

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on 13th June 2023 at Hemerdon Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Hartley, Serpell Denman, Lee, Hutton-Fellowes, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Hart (DCC), Andrew Nisbet (TW), Hayley Holt (TW), Cllr Patrick Nicholson, Cllr Chris Oram

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

043/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs May, Webb

044/23 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.

045/23 Declarations of Interest

None

046/23 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hart has updated Cllr Hartley on developments with the Lee Mill slip road. He is currently waiting to talk to Highways. Money needs to be found from another source – potentially the Levelling Up fund but this may prove difficult. County is working on the Devolution bid alongside the district councils. There have been numerous meetings to continue negotiations.

Cllr Hart also discussed that he has met with the new leadership for Plymouth and Torbay. They are anticipating benefit for housing – there could be £50 million or maybe more. Cllr Hart feels that whatever cash the county gets will be a bonus.

Also discussed was the issue of potholes. There is £9.4 million in the budget for potholes, which unfortunately only just covers the cost in inflation of tarmac. Cllr Hart has visited Smithleigh Farm and noted the road markings are not clear. DCC officials have been shown and are due to re-line the road.

Cllr Hartley asked Cllr Hart if a discussion can be had regarding the Lee Mill slip road and the design of it. Cllr Hart agreed and said he was more than happy to look at it again.

Cllr Hart left the meeting at 19.51

047/23 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Thomas sends his apologies for his absence and has provided this update via email;

Cllr Julian Brazil has been appointed as Leader of the Council for the four-year term from 2023/24 to 2026/27 and, with effect from May 25, he has made the following appointments to the Executive:

- Cllr Dan Thomas (Deputy Leader, with specific responsibility for Planning; Corporate Performance Oversight; Organisational; and Community Development);

- Cllr John McKay (Lead Executive Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity);
- Cllr John Birch (Lead Executive Member for Economic Development; Commercial Strategy; and Governance);
- Cllr Denise O’Callaghan (Lead Executive Member for Housing; Environmental Health; and Licensing);
- Cllr Victor Abbott (Lead Executive Member for Community Services; Operations and Leisure);
- Cllr Jacqi Hodgson (Lead Executive Member for Waste and Community Composting (working with the Leader)); and
- Cllr Nicky Hopwood (Lead Executive Member for Customer Service; Improvement; IT; and Digital Services (working with the Deputy Leader)).
- Cllr Hodgson is leader of the Greens and Cllr Hopwood leader of the Conservatives – while this certainly isn’t a coalition, it’s evidence that we are determined to bring all parties together for the good of the people of the South Hams.

The Government have recently announced the launch of Round 3 of the Community Ownership Fund. The window for applications opened on 31 May and will close on 12 July. The Community Ownership Fund provides capital and revenue grants to support community groups take ownership of community assets and amenities at risk of being lost such as community centres, parks, pubs and post office buildings. This round of funding has also made changes to make it easier for voluntary and community groups to apply for funding to acquire assets and run them for the benefit of the community. The changes include: reducing the match funding requirements for capital funds, increasing the amount of funding available from £250,000 to £1m and allowing town and parish councils to bid for funds in the same way as community groups. More information can be found at www.gov.uk/government/news/more-cash-to-rescue-community-assets-through-expanded-government-fund.

Pat Whymer (Head of Development Management at SHDC) has offered planning training at 6pm on the night of Thursday 20th July. It will last approximately 2 hours and will cover (amongst other topics) reasons why you can object (and reasons why you shouldn’t!) to an application, Construction Management Plans, Class Q applications and other Permitted Development. Councillors from Sparkwell, Yealmpton, Holbeton, Newton & Noss, Brixton and Wembury are invited: we will use the Community Centre in Yealmpton (PL8 2HF) as venue. It would be useful if you could let Sophie know if you plan to attend – I thoroughly recommend it as a very useful session. If you have any specific areas you would like covered which aren’t mentioned, please let me know.

ACTION – *Cllrs to inform Clerk if they wish to attend the Planning Training with Pat Whymer*

048/23 Public Forum

No public present

049/23 Hemerdon Mine

Andrew Nisbet and Hayley Holt from Tungsten West (TW) attended the SPC meeting to provide an update on this month’s developments at Hemerdon Mine.

Andrew informed the council that he has asked DCC if the variation to remove the tonnage cap requires an environmental impact assessment, which it does not. He says that they plan to remove the tonnage cap but still use the 50 lorry movements. They have entered a formal preapplication and are asking the opinion of all statutory consultees, Highways, Environmental Health, DCC and SPC. There will be opportunities to give opinions, which TW will then survey before submitting application. When they make the formal application, there will be another opportunity to make further comments. They currently have a meeting with DCC pencilled in for 22nd June with a follow up meeting after reviews. Submission will then be a couple of weeks afterwards. The Planning Application will take a maximum of 13 weeks so they plan to submit it asap (potentially first week of July). They will provide a further update at the July parish council meeting.

Cllr Hartley asked if there will be the same volume leaving the site over more days.

Andrew said they previously applied for 200 HGV movements per day leaving site, they are currently applying for 50 HGV movements per day with a maximum export tonnage of 150 tonnes. TW would like to remove the tonnage cap and replace with movements during specific hours.

Cllr Lee asked if the size of the trucks can be increased to allow more tonnage to be moved per day? Andrew said there is a standard size truck that TW use and that the size/width of the roads won't allow for an increase in size.

Cllr Hartley asked if following the recent redundancies at TW, have the resources been reallocated? Andrew said they have managed to save 7 or 8 jobs due to the LFN trials they are running.

Cllr Hartley also informed TW that SPC are planning to upload the minutes from the Local Liaison Group meetings onto the website. Andrew and Hayley agreed to this.

Andrew continued with an update on the LFN trial. TW are constructing a rigid enclosure around the screens to reduce LFN. They have run an industrial trial, which was met positively with the Environmental Agency. They will be running a single screen during the preliminary trials with mics surrounding the screen. Background noise will continue to be monitored. Various panels will be removed and the noise assessed to see the effect. Andrew says there is a LFN working group which people can join to obtain updates and information throughout the trial. Updates will be sent via email.

Cllr Hartley asked if they could increase the screen numbers despite just trialling 1 screen/enclosure? Andrew said every screen will need its own enclosure. EA will not give a permit unless they are satisfied. LFN and the impact it can have is better understood now. There will be conditions on the permit for the first 3 months, then the next 6 months, etc. If mitigations don't work as effectively as planned then additional mitigations will need to be introduced.

Cllr Lee asked if the screen they are trialling is a typical screen? Andrew said they are all very similar. It is a new screen and typical in size. The big screens are all decommissioned.

TW left the meeting at 19.24

050/23 Planning

- a. 1740/23/PST – SPC agree on the benefits of solar panels
- b. 1124/23/FUL – SPC will ask for conditions

051/23 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16th May 2023

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th May 2023 be approved and signed.

052/23 Climate Change and Biodiversity

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes updates the council on the wildlife projects within the parish. Last year she was able to obtain trees from a giveaway in Cornwood. Eight of the trees have been stored in a nursery and will be ready to plant once grown. There will be a damp boggy area for wildlife. The Scouts have been a great help with the project.

Cllr Lee asked if there are any ideas in how to stop the vandalism? Cllr Hutton-Fellowes said nothing at present. CCTV has been discussed but is dependent on cost. It has been disheartening to see the stakes and fence posts being pulled up.

053/23 P3 Scheme Footpaths

There are no current updates so item will be readdressed in September 2023.

054/23 Neighbourhood Planning

There are no current updates so item will be removed from agenda until further notice.

055/23 Road & Snow Warden

Cllr Hartley asks the councillors to encourage residents to use the relevant portals and reporting tools for potholes, etc.

056/23 Tree Warden

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes has noticed a dangerous tree in Sparkwell which is at a 45-degree angle with rot at the base. It is only supported by other trees so could soon give way.

ACTION – Clerk to inform Sparkwell Hall

057/23 Parish Assets (Bus Shelters, Benches, etc)

No update

058/23 Chairman's Business

Cllr Hartley has received a phone call from community group regarding the Yealm River working group.

059/23 Correspondence

- Clerk has contacted Peter Tanner Engineering to fix some faults in the play area at Bottle Park Lee Mill.

- Discussed the '20's Plenty for Devon' campaign. SPC wish to support it.
- Clerk has renewed the Parish Insurance with Zurich. Due to the previous policy lapsing, it was agreed via email prior to the meeting that the Clerk would arrange the insurance policy with Zurich. All details were sent to councillors and agreed prior to the meeting.

060/23 Finance

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for June 2023.
- b. i. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23
- ii. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Accounting Statements 2022/23
- iii. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Certificate for Exemption 2022/23

041/23 Payments and Receipts

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

042/23 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **Sparkwell Parish Hall** on **Tuesday 11th July 2023** at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at 20.19

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date