

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at Hemerdon Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Peacham, May, Webb, Lee, McEwing, Harvey, Hartley, Hutton Fellowes  
Sophie Jones (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Alex Dawson (Tungsten West), Max Channing, Colin Perkins, 2 MOP

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

**001/212 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Millford, Pearson-Bunt, Baldry

**002/22 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.

**003/22 New Councillors to sign Declaration of Acceptance forms**

Signed in front of Clerk

**004/22 Declarations of Interest**

None

**005/22 County Councillor's Report**

No update from Cllr Hart

**006/22 District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Thomas presents the monthly update, including a report from Cllr Baldry. The Recycling is improving although there has been a large amount of staff absences from 23<sup>rd</sup> December, around 22% of staff were absent from this date. Cllr Harvey has investigated collections for the short term as an alternative, these will be discussed with Cllr Baldry. Cllr Thomas said difficulties may arise as residents have paid for a branded waste collection through their council tax but agrees that any waste collection is better than none. Cllr Thomas has reiterated that if anyone has a missed waste collection then to let himself and/or Cllr Baldry know.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 19.25

**007/22 Public Forum**

No comments

**008/22 Hemerdon Mine**

Alex Dawson presents the monthly update from Tungsten West. They have appointed a HR team who have commenced training. Currently 60 employees which are growing daily, and they are on day 171 loss time injury free. There have been no environmental incidents but have had a number of interactions with the community regarding the mobile lighting. The recommendations have been taken onboard and the lighting has been moved. The permanent lighting is on a timer from 6am until 6pm, some lighting will need to remain for safety reasons. Cllr Peacham has had 2 reports of Low Frequency Noise which have been inconclusive. If LFN is reported on the day then it will be clearer for Alex to discover where it is coming from. They will continue to monitor and log any reports to see if a pattern emerges.

The Mineral Process facility isn't currently operational, but they are looking to start in Q4. The Environmental Agency process is ongoing and will issue a permit once solutions are implemented. Regarding the TW Permit Application process, they are still waiting for the technical assessments to be done. The permits are needed prior to switch on.

TW will be submitting a Prior Notification for additional office space at the main car park site alongside the processing plant (where the Wolf offices used to be) to DCC in the expectation that this will be classed as permitted development. This will be a single storey development of portable cabins.

Max Denning introduced the SPC to Colin Perkins; the Program Director and General Manager onsite. He will be developing the project 5 days a week and has experience on other major sites and big mines.

SPC will visit the mine for a tour at the end of January 2022.

Max Denning and Colin Perkins left the meeting at 19.41

### **009/22 Community Fibre**

Cllr Pearson-Bunt provided an update via email; I have continued to chase and have been told that the last 9 properties should be released for commissioning within the next two weeks. When I have been informed that this has happened, I will let them all know so that they can contract a fast service. This will mean that the last DCMS voucher has been drawn down and that the scheme is complete....fingers crossed!

Cllr Peacham would like to roll the Community Fibre scheme out to Hemerdon. The relevant information has been given to SHDC to begin the process.

### **010/22 Climate Change**

- a. Cllr McEwing and Cllr Hutton Fellowes are hoping to clear the woodland behind Sparkwell Parish Hall of laurel and brambles. They will be applying for a grant to help turn this area into a useable space for walks, exploration and planting. They have investigated costs of fencing, tree surgeons, path building and meadow planting. Firstly, they will need volunteers to help clear the area of the overgrown brambles and laurel. Cllr McEwing is currently applying for a grant from SHDC to help fund it.

Cllr Webb left the meeting at 19.53

- b. Cllr Peacham is hoping to get on to a scheme with DCC to install/build a cycle path through Sparkwell Village. Alex Dawson said TW would be interested in the progress

as it will be an incentive for their staff to get to and from work whilst remaining environmentally friendly.

Alex Dawson left the meeting at 20.11

- c. SPC may revisit the DCC Path Scheme in more depth at the next meeting. Cllr McEwing and Cllr Hutton Fellowes will investigate it as part of their Climate Change responsibility.

### **011/22 Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Hartley has researched the Neighbourhood Plans in nearby Parishes/Councils and feels the SPC can create one too. Cllr Peacham says the first step is to declare with SHDC that we are doing one. They will then disclose any current planning applications and a small working group will be needed, along with notifying the public.

### **012/22 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**RESOLVED** - unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 be approved and signed

### **013/22 Planning**

- a. SPC object on the on the grounds of loss of important community facilities, and car parking provision.
- b. Undecided as the SPC are unconvinced by the applicant's evidence of non-agricultural occupation for more than 10 years.
- c. Agree

### **014/22 Road and Snow Warden**

The grit bins are full and ready to be used when needed. The grit bin in Sparkwell is broken but has been reported to DCC.

Cllr Hutton Fellowes has suggested a proper channel be created in Sparkwell for the stream of water coming from the horses field nearby flowing directly on to the road. The road is always wet and turns to ice in the colder weather posing a potential hazard. There is also a huge pothole by Sparkwell School which has been reported to DCC by 6 people.

### **015/22 Update List of Councillor's Responsibilities**

**RESOLVED** - All agreed

### **016/22 Chairman's Business**

Cllr Peacham has said that the relationship the SPC are building with TW is very honest and going well so far. He suggests the noise monitoring should be overseen by an advisor within the community. TW will share the their noise monitoring data with us but as its raw data we may need a third party to analyse it and provide feedback for us.

Cllr Harvey left meeting at 21.16

Cllr Peacham informs the council that Edwin Harris will no longer be taking a role on the council so the councillor vacancy will go to the candidate with the next highest number of votes. This was Paula Serpell Denman.

**RESOLVED** - All Councillors voted and agreed unanimously

**017/22 Correspondence**

Nothing to report from Clerk

**018/22 Finance**

- a. **RESOLVED** – Unanimously that the budget analysis and bank reconciliation for December 2021 be approved

**019/22 Payments and Receipts**

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for December 2021

**020/22 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in Sparkwell Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.52

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

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