

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 10th May 2022 at Hemerdon Village Hall

Present: Cllr Peacham, Pearson-Bunt, Lee, McEwing, Millford, Webb, Serpell

In attendance: Sophie Jones (Clerk), Cllr Hart (DCC), Cllr Baldry (SHDC), Alex Dawson (TW), Angie Scott (TW), Ella Peters (Dementia Friendly Alliance)

Annual Parish Meeting

086/22 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Peacham was nominated as Chair, this was unanimously agreed by all councillors. Cllr Pearson-Bunt was nominated as Vice Chair, this was unanimously agreed by all councillors.

087/22 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair

Cllr Peacham signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair in presence of the Clerk, Sophie Jones.

088/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Harvey, Cllr Hartley, Cllr May, Cllr Hutton-Fellowes, Cllr Thomas (SHDC)

Parish Council Meeting

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

089/22 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.

090/22 Declarations of Interest

None.

091/22 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hart presented his monthly update for the SPC. He informed the council that a report is due to go to the Cabinet tomorrow asking for approval to submit a bid to the Government levelling up fund for £92million regarding one of the five schemes for the new slip road for Lee Mill. This scheme will shortly be going to the Planning committee too. Also, there has been complaints regarding the safety of the road network near Tungsten West. DCC are currently auditing the main road due to accidents – there has been nine so far. Stage 4 of the audit has discovered nothing wrong with the road. There is a suggestion for additional road markings and signs.

Cllr Hart left the meeting at 19.13

092/22 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Baldry began his monthly update by apologising for any missed waste collections.

Regarding Boringdon Camp, there is a proposal to plant trees but Historic England won't give consent as it will have a direct negative impact on the monument.

Cllr Peacham feels that the site shouldn't be affected as the entire area of Boringdon Camp is large compared to the monument. He requests a meeting with Historic England and SHDC, which Cllr Baldry has agreed to try to arrange.

Cllr Peacham also asks Cllr Baldry for an update on Goodamoor Farm, which Cllr Baldry will also chase. Lastly, Cllr Peacham asks about the proposal for reviewing planning regarding climate change. SPC need more time to review as unaware of the proposal.

Cllr Baldry left the meeting at 19.24

093/22 Public Forum

SPC were joined by Ella Peters of the Dementia Friendly Alliance. She presented a brief explanation of what the alliance aims to do and how the parish can get involved. Currently, 1 in 14 over 65 year olds have Dementia and with an aging population that is set to increase three times by 2050. They wish to destigmatise it within communities and equip people for the future.

SPC were very supportive and interested in ways to become a dementia friendly community.

Ella Peters left the meeting at 19.41

094/22 Hemerdon Mine

Angie Scott began the update from TW with the news that the current project is paused due to the increasing price of rebuilding the process plant and associated energy costs to run it. However, the aggregates planning application to vary Condition 19 is expected to be submitted in June. No further detail was available at this time.

TW have had 0 complaints but 10 interactions this month.

Cllr Peacham has asked TW to consider a proactive policy of promoting future job vacancies within the local community, particularly jobs that could be offered with training, in advance of a wider recruitment drive. Such a policy would assist in developing the mine's Social Licence to Operate. Angie has agreed to discuss such with their HR department and include SPC in updates regarding recruitment.

Cllr Webb has asked if tree planting is currently on hold. Alex Dawson says it isn't, they are just waiting for the rain to arrive before planting.

Cllr Peacham suggested a potential scheme where the community could be in partnership with TW in developing tree planting & biodiversity schemes. An example could be the area of tree planting at the northwest of Ledgate lane and to the south of the bridleway, whereby TW construct a lightweight deer fence above the existing fencing. The SPC would work with/establish a community group of volunteers to manage the existing trees, plant replacement trees, general maintenance of the site, maximise biodiversity habitat, etc, in return for public access. Alex to follow up on the suggestion with TW.

Alex explained that their issues are twofold, the increased cost of rebuilding the plant and the increased cost of energy prices in operating it. TW are looking at options to operate that involve lower start-up costs at a reduced production capacity. Also energy saving initiatives

such as solar PV's, wind turbines and an experimental energy storage system to store energy at off-peak rates and recover it at peak times. A planning application for the latter could be forthcoming. Cllr Peacham asked for reassurances that any new process design would still eliminate/replace the large screens responsible for generating the LFN from the design. Alex said that TW accepted that these screens were a high risk if included in any design scenario.

Alex and Angie left the meeting at 20.21

095/22 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on 12th April 2022

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th April 2022 be approved and signed

096/22 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- a. Cllr McEwing updated SPC on the woodland behind Sparkwell Hall. They have had three labour intense volunteer days in which everybody worked very hard. They have cleared two thirds of it and have already seen more bluebells appearing. The plan is to leave it and see what is already growing there. The laurel is deadly so they are pleased to see that go. The stumps are dangerous and will be poisoned so are taped off until then.
The Cllrs congratulated Cllr McEwing and Cllr Hutton-Fellowes on a fantastic job so far.
- b. and c. previously discussed in Minute 092/22

097/22 P3 Scheme Footpaths

Cllr McEwing explains that she, along with Cllr Webb and Cllr Hutton-Fellowes, is currently assessing the footpaths to see what needs to be done. There is not a lot of funding but are aware that a new self-closing metal gate may need to be installed, as recommended by the contractors. They will try to engage community walkers. The map of the footpaths is on the SPC website for members of the public to view.

098/22 Neighbourhood Planning

No update.

099/22 Road & Snow Warden

Cllr Peacham informed the SPC that the Locality Officer has agreed to remove the salt bin.

100/22 Tree Warden

Cllr Peacham thinks there may be diseased trees at Hemerdon Ball. The SPC Tree Warden will need to contact SHDC about the dead and diseased Larch trees.

ACTION – *Cllr May to check the trees at Hemerdon Ball and contact SHDC.*

101/22 Parish Assets (Bus Shelters, Benches, etc)

Cllr Millford visited the bus shelter in Lee Mill, on the slip road. It has a broken seat, and the area needs a general tidy up.

ACTION – *Cllr Millford will find out who is responsible for the bus shelter, in order to get seat to be fixed.*

102/22 Queen's Jubilee

The upcoming events of the Queen's Jubilee have been publicised in this month's Parish Pump.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt has noted it has been a huge effort from all involved and they deserve a huge thank you.

103/22 Planning

- a. 0634/22/FUL; Object
- b. 1062/22/HHO; Agree
- c. 1097/22/HHO; Agree
- d. 1268/22/ARM; No Comment Submitted
- e. 0583/22/FUL; Object
- f. 0746/22/FUL; Object

104/22 Chairman's Business

Cllr Peacham has been maintaining a watching brief on the Yealm River Project meetings, and has agreed to organise water testing at three sites along with two additional volunteers. They will all have training, organised by Westcountry Rivers Trusts and Citizen Science Investigations. The initial set up costs for the test kits and one real time monitoring station are circa £7.3k across 7 Parishes. There is an informal request for SPC to meet a share of this, which will be £1,054. This was agreed in principal though more information on the projects long term funding was needed before a full commitment can be made.

105/22 Correspondence

The Clerk has forwarded on all correspondence via email prior to the meeting.

106/22 Finance

- a. **RESOLVED** – Unanimously that the budget analysis and bank reconciliation for April 2022 be approved

The Clerk noted that the £500 invoice for the Sparkwell Hall Jubilee celebrations was mistakenly missed off the finance report. The reports will be updated to reflect the payment.

RESOLVED – Agreed unanimously that the £500 donation to Sparkwell Hall be added to April bank reconciliation reports for it to be paid with the other invoices this month.

Cllr Peacham also requested that Hemerdon Hall be given a donation of £250 towards the Jubilee celebrations.

RESOLVED – Agreed unanimously that Hemerdon Hall will be given £250 towards the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations.

107/22 Payments and Receipts

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for April 2022

108/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **Sparkwell Parish Hall** on **14th June 2022** at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at 21.45

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date