

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 14th March 2023 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Peacham, Pearson-Bunt, Hartley, McEwing, Millford, Webb, McEwing, Hutton-Fellowes, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Andrew Nisbet (TW), Marica Lyndon (TW), Hayley Holt (TW)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

329/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs May, Lee, Serpell Denman, Harvey

330/22 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.

331/22 Declarations of Interest

An item in Part II of the Agenda, 'Clerk's Contracted Hours', would be discussed in the absence of the clerk.

332/22 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hart provided an update via email regarding an issue raised by one of the parishioners. Please see below.

I have asked officers of DCC to investigate this very detailed email about the new bus route. This is their reply;

'The previous bus company, Oakley's, terminated their contract which necessitated the bus route being advertised for re-tendering. The new tender resulted in Citybus taking over the route. Plymouth City actually requested the change in route as part of a restructure they were doing in reducing their number of bus routes within the City boundary. Citybus and all other bus companies have had a major problem in finding bus drivers post-Covid. This and the drop in passengers traveling on buses post Covid have also added to the problems and pressures of both bus companies, and their request to Local Authorities to increase the subsidy on routes at a time when Local Government finance is being squeezed by increasing demand across all services. This has necessitated in the reduction of Bus routes and number of buses traveling on some routes each day.'

I have suggested to officers that they consider producing a timetable of the new service and ask the bus driver to distribute copies to passengers using the service from Sparkwell showing the new route and where to get on and off the bus if they want to use facilities in Plympton.

333/22 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Thomas updated the council on the tanker that visits Hemerdon daily. Environmental Health are involved as the situation is being taken seriously. Additionally, in May, Pat

Whyman is running a training course on Planning Applications for councillors, which Cllr Thomas highly recommends.

334/22 Public Forum

No public present

335/22 Hemerdon Mine

Cllr Peacham updated the Cllrs on the work the Plymouth Tree Partnership completed with TW. They removed 10 dumpy bags of plastic tubes, safely removing every one from the trees. Cllr Peacham cleared a path through the brambles so the volunteers could access the site. TW also donated to the charity to thank them for their hard work.

ACTION – Clerk to send an email to TW to thank them for proceeding with the scheme

Cllr Peacham also described the realtime dust monitors that TW have proposed be installed on both Hemerdon Hall and Sparkwell Hall. Hemerdon Hall have agreed to the proposal.

Marica from TW informs the council that Neil Gawthorpe is now CEO for TW, with Mark Thompson as the vice-chairman. Neil is hoping to attend the monthly parish meetings along with Hayley Holt (Community Engagement for TW). Marica also says how 30 pupils from Sparkwell Primary School visited the site recently as part of Science Week. It was an action packed day which was enjoyed by all. TW have also proposed that they repair the car park by Sparkwell Primary School so will be liaising with Fran and Di May.

On to tree planting, Andrew says that YGS have planted 300 trees so far, but have had to reinforce the fences due to sheep. Once this is complete, they will plant the remaining trees, which will total 800.

Cllr Webb asks if TW successfully distributed the 300 tonnes of left over dumpy bags.

Andrew says that they had to postpone due to staff absence, but they plan to restart the process once the staff are back in.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt tells TW that she has been looking into flooding in Sparkwell and they are investigating if anything in the surrounding area may be affecting/causing it. She will pass on the details, contact name and phone number to TW.

Marica asks if the council know how many parishioners will be affected when the pylon is pulled down. Cllr Peacham says that unfortunately we don't know, only Airband will know the figures. Marica says she is currently investigating if there is another site within the mine area it could be moved to, rather than it being pulled down.

TW left the meeting at 19.16

336/22 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on 14th February 2023

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th February 2023 be approved and signed.

337/22 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- a. Cllr McEwing is in the process of finding a contractor able to chop down trees.

- b. Will revisit next month
- c. Will revisit next month
- d. Will revisit next month

338/22 P3 Scheme Footpaths

Cllr McEwing says the scheme is still in progress, they are not required to do anything at present so will update the council with further news. She plans to visit the footpaths again in the summer to reassess and see if anything has changed.

339/22 Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Hartley says there is currently no funding until May

340/22 Road & Snow Warden

- a. Will revisit next month

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes asks the council if a grit bin could be installed at the bottom of Blacklands Drive. Cllr Peacham says Highways will only put salt on roads with a traffic problem, they grit roads that are well used. He suggests that residents be made aware of where the current grit bins are and where they can collect salt/grit if needed.

341/22 Tree Warden

No update

342/22 Parish Assets (Bus Shelters, Benches, etc)

Cllr Millford said the signs in the bus shelter have been moved.

343/22 Civility and Respect Pledge

Cllr Pearson-Bunt informed the Cllrs of the Civility and Respect Pledge; a nationwide initiative to encourage councils to consider the principles of civility and respect and decide if there's anything they can do. DALC are urging all councillors to sign up to the pledge, with 1000 parish councillors having already done so. Cllr Peacham feels that people should behave with civility and respect regardless of the pledge. Cllr Pearson-Bunt says it is to demonstrate core standards and show that we have them. If Cllrs think it is of value, then we will send them more information.

344/22 Planning

SPC are in support of the National Regeneration proposal

345/22 Chairman's Business

Cllr Peacham discusses how some elderly people are struggling to view the bus routes. Cllr Pearson-Bunt suggests recommending Dial-a-Ride, not as a replacement but for people in need of access. She suggests signs being put on the bus stop.

346/22 Correspondence

- a. The cllrs discussed and reviewed 3 internal auditors for the Year 2022-23 Accounts.
RESOLVED - It was unanimously agreed that Hillside Business would conduct the Internal Audit for Sparkwell Parish Council.
- b. **RESOLVED** – It was unanimously agreed to approve £300 contract for Peter Honeywell to continue cleaning two bus shelters in Lee Mill.
- c. **ACTION** – *Clerk to email councillors to agree on new date for monthly Parish Council meeting in May 2023.*
- d. Clerk discussed the upcoming Election process with the Councillors and handed up the election packs.

347/22 Finance

- a. Cllrs unanimously approved the bank reconciliation report and payments list for February 2023.
- b. Cllrs reviewed and approved the SPC Financial Regulations
- c. Cllrs reviewed and approved the SPC Health and Safety Policy
- d. Cllrs reviewed and approved the SPC List of Assets
- e. Cllrs reviewed and approved the SPC Risk Assessment Management
- f. Cllrs reviewed and approved the SPC Standing Orders
- g. Cllrs reviewed and approved the SPC Statement of Internal Control

348/22 Payments and Receipts

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for February 2023.

349/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **Hemerdon Village Hall** on **Tuesday 11th April 2023** at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at 20.32

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date