MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 11th December 2018 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

**Present**: Cllrs May, Taylor, Small, Lee, Hughes, Peacham and Ashley

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance**: Cllr Blackler (SHDC)

**Not in attendance** : Cllr, Milford, Cllr John Hart (DCC)

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

**138/18 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Pearson-Bunt, Cllr Baldry (SHDC) and PC Dingley

**Resolved** that the apology be noted.

**139/18**  **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.

**140/18 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**141/18 Police Business**

Apologies had been received but a report had been supplied which the Clerk read out – see attached.

Cllr May said that there had been a spate of burglaries over the last few months that had been in the Police reports. He said that there had been string tied on to a gate on top field in Sparkwell which had been reported.

**142/18 District Councillors Business**

Cllr Blackler reported:

1. At the full Council meeting on Thursday it was agreed to continue with discussions/participate on forming the South West Mutual Bank, the People’s Bank. £50,000 is to be SHDC share and other Councils were also involved. It will be up and running in 2020.
2. Money in the s106 account is constantly being monitored in relation to Affordable Housing.
3. In answer to questions at the Full Council meeting on Thursday, the amount spent on outside consultants so far this year is £164,933 with additional amounts spent on:

Legal advice £53,941

Planning professionals £46,360

Agency staff £443,362.

1. Cllr Blackler had spoken to Blue Cedars who had informed him that they did not have to do the full 21 affordable houses, and were only building 12.

There was discussion that the houses had already been built and that those figures might be the open market properties.

***Action*** *- Cllr Blacker will ask a planning officer to clarify*

1. SHDC had approved a multi million pound contract for recycling, waste and cleansing services. This had been circulated previously.
2. He had not heard anything further about Boringdon Camp. Cllr Peacham said that he had been to the site and it looked exactly the same as it was two years ago. The one year experiment had been extended so the farmer could continue with his work but nothing had been. The information signs had been put up by Forestry Commission even though the land is not run by them anymore. Cllr Peacham suggested that SHDC pass the site over to the Parish Council who could look after it. Cllr Blackler understood that it was within the Sparkwell Parish boundary but there was discussion that that might not be the case.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Baldry but he had supplied a report which the Clerk read out:

1. Public Lavatories. The SHDC Executive took a decision to proceed with their plan to close some lavatories and to introduce pay on entry in others. The opposition councillors asked for the decision to be taken to the Scrutiny Committee and the monitoring Officer supported this action. This is a sign of how seriously they take the flaws in the decision as it is the first call in they have done in over 4 years. The special Scrutiny meeting is on Wednesday of this week. In the meantime the decision is on hold.
2. The Council has approved the privatisation of their refuse and cleaning services from 1 April next year. Cllr Baldry regrets this decision not least because of the decision to not make a bid from South Hams existing in house service for comparison with the privatised companies.
3. Cllr Baldry has had a further request about whether anything is being done to improve the surface between the Treby Arms and Treby Walk. The suggestion is made that the surface is dangerous for the elderly. This was discussed this a few months ago.

***Action*** *- Cllr Taylor will raise this with Cllr Milford.*

**143/18 County Councillors Business**

No report had been received.

**144/18 Open Forum**

1. Wolf Update – The Parish had sent the letter setting out their concerns to the Official Receiver and Environment Agency and copied it to various others. Replies had been received from:
   * 1. Gary Streeter MP who concurs with the sentiments expressed in the letter and saying that he will do all that he can to assist in regulations and performance that better protect the local residents.
     2. Devon County Council, Principal Planning Officer (Development Management) which seemed to be saying that the mine had previously operated within limits.
     3. An acknowledgement from the office Chief Executive, Environment Agency saying that the letter had arrived on 4 December and that they respond as soon as possible within the next 10 working days.

***Action*** *–Cllr May will draft a response to DCC as this was not the case.*

**145/18 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th November be approved.

**146/18 Matters Arising**

1. Minute No 125/18 – Boringdon Camp. This had been discussed in District Councillor business. Cllr Ashley had been extremely busy with other matters but will draft the letter.
2. Minute No 126/18 – Flooding on roads in the Parish.

Cllr Peacham had been to have a look at the flooding under the railway bridge on Venton Lane and had circulated a suggestion for a solution using pipes and what the approximate costing might be. There is at least a need depth signs as the existing sign is not visible.

***Action*** *– Cllr Peacham will work up the report and send to the Clerk to forward to Cllr Hart, in the hope that they could use some of the extra funding they had received.*

There was further discussion about flooding and Cllr Ashley raised the issue of flooding at one of the entrances to the Elfordleigh which puts two properties at risk. Cllr Peacham said he believed that DCC would not act until properties were actually flooded.

Cllr Small said that there were problems with cars driving in the middle of the road at Langage Cross and he asked whether a notice could be put up warning of cars in the middle of the road?

**147/18 Policies**

Councillors considered new Policies:

* 1. Grievance Policy
  2. Disciplinary Policy
  3. Equal Opportunities Policy

**Resolved** that all three Policies be adopted by the Parish Council.

**148/18 Planning**

1. Appeal reference: APP/K1128/W/18/3213896  
   Parish Council had supported the original application.
2. The Council had previously discussed an application for the replacement of sheet cladding to the agricultural building adjacent to Baccamore Pits, Sparkwell (Minute 131/18(d)). He had inspected the site and as a result had responded to the application saying that there was no objection.

Cllr Blackler left the meeting at 7.55pm

**149/18 Road & Snow Warden**

The salt has normally been delivered by now but he was still waiting on Highways and was chasing.

**150/18 Chairman’s Business**

Cllr Small said that there two potholes to report.

1. From Langage Cross to Beechwood Cross, the previous repair is breaking up.

***Action*** *- Cllr Peacham will try to identity the site and report using the DCC website.*

1. There is a pit in the road outside of 8 Birchland Road, Sparkwell. Cllr May said that he saw DCC spraying footpaths as they had broken up also so they might be doing the roads as well

**151/18 Correspondence**

* 1. The Clerk had received thanks from CAB, Parish Pump and Parish Cemetery for recent grants
  2. Ivybridge Street Design Project – implementing good street design for travel to work and schools and were now looking at including Lee Mill.
  3. Plymouth City Council - Consultation on school admission arrangements 2020/2021 already circulated and published.

**152/18 Finance**

(a) Councillors present received and considered the draft Budget for 2019/20 which had been circulated.

**Resolved** unanimously that the report be approved

1. Councillors present received and considered the draft Precept Demand for 2019/20

**Resolved** unanimously to approve the Precept Demand at £10,262.55 which represented a zero percentage rise.

1. Councillors present received and considered the bank reconciliation and budget analysis for November 2018.

**Resolved** unanimously that the reports be approved

Cllr Peacham asked whether the Parish Council could fund from reserves a defibrillator for Hemerdon (site Parish Hall) and also one for Lee Mill (site to be decided).

**Resolved** unanimously to support this.

***Action*** *– The Clerk will investigate suppliers and pricing.*

**153/18 Payments and Receipts**

Councillors present received and considered the report for payments.

**Resolved** unanimously that this report be approved

**154/18 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 8th January 2019 at 7pm at Sparkwell Parish Hall

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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

**SPARKWELL PARISH CRIME REPORT**

**October and November 2018**

October

5 crimes reported, 2 of which were on the A38 Plympton, one vehicle stopped carrying an offensive weapon and linked further crime of using offensive/abusive language.

3/10/2018 – Criminal damage reported at Hemerdon at The Miners Arms, no evidence or enquiries therefore undetected.

8/10/2018 – Theft of a Motor vehicle at Drakelands Mine due to company going into liquidation unknown persons removed a vehicle from the site.

10/10/2018 – Theft other by finding at Drakelands, scrap metal stolen by a transit van no further details.

November

5/11/2018 – Criminal damage at the Elfordleigh Hotel under investigation.

10/11/2018 – Drive a motor vehicle with a proportion of controlled drug on the A38 Plympton, under investigation.

07/11/2018 – Theft other in Sparkwell, domestic based.

19/11/2018 – Burglary dwelling at Venton, male entered premises to find owner still in situ, entered and walked out again, no forensics undetected.

29/11/2018 - Burglary dwelling, Hemerdon gained access to a Horse shed, power tools stolen.

There have been a few nervous people messaging us ref the thefts overnight at Hemerdon. One such enquiry was that a red string had been tied around a post into their field where their horses are kept on the edge of Sparkwell/Hemerdon. Patrols have been out and no further reports at this time. Securitas who are working for the mine have also been out and around keeping an eye on the local area.

While PC 6350 Tamsyn Dingley has been away on an attachment PC Lynch took over for a short while but has now secured a Neighbourhood role in Bovey Tracey. PC Dingley will be back with us at Ivybridge on the 14th December.

Apologies for non attendance.

PCSO 30318 Di Summers

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As always you can contact us through 101, social media or Devon and Cornwall website.