MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 10th September 2019 at Hemerdon Village Hall

**Present**: Cllrs May (arrived at 7.20pm), Taylor, Small, Peacham, Pearson-Bunt, Milford

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance**: Cllr Hart (DCC), Cllr Thomas (SHDC)

Cllr Taylor opened the meeting in the absence of Cllr May.

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

**126/19 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Lee, PCSO Di Summers, Cllr Baldry (SHDC)

**Resolved** that the apologies be noted.

**127/19 Agreement of the Agenda between Parts I and II.**

Councillors noted that two items of business would be considered in Part II of the meeting.

**128/19 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**129/19 Police Business**

1. Apologies had been received but a report had been supplied which the Clerk read out:

August Crimes 01/08/2019 – 31/08/2019

5 Crimes recorded

10/08/2019 – Assault ABH – Newnham – victim declined to support Police action.

10/08/2019 – Breach Criminal Behaviour Order- Newnham – Undetected

17/08/2019 – Theft – Plympton – cement bags stolen from building site – Under Investigation

25/08/2019 – Owner/Person in charge of dog dangerously out of control – Cann Woods – under investigation

28/08/2019 – Burglary - A38 Smithaleigh – Building site container – Under Investigation

1. The Clerk stated that the Plympton Podcast Facebook page had reported from our previous Minutes where the Police had said they could not enforce the 20mph speed limit. The Podcast had contacted a pressure group who confirmed that there were four requirements for this to be enforceable:

* Relevant Traffic Regulation Order
* Appropriate signing
* Length of road/signing
* Police Force willing to enforce.

DCC has confirmed that there is a Traffic Regulation order in place and there are signs so the Clerk contacted the Police and was awaiting further comment.

Cllr May arrived at the meeting and took over chairing.

1. Correspondence had been received saying that Sparkwell School had been offered traffic/speed monitoring but the School believed that this had to go through the PC. While the support of the PC would be helpful the permissions etc had to come from Devon County Highways. The Clerk had contacted Devon County Highways to get the relevant information and has passed this on.

**Resolved** to report on information from Police and publish in Parish Magazine.

**130/19 District Councillors Business**

Cllr Thomas delivered his report:

1. The Sustainable Community Locality Fund is available and he and Cllr Baldry are combining their funds so there is a total amount of £4,000. They are keen to award across the Parishes and Cllr Thomas encourages applications.
2. Matters arising from the last meeting:
   1. Chaddlewood Woods - he had contacted Plymouth City Council but had not heard anything back. See 133/19(a) below.
   2. The issue regarding the developer not putting in the visibility splay at the 4 new houses in Hemerdon - he has reported this to the relevant officer at SHDC, however there are delays with enforcement due lack of staff although they have now recruited.
   3. Trimming of hedges from slip road from Lee Mill - Cllr Hart said that the Highways Agency are responsible and they are now supposed to be dealing.
   4. Planning Permissions in Principle – he has taken advice which is if permission is likely to be granted in principle then only a small amount of detail is given. There is training coming up on 7 October and Cllr Taylor is invited as a representative of SPC.

***Action*** *– Cllr Thomas will forward details.*

1. The noise pollution issue in Lee Mill has been resolved satisfactorily.

Cllr Small said that waste bins in Newtons Row are being left out on the road and this narrows the road down. Cllr Thomas said that is a Parish consideration.

***Action*** *– Cllr May will look into this.*

Cllr Thomas left the meeting.

**131/19 County Councillors Business**

Cllr Hart delivered his report:

1. Overgrown hedges – DCC Highways are going around serving notices on land owners to cut hedges. The Government has stopped Councils cutting hedges in the summer for nesting birds, cutting can start again in September.
2. Flooding at Venton Bridge – the drain was cleared but there was a 6 inch build-up of mud which will block the drain again. Notice had been served to remove the mud but he is not sure whether this has been done. There had been a new drainage scheme at Venton Bridge which cost about £40,000 but it hasn’t worked.

Cllr Peacham asked what the process is for reporting blocked drains? Cllr Hart confirmed that it should be reported to DCC. Cllr Peacham identified a problem drain in Hemerdon.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked whether DCC could have a facility on their website to report blocked drains in the way you can report potholes?

Cllr Small said that Sparkwell Bridge has improved.

Cllr Small raised the question of potholes particularly at Beechwood Cross.

***Action*** *– Clerk to email Cllr Hart with details of the drain in Hemerdon and pothole.*

1. Hemerdon Mine – Cllr Hart believes that the Parish has been approached for a meeting in early October with the people looking at the practicalities of recommencing crushing work at the mine. They have stopped restoration work while they are testing.

Cllr May said that he was concerned that everything was “cloak and dagger”. He feels insulted as DCC are aware of the major issues that the mine has caused the village but that nobody is forthcoming about what is happening even though the PC had been asking about the restoration for a long time.

The PC is concerned about the restoration fund; Cllr Hart believes the restoration fund is not being touched, the new people are funding the exploratory works at the moment. Restoration money can only be spent on restoration.

Cllr Peacham said that he understands the administrator sold the site to Hargreaves and therefore Hargreaves should be having liaison group meetings with the PC. Cllr Hart said that DCC has emphasised that the Parishes need to be included.

Cllr May said that there was a lot of concern and speculation in the village and that it was difficult for the PC if they were not being told what was happening.

Cllr May said that we have correspondence from the Environment Agency with regards to the breach stating that the remedial work would be done prior to the mine re-starting but the concern now is that the change of plant would have an impact on that statement, and someone may try to find a way around it. There was general noise as well as low frequency noise and the planned process would have addressed it all. A lot of work had been done on the noise limits and if the plant is changing then this will all need to be remodelled.

1. Lee Mill slip road – DCC have explained to the Highways Agency what they are responsible for this but they did not do the slip road. They are not only looking to clean the road but to tarmac it but it will need to be scraped before it is resurfaced.

Cllr Pearson Bunt said that the double yellow lines at Langage seemed to be successful.

Cllr Hart confirmed that they are going to start gritting the road in Langage right through to the power station.

1. Brexit – there is no clue as to what is happening but DCC is fronting for the South West region.

Cllr Hart left the meeting.

**132/19 Open Forum** –

1. Drakelands Mine Update – discussed about at 131/19 (c).

**133/19 Matters Arising**

1. Minute 113/19 – Chaddlewood Wood –The Clerk had carried out a Land Registry search to establish the title number but the plan was not sufficient.

***Action*** *– Cllr Peacham will endeavour to identify the land/title number*

1. Minute 113/19 – Overgrown hedges at junction to Hemerdon – discussed at 131/19(a).
2. Minute 114/19 - Flooding at Venton Bridge. discussed at 131/19(b).
3. Minute 121/19 – Dog waste bins in Sparkwell. The Clerk had contacted SHDC to say that the bins were full and received an email saying that they do not have capacity to increase collections but will be reviewing contract in 12 months. Cllr May said that the bins have been emptied.

**134/19 Proposed removal of BT phone kiosk in Sparkwell**

The draft objection to the removal of the phone was discussed. If this failed and If it is to be removed, then the PC could adopt it, but we would need to decide what would it be used for.

**Resolved** to object to removal of the phone.

**135/19 Training**

(a) Theclerk had circulated a list of upcoming training events with DALC and asked that Cllrs let her know if they wished to attend.

(b) SHDC were providing GovernanceTraining on Thursday, 3 October 2019 which the Clerk will attend.

**136/19 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 9th July 2019

**Resolved** **unanimously** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2019 be approved.

**137/19 Planning**

* + - 1. Planning Application Ref: 2208/19/FUL

Applicant Name: Woodside Animal Welfare Trust

Description: Erection of covered show area/storage building

Address: Woodside Animal Welfare Trust Plympton PL7 5ED

Site was inspected but the application has now been abandoned.

* + - 1. Planning Application Ref: 2706/19/VAR

Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Serpell

Description: Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission

0632/19/FUL (Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of 2 storey house)

Address: Moor Cottage, Venton, Sparkwell PL7 5DU

Comments Due by 4 October 2019

**Resolved** to support the application.

* + - 1. Planning Application Ref: 2494/19/FUL

Applicant Name: Mr D Harvey

Description: Provision of an Agricultural/Equestrian Building

Address: Battisford Bungalow, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 5AT

Comments Due By: 13 September 2019

**Resolved** no comment.

* + - 1. Planning Application Ref: 2428/19/HHO

Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Lee

Description: Householder application for rear and side extensions

Address: Galen Way, Sparkwell PL7 5DF

Comments Due By 20 September 2019

**Resolved** to support the application.

**138/19 Road & Snow Warden**

Nothing to report.

**139/19 Chairman’s Business**

1. Broadband – there had been chatter on the Facebook page. Cllr Pearson-Bunt said that the Gigabit Scheme is being investigated and they are talking to an Agent for the Gigabit Voucher scheme. They have given information on how many business and residences there are in the Parish and the Agent will then make a bid. There had been no response from Matt Barrow, DCC who had attended the June meeting and we could get nowhere with BT.

**140/19 Correspondence**

1. Highways England will shortly be carrying out some surfacing works on the westbound slip roads on the A38 at Lee Mill. The work will start on Wednesday 11 September and will finish on the morning of Saturday 14 September. Work will take place at night time, between 8pm and 6am.
2. Deep Lane Overbridge, Plympton - Essential highway maintenance on behalf of Devon County Council on 4th October 2019 for 1 night, weather permitting. The road will be closed to facilitate the works and a signed diversion will be in place.

**141/19 Finance** –

1. The Clerk had circulated information regarding the Council Tax Support Grant reduction (50%) next year and then withdrawal.
2. The Clerk confirmed that the bank reconciliation verification was completed by Cllr May on 17th July 2019.
3. Investments – The Clerk had investigated savings accounts available with Lloyds Bank but suggests that we wait until December as part of budget planning to decide what to invest.

**Resolved** to agree investments as part of the budget planning.

1. to consider budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for August 2019.

**Resolved** that the reports be approved.

**142/19 Payments and Receipts** – to report receipts and approve the payments list

1. Payments list.

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

**143/19 Date of next meeting**

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

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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