION – Update on Schedule 5

Regarding the Queen’s Jubilee, could create a sub-committee from hall to donate money to. Money to go to Sparkwell Hall and Lee Mill Parish Hall.

RESOLVED – Unanimously that SPC donate £250 to Sparkwell Hall and £250 to Lee Mill for Queen’s Jubilee celebrations.

060/22 Correspondence

RESOLVED – Unanimously to approve the increase in the Lengthsman’s rates

061/22 Finance

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

062/22 Payments and Receipts

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

063/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **Sparkwell Parish Hall** on **12th April 2022** at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at 21.15

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date