

**MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Hemerdon Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Nicholson, Lee, Serpell Denman, Webb, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr Hart (DCC), Cllr Thomas, 3 x Members of Public (MOP)

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

**20/25      Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs May and Hutton-Fellowes

**21/25      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.

**22/25      Declarations of Interest**

Nothing declared.

**23/25      County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Hart updated the Councillors on Devolution. He noted that Devon County Council are not included in the first round of local government restructure. Eight district councils were unhappy about the restructure to one unitary.

Resurfacing road works is also taking place in Langage, before the extension to the Freeport. Cllr Hart is also approaching his retirement and has represented Sparkwell Parish and the ward since 1989. Cllr Nicholson thanked Cllr Hart on behalf of Sparkwell Parish Council for his work within the council and noted the massive input Cllr Hart has made for local government.

Cllr Hart left the meeting at 19.13

**24/25      District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Thomas gave his monthly brief to the council. There should be three Unitary Authorities for Devon and Cornwall, rather than just one.

The garden waste collection is £65 if subscribed prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

The council tax second home premium will be on bills this year. South Hams have ringfenced this money for social housing.

Cllr Thomas informed the council that thirteen bottle banks have now been removed, the closest ones to Sparkwell parish are now in Lee Moor or Woolwell. The bottle bank in Miners Arms will be removed soon, if not already done so. Fifteen bottle banks will remain in place across the district.

Cllr Nicholson asked if asset ownership of Boringdon Camp can be transferred to Sparkwell Parish Council. Cllr Thomas will be in touch with Clerk to discuss.

**25/25      Public Forum**

The public in attendance were present regarding item 8a. of the agenda (see minute 27/25)

**26/25      Hemerdon Mine**

There was no update from Hemerdon Mine.

**27/25      Planning**

**a.0108/25/PDM** – SPC Object to this application

**b.0269/25/FUL** – Comments made

**c. 0222/25/PST** – Comments made

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 19.43

**28/25      Minutes**

a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**RESOLVED** – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved and signed.

**29/25      Climate Change and Biodiversity**

No update.

**30/25      Road Concerns**

Nothing raised.

***ACTION*** – Clerk to follow up with flashing speed signs

**31/25      Tree Warden**

No update from

**32/25      Newnham Solar Fund CIC**

No rep as of now. Will revisit at future meeting.

**33/25      Chairman's Business**

Nothing raised

**34/25      Correspondence**

a. Meeting dates – forgo the April meeting. December meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**ACTION** - Clerk to rebook hall for 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.

b.Gov.uk subscription charge

**ACTION** – Clerk to proceed with transfer to gov.uk mailboxes and domain at a cost of £350 ex VAT.

**35/25 Finance**

a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for February 2025.

**36/25 Payments and Receipts**

a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for February 2025.

**37/25 Items for future agendas**

- **Local Government Reorganisation** – Need to discuss (at a future meeting)

**38/25 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at **7pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Sparkwell Parish Hall.**

- **Noted Cllr Webb's apologies.**

**Meeting closed at 19.54**

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

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