MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 11th September 2018 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

**Present**: Cllrs May, Taylor, Small, Lee, Pearson-Bunt, Peacham, Hughes, Milford, Ashley

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance**: Cllr Keith Baldry (SHDC), Cllr Blackler (SHDC), Elaine Budd (Wolf Minerals),

**Apologies for Absence**: None

**94/18 Police Business**

Not in attendance, no report received.

**95/18 District Councillors Business**

Cllr Baldry reported:

1. Cllr Baldry raised a question about ownership of the tarmac road beside the Treby Arms running to Birchland Road; Devon County Council have confirmed that they do not own it. Cllr May explained that the question of ownership has been a difficult one to resolve. It was repaired 7 years ago by the Parish Council as there had been a serious accident, but ownership was still unclear.
2. There will be an election next May (SHDC) and the Parish Council should also have an election.
3. Reference the Development Management meeting last week and the application for the Lee Mill Development. Cllrs Taylor and Hughes did very well and the decision to defer was the best that could be hoped for. He understands that the Parish Council are going to be involved in future discussions with Planning. He believes that the developer will offer a village hall and asked whether that was acceptable. Cllr Taylor stated that while it was acceptable, the site that was originally reserved for village hall does not now fit in with revised drainage and sewerage disposal. Also the houses around the site earmarked would not want the village hall as there are concerns about parking and noise etc.

Cllr Baldry confirmed that his preference is still that the application be refused.

Cllr Blackler reported:

1. Some Parishes are being asked to make a choice on whether to take over the maintenance etc of toilets in their parish principally due to limited footfall and to save the District Council considerable costs, saving about £26,000 pa.
2. There will be a number of vacancies in different wards for the next District elections as a number of Members have done several years working for their communities.
3. SHDC are continuing to improve their recycling
4. The Budget gap for 2018/19 will be approx. £1.5m and could increase year by year.
5. The Sherford Primary School “Sherford Vale” for pupils aged 2/11 is now officially open.
6. The Government has accepted that Local Authorities can borrow funds to develop Affordable Housing. Homes built by SHDC in 2017/18 was 160, projected for 2018/19 96 and 2019/20 301. In last 5 years 519 have been constructed.
7. Metric Ltd who have maintained all our Pay and Display machines are trying to address how they are in places being damaged, it is now an important investigation as SHDC have lost revenue accordingly.
8. Lee Mill application Baldry and him private meeting tomorrow. He will attend to find out what it is about. Planning Officer Baldry cannot attend.
9. Early apology for the 9th October meeting.
10. He had not heard anything regarding Boringdon Camp and Cllr Ashley confirmed that he had not heard anything either. Cllr Blacker said there was a rumour that it could be sold. Cllr Ashley said that he was not happy with the SHDC Officer; English Heritage are “running the party” with the site owner and the intention is to close it. They say there is no great scientific interest although there is cultural heritage. They maintain that the site has been damaged by dog walkers and cyclists. A full report had been promised but has not been delivered. Cllr Blackler understands that owner was getting a grant to maintain the site from English Heritage. Cllr Ashley says it is disgraceful how they have been treated by SHDC Officer.

***Action*** *Cllrs Blacker and Baldry will investigate.*

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked whether Cllrs Baldry and Blackler would be standing in the May 2019 election. Cllr Baldry confirmed that he would be standing while Cllr Blacker is still to decide.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked whether the Social Housing funding received by SHDC will be reflected in the Local Plan. Cllr Baldry explained that the definition is not affordable in this part of the country and that he would rather the word “affordable” was not used. They are going to be building some social housing but SHDC did not make any money out of it.

Cllr Taylor thanked both District Councillors for their input at the site meeting and Development Meeting last week.

Cllr May thanked both District Councillors for their support and wished them the best for elections next year.

**96/18 County Councillors Business**

Not in attendance, no report received.

**97/18 Open Forum:**

* 1. Wolf Update – Elaine Budd (EB) handed out a prepared report to the Council (attached).

With regard to operation updates, there is a liaison meeting this week, the information will be fed on from there and then disseminated to all Parish Councils.

Cllr Taylor thanked EB for her quick response regarding the foreign driver in the village of Hemerdon this week.

Cllr May asked for more information on the jaw crusher as discussed at the last meeting. EB said the trial is complete and a report has been produced based on noise. The report has been submitted to regulators (there was no exceedance) and will be discussed at the liaison meeting on Thursday.

Cllr May asked about the research on blasting. EB had had a meeting yesterday and been given an early insight into findings. This would be confirmed in writing together with how they would like to proceed. It will be discussed at the liaison meeting on Thursday and once the approach to be taken is approved, it will be communicated out.

Cllr May asked for an update on the insulation program. EB confirmed that a report had been drafted; all areas of pre work had been done, engineering was 90% complete on one element and all was on target. With regard to how fast the cladding goes up, there are three elements affecting this. One, Wolf is committed to using local labour and materials and this required an element of training. They were starting on the easiest part of the plant to try to compensate for this. Secondly, the weather; last winter was a bad one and we had just had a very hot summer. Thirdly there were Health & Safety factors as they had 40 plus extra contractors and extra vehicles on site so safety cannot be compromised

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked what the contingency date was. EB explained that the implementation of the cladding is April but finalisation of the monitoring will be after that. The Contract is fixed cost so it is in the contractors interest to deliver early. It is also in Wolf’s interest to deliver asap, subject to the three points above.

Cllr May referred to the liaison meeting on Thursday and that it would be useful to have the reports to digest beforehand.

EB then left the meeting.

* 1. Lee Mill Development – planning update

Cllr Taylor said that he went to the site visit last week which involved a walk through to the site and that this had demonstrated very well how dangerous it was to walk up the road.

Cllr Baldry said that he had been asking questions as to where the local amenities for the site were but there are none.

Cllr Taylor said that they had walked up the lane and could see that the entrance would be too narrow. However at the meeting on Wednesday Mr Jackson of Devon County Council Highways said that two HGVs could pass side by side although he admitted that he had to phone up to check on this.

There was a greater exchange of views at the Development Management meeting and it appeared that the application might be rejected but there was a suggestion that it should be differed. It was a split vote but the casting vote went for deferment. This does however give more time to challenge the application.

Cllr Taylor stated that he did not feel that a village hall will be well received as there is a problem with access, traffic and parking. Also people parking for long periods (using the Falcon bus to Bristol airport) caused problems for residents but there appeared to be no solution. DCC say that the traffic is not too bad but they are not present at the busy times.

The only benefits seem to be limited to a green space but that will have to be maintained; the development does not fit in with the local area, services and amenities.

Cllr Taylor said that Cllr Hughes had spoken very well in the meeting and had Ivybridge town councillors present as well.

Cllr Hughes said she thought it was a good united effort. The point was made for approval and not to go against the officer report, so deferment was a good result. She felt there is the enticement of the funding for the road, whatever those improvements may be. She had spoken to Mr Jackson after meeting and stated that if it is to be the slip road, then that will be millions of pounds not the £160,000. The money would only be made available when the 25th house is occupied and if by then there is no agreement, then the money will just go as it will not be spent in the time. The housing estate was not sustainable.

Cllr Hughes said that a lot of work been done to work out how much housing villages can take and this would exceed the limits. With regard to schooling, there are 172 extra spaces needed from the approved development in Ivybridge which would warrant a new school, however will be no new school. Woodlands School, which Lee Mill uses, is already at capacity so where would the new places come from?

Cllr May said that deferment was a very good result,

Cllr Baldry left the meeting at 7.40pm

* 1. Planning application Challonsleigh Farm, Smithaleigh – waste transfer

Cllr Taylor said that there was nothing new, they were just re-applying. He had not had time to look at the application and it would involve a lot of work.

Cllr Hughes said that she had asked Mr Jackson of DCC about the application and he said that the sum of £125,000 would be made for improvements. She had looked online and seen that the Highways’ comments are already in; they are proposing £124,500 towards a safety scheme.

Cllr Hughes said that with her “Ivybridge hat on” the situation is getting worse; they now recognised that no more traffic should go through Lee Mill but were going to route the traffic to Ivybridge as a long term interim solution, regardless of whether a permanent scheme will be implemented at Lee Mill. The Highway Authority had changed its view due to Lee Mill objections being made on safety and this outweighs capacity issues at Ivybridge.

Cllr Hughes was looking at different ways of getting the information across to residents rather than a public meeting. Cllr May said that the Parish Council would be happy to be involved.

***Action*** *– The Clerk to write to Mr Gary Streeter and Cllr John Hart to ask for a meeting with the PC and any other interested bodies within the next two weeks. If they are not available then advise the Challonsleigh developer to request they wait until further discussions have taken place.*

* 1. South Hams District Council Consultation on the future of the District’s public toilets

Cllr Blackler said this would be finalised at an Executive Meeting this week and full Council the week after.

There was a discussion and all felt that the decision was outrageous and they objected to it. Cllr Taylor explained that he had had communications with Cllr Gilbert and encourage others to contact him.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked whether SHDC owned the real estate? Cllr Blackler confirmed they do form part of assets. Cllr Pearson-Bunt then stated so not only would the Council save revenue costs but may generate a capital receipt if sold or an income stream if let out (which happens in other districts).

**98/18 Declarations of Interest**

None

**99/18 Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2018 were approved by all present, subject to amendments on page 3, and signed by the Chairman.

**100/18 Matters Arising**

1. Venton Noticeboard

Cllr Small had obtained a further quote and this was less than previous quotes as the contractor would not be making a charge for installation. There was a discussion as to whether a new board was needed, what would be put up, who used it. It was decided that a notice should be put on the board stating the PC’s intention to remove it unless there were objections.

***Action*** *– Clerk to prepare a notice*

**101/18 PCC Funding – Cllrs Ashley and Lee**

Cllr Lee explained that the zoo had previously been involved in a very successful project with children with behavioural issues. They had therefore applied to the Police & Crime Commissioner for a grant under their new scheme to help neighbourhood cohesion and security, preventing of anti-social behaviour. This had been supported by the Parish Council and the application for a grant had been successful.

**102/18 Planning**

1. Application for one of the units at Langage to put in 3 new portable generators to replace old generators. It was usual for the PC to support Langage developments as it creates jobs.

*There was unanimous agreement.*

Cllr Blackler left the meeting at 8.10pm

**103/18 Road and Snow Warden**

Cllr Peacham reported that he had signed up again to the Devon County Scheme so the Parish will get new load of salt for the winter. Cllr May thanked Cllr Peacham for his work as Road and Snow Warden and in particular for keeping the roads clear last winter.

**104/18 Chairman’s Business**

Cllr May asked whether Cllr Small had resolved his issues with getting new recycling bags; Cllr Small confirmed that he had still not received them. Cllr Lee said that she was not getting hers but she went online to request and had received them.

***Action*** *– Clerk to contact the Locality manager for the area to see if we can get some bags put in the village hall or church.*

**105/18 Correspondence**

1. The Clerk had been copied into an email from Cllr Baldry to Nick Colton at Devon County regarding a property on the road from Smithaleigh to Yealmpton. A large wall is being built over 2 metres high, without planning permission and encroaching on the Highway.

Cllr Taylor said that that he believes it has planning consent

**106/18 Finance**

1. Draft Finance Regulations

The Clerk explained that the reason for the new Regulations was feedback from the auditor and the need to include online banking procedures.

*There was unanimous approval.*

1. Budget Analysis August 2018
2. Bank Reconciliation July 2018

Cllr Taylor raised the issue of the state of the road beside Treby Arms and said that the PC had previous paid for repairs (as discussed previously). There was further discussion about who owns it and who should maintain it and have ongoing liability.

***Action*** *Cllr Milford will investigate whether the Treby puts a claim to the land and then maintains it.*

**107/18 AOB**

Cllr May asked whether there was AOB. Cllr Small said there still potholes on one of the local roads. Cllr Taylor said that they were now marked up for repair. Cllr Small said there were potholes on the road by the power station at Langage.

***Action*** *- Cllr Peacham will input on the DCC system*

Cllr Small said there were still problems with speeding traffic through village.

***Action*** *– Cllr May is to speak to the school to get them involved with checks.*

Cllr Peacham will attend the Local Liaison Group with Cllr May and the points to be raised were discussed.

Cllr Small asked about the lorry driver lost in the village who said they were going to Imerys. Apparently Imerys drivers should all be issued with notes.

***Action*** *- Cllr Small will raise it.*

**108/18 Payments and Receipts**

1. Sparkwell Parish Hall - £64.00
2. DALC - £60.00
3. PPE (TAP Grant) - £342.90
4. Clerk Salary (x2) - £412.04
5. Clerk expenses - £200.82
6. Devon Communities Together - £152.10

**109/18 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 9th October 2018 at 7pm at Sparkwell Parish Hall commencing at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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

**Update for Sparkwell Parish Council**

11th September 2018

Full operational updates will be provided at the Local Liaison Group Meeting on 20th September, 18:00 at Drakelands Mine which will include an update on progress against the Noise and Vibration Management Plan and Blasting Research Project which is now reaching its conclusion.

In the meantime, details of the community support provided over the last couple of months is outlined below.

**Support for Sparkwell Community**

We have been working closely with the Sparkwell Parish Hall Committee Chair and Manager as well as individual Committee Members to support the improvement of facilities and appearance of the Hall. The focus of activity has been to make the Hall more attractive as a venue, by improving facilities with a view to helping to support an increase in bookings and therefore income and making the Hall more sustainable into the future.

**Work has included:**

Development of standard style which can be used across all promotional material, and which has subsequently been utilised as part of the promotion for the Sparkwell Village Summer Fair (posters, leaflets, signs and programme), Latest News and Views Template, Farmers’ Market promotions (posters, leaflets and signs) and has been used by a Committee Member as part of the development of the web site.

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| **Re-usable signage - date overlays ‘Today’** | **Parking Signage – to promote shuttlebus from Dartmoor Zoo** |
| **Programme – front and back cover** | |
| **Graphic for Facebook** | |
| **Newsletter Template** | **Re-useable Signage** |
| **Posters and Flyers** | **Design and Production of Exterior Signage**  Supplier currently being sourced for exterior sign – meeting arranged with business in Rattery for Thursday 14th |

**Additional support:**

**Sparkwell Parish Hall:**

* Chairs for Children’s Parties
* General use conference chairs
* Tables
* Overhead Projector
* Fridge Freezer
* Shuttlebus Hire for Summer Fair
* PA Hire for Summer Fair
* Raffle Prizes for Summer Fair
* Activities for Summer Fair
* Printing of all materials highlighted above (signs, posters, programmes)

**Sparkwell Primary School**

Cabinet for AED

**Montessori Nursery**

Exploring possible bid for improvement works to RCF Foundation

**Supporting Local Business:**

All raffle prizes purchased from local businesses e.g. Vouchers for Lunch at The Treby Arms, Artisan Bread Making Class and a Commission for a Pet Portrait

**Elaine Budd, Community Relations Manager**