

**MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at Hemerdon Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Peacham, Pearson-Bunt, Hartley, Webb, McEwing, Hutton-Fellowes, Millford, May, Harvey

**In attendance:** Cllr Baldry (SHDC), Angie Scott (Tungsten West)

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

**128/22 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Lee, Serpell Denman

**129/22 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.

**130/22 Declarations of Interest**

None

**131/22 County Councillor's Report**

No update

**132/22 District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Baldry presents his brief from the SHDC. He attended the launch of the Sustainable South Hams website and notes that it is worth contributing to the website on behalf of the parish. The SPC may have seen on the news this morning that they have come to a mutual agreement with FCC that the contract to collect domestic waste will come to an end. It will come back in-house in October 2022, subject to approval by the full council on Thursday. The good news is that it was mutually agreed by both parties. Cllr Baldry is pleased with this outcome. Cllr Pearson-Bunt asks if there are any budgetary implications when transitioning from FCC to in-house. Cllr Baldry said that FCC will make a financial contribution to it. It will cost the council money too, but they are determined to make it work as the residents deserve it. There will soon be a new office open at the depot. Cllr Baldry also informs the council that the planning application at Houndall Farm has been approved. He also explains that SPC have objected to the planning application at the old Lee Mill Edinburgh Woollen Mill site on the grounds of increased traffic but could potentially be overruled as Highways have not raised any objections. Cllr Hartley questions why there is so much money being proposed on a new slip road if Highways see no problems with the traffic. Cllr Baldry asks if the new Screwfix has caused any issues with traffic. Cllr Hartley feels it has as there are more vehicles using the road. With people working from home there are cars parked on the side of the road. Cllr Baldry says that he can put a holding objection on the planning application but will need a councillor from SPC to attend the committee meeting.

Cllr Baldry left the meeting at 19.20

### **133/22 Public Forum**

No public present

### **134/22 Hemerdon Mine**

Angie Scott presents the brief from Tungsten West. She informs the council that TW have submitted their planning application to increase aggregate production to 200 loads per day, an earlier start time of 6.00 am and a reduction in Saturday working hours. All other elements are as those proposed in the public consultations. Angie hopes that it is apparent they have listened to the views of the parish and the public as the number of HGV movements per day has been reduced from the original 300 and the Saturday hours are down to two per month. The planning application is currently with DCC and is expected to be available for comment very soon online. Cllr Peacham informs Angie that he doesn't feel TW or AW have understood the public concerns as the proposal will still be a tenfold increase in the volume of HGV traffic and the earlier start time of 6.00am will mean that trucks will be passing through residential areas from 5.00am.

Angie feels disappointed to hear this but does understand. She will await the comments received on the application.

Cllr May asks if the Local Liaison Group is still going ahead on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. Angie says it is and will confirm if there are any updates.

TW have had a two-week onsite audit and successfully retained their accreditations. The community interest fund is delayed. They have zero complaints and five interactions (requests, suggestions, and projects). Angie hopes to soon start the complaints and interaction policy.

Cllr Peacham says to Angie that he'd like to ask a few questions regarding deer fencing and the proposed tree planting schemes but will raise them with her at the August LLG meeting.

Angie Scott left the meeting at 19.53

### **135/22 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**RESOLVED** – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022 be approved and signed

### **136/22 Climate Change and Biodiversity**

- a. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes updates the council on the progress with the woodland at Sparkwell. They have had the Scouts and Cubs visit to help with the tidy up and to introduce them to the woods. The trees are being watered and looked after but unfortunately the Hornbeam hasn't made it. It was pruned but just didn't take. The Silver Birch is doing well though. There has been a small amount of vandalism nearby.

Regarding the YEM (Yealm Estuary to Moor) Project and Water Testing. Cllrs Peacham, Webb and Lee, and a member of the public Kathy George, will be

attending a training session on water testing for pollutants on the River Yealm and its tributaries. The objective is to test four sites in the parish once a month for the Westcountry Rivers Trust, to monitor water quality and to build-up long term data on pollution levels.

- b. SPC will revisit in due course.
- c. SPC will revisit in due course.
- d. SPC will revisit in due course.

### **137/22 P3 Scheme Footpaths**

Cllr McEwing says the scheme is progressing well. She would like all the footpaths visited/assessed prior to submitting. Many have not been checked in a long time and she feels there may be a few disputes caused. Ros will assist with some of the footpaths. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes mentions that footpath 5 was strimmed recently but doesn't know who by. It looks great. Cllr McEwing thinks they will be further along with the scheme by October 2022. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes has offered to write something for iMag describing a route she walked recently to encourage people to visit the footpaths.

### **138/22 Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Hartley will begin the application form as he hasn't been given a definitive answer on whether SPC are eligible or not. The process of forming a neighbourhood plan is a huge commitment and task, but considered a worthwhile goal, the formal application is the first step in this process.

**ACTION** – *Cllr Hartley to begin application form for Neighbourhood Plan.*

### **139/22 Road & Snow Warden**

Cllr Harvey has checked roads that aren't on his usual route. No potholes that he can see but asks to be informed if any are discovered and he will report it. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes has noticed a large dip in New Park Road due to sunken pipes. Cllr Harvey says it doesn't count as a pothole so nothing can be done at the moment.

### **140/22 Tree Warden**

No update this month.

### **141/22 Parish Assets (Bus Shelters, Benches, etc)**

Cllr Millford has discovered a broken bench at the bus shelter in Lee Mill by the slip road. Cllr Peacham says DCC own it, so it just needs to be reported via their website.

**ACTION** – *Cllr Millford to report broken bench on DCC website.*

### **142/22 Planning**

- a. 1836/22/FUL; UNDECIDED

- b. 1596/22/FUL; AGREE
- c. 1720/22/ARM; UNDECIDED
- d. 1905/22/HHO; AGREE

### **143/22 Chairman's Business**

Cllr Peacham gave an update on the Wind Farm. A feasibility study has been carried out by DEC (Devon Energy Collective) on constructing a Wind Farm on land between Hemerdon Ball and Lee Moor village. Cllr Peacham explained that he had recently attended a meeting at Cornwood with representatives from Shaugh and Cornwood Parish Councils to discuss the study. Cllrs Peacham and May had a follow up meeting with a Director from DEC. It is their understanding that to progress any such scheme, all three PCs and their communities would have to show their support for such a scheme in an approved Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It is possible to commit to a single issue NP to consider such a proposal, which would involve public consultations and a public vote to gather support or otherwise (time scale 1 - 2 years). Cllrs Peacham and May have long been involved in the noise issues at the mine and their research on the LFN (Low Frequency Noise) revealed that Wind Turbines are a frequent source of Noise and LFN, with complaints across hundreds, if not thousands, of sites across the world. LFN has only recently been accepted as capable of making people ill by such bodies as the WHO (World Health Organisation), following numerous scientific studies across the world. Their research revealed many studies into Wind Turbines and LFN being accepted as being generated in certain conditions; many theories abound as to these "conditions" but nothing to mitigate or quantify it's impact seems to exist. The main difference between audible noise and LFN is that higher frequency audible noise dissipates to a background level over distances of several hundred metres (circa 500m in the case of wind turbines), whilst Low Frequency Noise can be felt (below audible range) at much greater distances of several kilometres. All agreed that the Climate Change Emergency we have declared as a PC, demanded that every possible avenue of low carbon energy production be pursued, yet all agreed that this cannot be done at the expense of people's health. Current UK strategy to meet Net Zero does not include onshore wind turbines, but huge scale offshore wind farms around the country. Cllrs Peacham and May asked that DEC identify a community with a similar number and size of wind turbines operating within it, so that they can communicate with local residents on their experiences. Without such reassurances it was agreed that SPC cannot, at this time, recommend this type of scheme for progression.

Please note; the issues of the aesthetics and impacts on wildlife have not been considered at this stage.

### **144/22 Correspondence**

Clerk reports that the BT Phone Kiosk by Sparkwell Hall is due to be cleaned and maintained by a BT engineer.

Clerk will also continue chasing up removal of the Knotweed within the village.

### **145/22 Finance**

- a. i. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement of 2021/22
- ii. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Accounting Statements 2021/22
- iii. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Certificate for Exemption 2021/22  
Clerk notes that the Exercise of Public Rights will begin on 14<sup>th</sup> July until 24<sup>th</sup> August inclusive.
- b. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for June 2022.

**146/22 Payments and Receipts**

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

**147/22 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at **Sparkwell Parish Hall on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.00pm.**

Meeting closed at 21.57

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

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