MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

held on 10th November 2020

**Present**: Cllrs May, Harvey, McEwing, Milford, Peacham, Pearson-Bunt, Taylor

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance**: Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Mr M Denning (Tungsten West)

**Not in attendance**: Cllr Lee

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

**119/20 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Ansell (sickness), Cllr Pearson-Bunt will be joining the meeting later.

**120/20 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.

**121/20 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Thomas declared a non-pecuniary personal interest for the licence application (Item 12 on the Agenda)

**122/20 County Councillor’s Business**

No report received from Cllr Hart.

**123/20 District Councillor’s Business**

Cllr Thomas delivered his report:

1. There had been one or two operational issues with the new refuse contractor, FCC. They have changed the rounds in readiness for the new recycling collection; drivers may not have all the information they need to find places. Cllr Baldry is doing a lot of work with officers at SHDC to work with FCC. Please notify Cllr Thomas of any issues or report using the SHDC website. Cllrs McEwing and Harvey reported issues and will notify Cllr Thomas if not rectified.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt joined the meeting at 7.08pm

1. He had not been able to arrange a meeting regarding Boringdon Camp; this will have to go onto the back burner for now bearing mind the current Covid-19 restrictions and the SHDC response to this.
2. The new Neighbourhood Plan Officer is happy to attend a Parish Meeting. Cllr Thomas recommended that the Parish include a budget in the precept for this.

***Action*** *- Clerk to contact Cllr Thomas to arrange for attendance in February.*

**124/20 Public Forum**

No members of the public were present.

**125/20 Climate Change**

1. Boringdon Camp

Cllr Peacham suggested that the PC should meet at the site so we can form a plan; this will be delayed due to lockdown. He is finding out more information all the time, for instance there is a wild rough area used for newts and lizards moved from Plymouth building sites.

***Action*** *– Cllr Peacham will liaise with the Clerk to arrange a meeting after lockdown.*

Mr Max Denning joined the meeting at 7.25pm

1. Wildlife initiative

Cllr Pearson-Bunt reported that herself, Cllrs McEwing and Ansell have all been very busy. Lots of people in Sparkwell and Lee Mill have also been helping. In Lee Mill Cllr Ansell has been planting pyracanthas to obscure the fenced off area used for storage in Bottle Park. Trees are organised to go in and they are looking at planting in January. They have ordered rabbit cones but she asked Cllr Peacham for help in providing the protection for footballs and deer. Cllr Peacham have enough mesh for 7/8 trees and a lot of heavy duty rubber tree straps but no metal stakes, but will order them.

They have identified 13 sites in and around Sparkwell and Cllr McEwing has been delivering wildflower seeds and bulbs. They are looking at spring and summer bulbs and a combination of wildflower planting and wildflower plugs to insert at various times during the year in the meadow. There is a lot going on, getting the orders in place and delivered. Hopefully people will join in as the momentum as it picks up.

Cllr McEwing said they have planted daisies and school, nursery and church are all involved. The problem is that nobody has anybody to do the planting and nobody has money to pay for the planting. Is there anything we could offer?

The School has large areas that need clearing before planting but they are unable to do it. There was a discussion around heavy duty tools which the Parish Council could possibly invest in.

**126/20 Hemerdon** **Mine**

Cllrs May and Peacham attended a virtual meeting on Thursday with Max Denning (MD). There had been some correspondence around issues on the footpath and the condition of the site. MD going to try to mitigate some of the issues. Cllr McEwing said that she went up on Monday and the path wasn’t too bad. She had met other walkers who had said that the workers were very helpful letting them through the gates when required.

Cllr Peacham said that having a monthly meeting the mine is a very good thing as in the past it was some 3 months between meetings. The meetings are now only Cllrs May and Peacham which is better, it is a good format, very informal and will be of benefit to us. Cllr May concurred, it is a good start with being open and transparent.

One of the issues the Parish is concerned with is the Low Frequency Noise (LFN). A lot of parishioners had suffered very badly in the past. When they talked with the mine, their approach is completely different to Wolf. Wolf were trying to mitigate a problem that they had generated, whereas Tungsten West (TW) are going to tackle this at source which is reassuring. Cllr Peacham had come up with a plan asking the mine to photograph the equipment when they take it out, so we have something tangible to be able to show people that the troublesome equipment is being removed. We have also been invited to have a look at the processing plant later on.

Cllr May said there was an issue with regards to the original letter we wrote to the Environment Agency (EA). One of the points in the letter stated that the improvements to the facility to tackle the LFN and vibration will either be through the existing management plan, which was what Wolf had planned, or through more extensive changes that would need approval from the EA. Extensive change is the route that TW are going down. One of his concerns is not to be in the same situation as before, where there was a permit to operate, we ended up with the LFN noise problem and site continued while they were trying to resolve the issue. We need to have some further discussion around this to maybe send something to the EA so that if it becomes a problem, then it is dealt with differently this time.

MD asked if he could speak on the topic. He said that the issue around LFN is an issue echoed by Sparkwell, the EA and DCC. The EA have stipulated several times that in order for them to get their permit determined, they have to solve the issue of LFN, so the project cannot restart without them solving this. Going a few steps back to what Wolf were doing, they were stuck as the fundamental changes that needed to be made were only able to be achieved if they removed several pieces of equipment which would have taken months of down time; downtime they could not afford. What TW have the benefit of is time and hindsight. They have gone back through all the existing data with regard to LFN generation, analysed and assessed all equipment. Several pieces of equipment are being removed and therefore there is already assurance that that will mitigate a large part of the issue. There are other tools that they will use going forward to mitigate against any equipment that may be problematic. During the summer they spent a lot of time an effort doing evaluation and testing on LFN and this is largely complete. They will submit the results to the EA and will talk through with SPC with view to submitting a permit application once they have the pre-app approval in place. It is an issue they have taken very seriously, and is the highest risk item to re-starting the project.

With regard to footpath and bridleway, he apologised for that. He believed that the drilling contractor were protecting. Once he was made aware, they responded quickly with regard to laying down aggregates and clearing out the mud when generated, so he believes they are over that issue. If there are more complaints then let him know and he will see to it. He gets regular phots of the footpaths to ensure they are being kept clear.

Cllr May thanked him for update. MD said he was happy to answer questions.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt said that she understands that they are very close to Hemerdon Ball and wondered what the plans were there and how we can protect remaining trees? MD - at the moment they are doing some exploration drilling work to the south of Hemerdon Ball. It is exploratory by nature. They are not sure what is going to happen as they have not yet completed the drilling programme or reviewed the planning permissions in place.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked how they felt about the importance of the local landmark? MD - he knows that it is a landmark that is important to the local community so they have to consider that whenever they look at any mine expansions. It is not in initial scope of work; the initial scope was fix the existing plant and deal with the issues. Anything beyond that is something they will look at further down the line.

Cllr Peacham wanted to give everyone a brief overview. It looks like the need to build a pilot plant is not needed now so the next phase is to raise all the money to rebuild the plant. It would be 9/12 months to build the plant if money is raised. It is unlikely that mine will go live before 2022. MD confirmed that they sent ore to a pilot plant in Finland and results are promising. They are now in the phase of writing up a feasibility study which will take to first quarter of 2021. Tungsten is an industrial metal and given pandemic, several industries have reduced in scale and therefore the demand for tungsten is reduced which makes the project marginal.

Cllr May thanked MD for his input and said that only area the PC needed to resolve is to reply to the EA. MD added that they are trying to work with the local community; he was listening about the planting and said they would back those and if there is a shortage of labour and funding, they would be happy to look at assisting where they can.

**127/20 Fibre Broadband project**

Cllr Pearson-Bunt reported they have fibre in the farmyard but it is not joined up to anything! Various works going on and the Clerk said that the PC had received various notices of works (See Correspondence 133/20).

**128/20 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 13th October 2020

**RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th October 2020 be approved and signed at a later date.

**129/20 Planning**

* 1. Neighbourhood Plan – covered at 123/20(c).
  2. [Planning Application Ref: 3149/20/FUL](http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/LARefSearch)

Description: Proposed erection of front and rear infill extensions to existing education facility to provide additional training facilities

Address: Horizon Building Western Wood Way Langage Business Park Plympton PL7 5BG

**RESOLVED** that the application is supported by the Parish Council.

* 1. [Planning Application Ref: 3276/20/FUL](http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/203276)

Description: Provision of bale storage area

Address: Ford Farm Plympton PL7 5AU

The consensus was that this should not cause any problems but Cllr May will inspect and liaise with Cllr Lee.

* 1. [Planning Application Ref: 3387/20/VAR](http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/203387)

Description: Variation of condition 2 of planning consent 0898/18/FUL (resubmission of 1850/20/VAR)  
Address: Baccamore Shippen Sparkwell Plymouth PL7 5DF

**RESOLVED** that the application is supported by the Parish Council.

**130/20 New premises licence**

Noss Beer Works, Unit 5/6 Ash Court, Pennant Way, Lee Mill, Ivybridge, Pl21 9GE.

The supply of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises Monday to Sunday 9:00am to 11:00pm. Alcohol sold for consumption on the premises will be restricted to samples, brewery tours, and promotional events only. Hours the premises are open to the public is Monday to Sunday 9:00am to 11:00pm.

**RESOLVED** that the application is supported by the Parish Council.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 8.08pm

**131/20 Road and Snow Warden**

Cllr Peacham had reported the state of the road in Hemerdon to Cllr Hart and the road has now been marked out for repair.

We have a full stack of salt.

Cllr May said that Cllr McEwing had sorted out the pothole at Mount Pleasant but water was pouring down the road. Cllr Harvey said that he believed the water was coming from a natural spring at Mount Pleasant, is going into drains, coming out again and going in to the one at the T junction, proceeding down past Langage Farm and Challonsleigh.

***Action*** *– Cllr Harvey to send details of the location to the Clerk to pass on to the Lengsthman*

***Action*** *– Clerk to contact Lengthsman with details of this problem and also issues in Birchland Road.*

There have been complaints about potholes in Sparkwell Village Hall car park. Cllr May said the Hall is aware and is dealing with it. Cllr Peacham said that he was happy to help.

Max Denning left the meeting at 8.10pm

**132/20 Chairman’s Business**

1. The Chair had been contacted by a resident regarding concerns about road widening plans on the road from Langage to the Lyneham, alongside Voss Farm. The Clerk confirmed that she had checked planning authorities and found nothing.
2. Cllr May referred again to the Environment Agency reply (126/20) and whether we should contact them regarding concerns of issues in the past.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should contact the EA.

***Action*** *– Cllrs May and Peacham will draft a letter.*

1. The Chair confirmed that he was working on a Terms of Reference for Projects and this would be presented to the Council in December.
2. Cllr McEwing referred to the bus shelter in Sparkwell and said that it could do with brightening up.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr McEwing look in to this and come with suggestions which might include murals to be put out for “voting”.

**133/20 Correspondence**

1. We had received two complaints regarding the state of the footpath near Hemerdon Ball (see Hemerdon Mine update above)
2. SHDC Planning Enforcement re: Alleged Unauthorised Business from Home - Logging

23 New Park Road, Lee Mill Bridge

No breach found.

1. Letter from DCC regarding proposed A38 slip road in Lee Mill.

We are now preparing to run a public consultation on the initial scheme designs between Tuesday 17th November and Friday 18 December.

They will be seeking local views on the concept of delivering a new eastbound off-slip for traffic exiting the A38 at Lee Mill. Hoping to write to local residents and businesses shortly and there will be an opportunity to provide feedback via an online survey. They will also be running an online webinar and virtual drop-in session on Microsoft Teams for interested parties to talk to the project team.

Following the close of the consultation, the project team will review responses to gain an understanding of the local support and opinions relating to the scheme. If there is support, Devon County Council will continue to develop the scheme design and explore long-term funding opportunities.

1. Notice from Highways England for Pine removal A38 - Marley Head to the Tamar:

2 November to 8 January 2021

Overnight Monday to Friday, 8pm to 6am the following morning.

Where possible they will endeavour to complete noisiest works before 11pm and use tree shears to minimise noise to residents.

1. Road Closure notice from Devon County Council to safely access and install fibre cabling underground and overhead on behalf of Openreach:

From Monday 18 January 2021 for a maximum of 5 days Until Friday 22 January 2021 (both dates inclusive)

Roads affected – Ledgate Lane to ZC109 – 35505948, Sparkwell, from junction of Beechwood Cross and Blacklands Cross to junction at Ledgate Lane.

There will be an alternative, signed, route.

1. Road Closure notice from Devon County Council to safely access and install fibre cabling underground and overhead on behalf of Openreach:

From Monday 25 January 2021 for a maximum of 5 days until Friday 29 January 2021 (both dates inclusive)

Between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00

Roads affected – Ledgate Lane, Sparkwell, junction of Beechwood Cross to outside Bickford Town Farm.

There will be an alternative, signed route.

**134/20 Finance**

1. The Clerk reported that the Bank Reconciliation verification had been completed and approved by Cllr May on 22nd October 2020
2. Cllrs considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for October 2020

**135/20 Payments and Receipts**

1. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for October 2020

**136/20 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 8th December 2020 at 7pm - remote meeting using Zoom.

Cllr Taylor asked to speak and said that after 22 years of serving on the Parish Council, he would be standing down and this would be his last meeting. Cllr May said that he would be sadly missed, he had been an invaluable Vice Chair and a joy to work with. We will miss him greatly. Cllr Pearson-Bunt added that Cllr Taylor had been wonderful and always gone the extra mile; he was a massive role model for us all. The PC wishes Cllr Taylor a happy retirement.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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