MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 13th February 2018 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

**Present** : Chairman Cllr Robin May

Cllrs – Julian Taylor, George Small, Ruth Pearson-Bunt, Graham Milford, Glenn Peacham, Andrew Ashley

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance** : Cllr John Hart (DCC) Cllr Ian Blackler (SHDC), Duke Harvey Dorton Group, Janine Banks Dorton Group, Damien Pemberton Facility Manager, Peter Williams QS – Dorton, Tony Fletcher Department Lead - Atkins Global, Ian McNeill WSP, Dr Clare Lee, x1 member of the public

**Apologies for Absence**: Cllr Baldry, Elaine Budd (Wolf Minerals)

**01/18 Police Business**

Not in attendance. Cllr Blacker reported that Sgt Woodward was not currently available.

**02/18 District Councillors Business**

Cllr Blacker reported to the Council:

1. TAP meetings have been held and grants made, applications were over-subscribed so grants had to be reduced. Sparkwell had been awarded £1,300 *(subsequently corrected to £1500).*
2. Planning fees earned so far have reached in excess of £120,000.
3. In future some toilets will be pay on entry.
4. SHDC has lost £5.5m in grants since 2010.
5. SHDC waste for burning goes to Plymouth.
6. In the 2018/19 Budget, re-investment in communities where large developments have occurred will be abolished.
7. At present 106 planning enforcements have been achieved with 324 still outstanding in the South Hams.
8. Planning decisions have been determined above target, showing a marked improvement.
9. On the Sherford development 104 houses have been sold with 270 nearing completion.
10. A drugs and alcohol task and finish group has been formed at SHDC.
11. There will possibly be a £5 increase on Council Tax in Tax band D.
12. The Council Tax Support given to Towns and Parishes will be reduced.

Cllr Ashley asked about the issue of the camp at Boringdon brought up at a previous meeting, specifically the promise to re-open. He said that no earthworks have been carried out. Cllr Blacker has been unable to find anything out on this but will investigate further.

The Clerk read out a note from Cllr Baldry:

1. Apologies for non-attendance.
2. With reference to the minutes of the December meeting, he supports the views of Cllrs Taylor and Small and is fighting the proposed 2019 closure of public lavatories. Closure is in his view immoral and a risk to public health.
3. The SHDC Executive Committee are proposing that in the 2018-19 budget the Community Re-investment Fund is abolished. If this is approved, there may not be another opportunity to apply.

**03/18 County Councillors Business**

Cllr Hart reported to the Council:

1. The budget will be settled on Thursday. The draft has gone through Cabinet with a £20M reduction. There will be an extra £13.5M put into adult services and £6M extra into children services. An additional amount of £6M will be put to drainage, patching and potholes. There will be a Council Tax increase of 4.99%.
2. DCC is part of a Business Rate pilot for one year with Districts, Plymouth and Torbay. The suggestion is that DCC could benefit to tune of £16.5M. Business Rates collected will have to support Torbay who get more government support than it gets in business rates. Plymouth will not need topping up. The amount of the benefit is at moment unknown so it does not appear in budget. £1M was put aside for rebates last year.
3. DCC is changing the name of the TAP Fund to Communities Together fund and making changes to the way the fund is run all of which will be explained in future. It will involve parishes crowdfunding and then DCC will match fund. There will be a year trial.
4. Every Councillor will keep £10K community fund with another £10K capital money on top for this year. This money has been clawed back from unspent money from airport fund.
5. He said that he had been doing some homework on the proposed development at Lee Mill. Plans had not yet been submitted to DCC. He had pulled out figures on usage of the junction at end of New Park Road and will talk at the planned residents meeting on 23rd March.

A member of the public said that they were waiting to hear from Gary Streeter on confirmation of date. Cllr May said that as many Parish Councillors as possible will also attend the meeting.

Cllr May said that he had been contacted by a resident with regard to roads and potholes; some had been repaired and some not. He expressed frustration that the work was due to be carried out in April of 2017, it had been marked out but the markings have now washed away and they were worse than ever. Cllr Hart said that they had changed contractors in April. He had seen the condition of the roads for himself this evening and felt they were a priority. He will check tomorrow and find out

Cllr Hart suggested that Councillors meet with the contractor and take them around the Parish and show them where spots are. He said he was surprised at the state of road and how bad potholes are. Roads were not repaired as well as previously particularly on drainage which is why more money is going in. Cllr May said that most potholes are now choked and there were particular problems at the hump back bridge. It means that there were now only two ways out of the village in heavy rain. Cllr Pearson-Bunt expressed concern about water on the roads and the problems on the railway bridge.

Cllr Hart said that notification had been sent out last week but he was not sure whether Sparkwell was on that list. He said that the contractors were running late and were now having to sub contract but that Government money was there to be spent. Cllr Hart will check on this.

Cllr Peacham said that the Hemerdon storm drain needs replacing and was due 12 months ago. Nothing had been heard on that either.

***Action*** *– The clerk will email Cllr Hart tomorrow requesting him to follow up potholes, resurfacing the whole road and the drain at Hemerdon.*

Cllr Small also expressed dissatisfaction at the state of the road.

1. Cllr Hart referred to the ash trees on the Green at Lee Mill – see Matters Arising below.
2. There had also been a previous complaint from the resident in the house on the other side of the green concerning the tree over hanging his garage. Cllr Hart had been informed that the resident had arranged for work to be carried out to remedy.

Cllr Hart then left the meeting.

**04/18 Open Forum**

* 1. Wolf Update – Cllr May read out the update which had been provided.

1. Further to discussions with both Google, Royal Mail and Ordnance Survey the only way to solve the issue with drivers using satellite navigation tools is to ensure that the various maps used are amended individually. The marker for the entrance has now been amended to the correct location on Google Maps and a request has been made to remove the historic office address at Plymouth Science Park to avoid confusion; EB has also requested update of profile photographs and other business information. Any drivers identified as having not taken advised route will result in a telephone call being made to the haulage company employing them to say not to use in future
2. Minutes of the Local Liaison Group Meeting that took place on 14th December 2017 were forwarded to the Chair and Parish Clerk
3. The PowerPoint Presentation given by the Environment Agency at the Public Meeting in October was forwarded to the Chair and Parish Clerk further to request at the meeting arranged to present the contents of the Noise Vibration Management Plan
4. Minutes of the Low Frequency Noise Working Group Meeting have been forwarded to the Chair and Parish Clerk together with technical appendices
5. Confirmation that the blasting exceedance on the 8th December was in fact an exceedance in Air Overpressure due to the weather conditions at the time of blasting – a full response by Toby White of Leicester University was forwarded to the Chair and Parish Clerk
6. EV vehicles driving through Hemerdon – further to enquiries it was confirmed to the Chair and Parish Clerk that EV vehicles (Environmental) are fairly regularly in Hemerdon for various monitoring purposes and not using Hemerdon as a short cut. Other department vehicles are marked MN and will be seen less frequently.
7. Dust Monitoring – The Chair and Parish Clerk were forwarded the most recent Dust Monitoring Reports.
8. The Noise and Vibration Management Plan has been agreed with the Environment Agency and contractual negotiations are now being finalised. The selection of the engineering solution is supported by reduction targets included within a Contract Guarantee and therefore forms part of the negotiations. As soon as a start date on site has been agreed the Parish Council will be informed. In the meantime, an application to Devon County Council is being prepared in relation to the revised cladding arrangements, and all the engineering preparations and supplier negotiations are continuing in order to enable a swift start once contracts have been finalised.
9. A Summary of the Noise and Vibration Management Plan is being produced and as soon that has been completed will be available via the Community Web Site.
10. Latest Reports The latest Dust Monitoring Report is attached and weekly blast reports are downloadable from the website.
11. Next Newsletter The next newsletter will be circulated shortly and includes details of a project with the local historian Chris Robinson.
12. Wolf has agreed to dispose of the rubber matting at the time of removal prior to work to avoid the removal cost quoted
13. EB is meeting with the Parish Hall Chair to discuss possible fundraising for improvements to the Hall ahead of the next Parish Hall Committee Meeting

Cllr May reported that he believed the recent blasts have been louder and that he will report this to Wolf.

* 1. Janine Banks of Dorton Group addressed the Council. She introduced Duke Harvey, Damien Pemberton, Peter Williams, Tony Fletcher and Ian McNeill. They had come to the meeting regarding their application for a proposed processing building and increased compound on the site of the existing waste facility and a landfill at Challonsleigh Farm, Smithaleigh.

They had previously attended Parish meetings to discuss this and that plans had been submitted to DCC before Christmas. They had arranged attendance at this meeting in the hope that the Parish would have information from DCC however this is not the case. She explained that they could present now or come back at another time when DCC had sent out the notice.

JB explained that the Plan is as before for building on the existing site. The objective is to make it more sophisticated and organise the site better. In terms of benefits starting with environmental, the benefits of landfill are that this is an important facility given what is going on in the area. There are reports covering ecology, flood, noise, air quality, landscaping, visual impact and archaeology. It is an archaeological site and trenching to identify what is there has resulted in the area being reduced.

Cllr May said that the Council had found previous the presentation interesting and were aware of what they were trying to do. The Council was happy with what had previously been presented. Dorton confirmed that nothing has changed, but the investigative work has gone to another level and that a full environmental statement had been produced. They had proceeded with the application as no show stoppers had been found.

Ian McNeill explained that the landfill site was taking soil from Sherford which would otherwise go to Mid/North Devon and Cornwall with the resulting impact on local roads. The new Sherford Drainage strategy could result in more spoil to be disposed of; it was difficult to achieve re-using the spoil onsite particularly with current weather conditions. The site would provide for the local area taking into account development in Sherford and Plymouth.

With regard to the impact on Smithaleigh, improvements to access were being discussed with DCC and Highways England.

They had looked at drainage off landfill during construction and end of the day drainage. There is no increase of flood risk up or down stream.

Ecology surveys on site had been undertaken which would maintain or better the position for species on site.

JB said that the consent is for 10 years, it is a temporary facility to respond to what is local in terms of the need. With regard to the visual impact, the perimeter bunding encased the site. Hedges will be replaced when the bunding comes down and returned to agriculture.

Cllr May said that the Council was happy with the positive controls and environment management. He asked that Dorton Group come back again once the application is proceeding and DCC have given their thinking.

Cllr Peacham asked what the volume was at the moment and what was projected after improvement. Inert landfill at the moment is zero, this is a new business. The expected annual phase over 10 years will be 500000 cubic metres, 800000 tonnes. Some will go for recycling and then inert landfill. They will blend the landfill in with the local topography.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt asked about the impact on traffic bearing in mind the proposal was for the lorries to go up to the Ivybridge roundabout and come back down again. She feared this was a pinch point. Ian McWilliam said that this was still the proposal. They believed that in the busy morning peak hour only x6 additional lorries would travel through that junction. The number of vehicles would be spread out through the day and not be a large number of vehicles in one hit. Cllrs Pearson-Bunt and Ashley expressed concern as this was a tight junction with 38 school buses going into Ivybridge and that traffic can back up onto A38 in the morning. Sympathetic phasing would be helpful.

Cllr Milford asked where the lorries would exit site? They will exit at the Smithaleigh junction “roundabout” turn right and go through the village. A small improvement to junction was being proposed.

c. Lee Mill Development – Cllr May said that this should be discussed within the Open Forum to give the member of the public present the opportunity to speak. All agreed. Cllr May said that he and the Council are not at all happy with the proposal.

The member of public said they were not happy with traffic report from DCC as they were using average speed limits. PlaceLands attitude to the road death is that it is irrelevant as it was over 5 years ago.

Cllr Ashley said that he had attended the consultation on Friday and left feeling very angry about the proposals. He felt that DCC is being complacent and when challenged they would not be drawn. He had asked them where the demand for housing was, price banding, the type of house reconciliation with Sherford bearing in mind that the properties there were not selling. There was no market demand analysis and no developer involved at the moment. The complete package will be sold on to a developer.

Cllr Taylor saying everyone attending the meeting on Friday had complained about traffic and facilities.

Cllr May encouraged as many as possible to attend the public meeting to show disapproval.

**05/18 Declarations of Interest**

None

**06/18** **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Pearson Bunt and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

**07/18 Matters Arising**

a. Ash Trees on the Green, Lee Mill– Cllr Hart had made enquiries and determined that the land on other side with 4 big ash trees is now DCC land. Highways had inspected and the trees had now been trimmed.

**08/18 Planning**

1. Demolition of an existing conservatory and new 2 storey extension at 24 Holly Berry Road. There are concerns as this appears to be a narrow site.

***Action*** *- Cllrs Taylor and Milford will do a site visit*

Cllr Pearson-Bunt expressed concern that there may sometimes be an issue on timing to get responses in to SHDC, particularly as there had been no meeting in January, but that Cllr Taylor had the endorsement to act on behalf of the Parish Council.

1. Application for two storey extension with minor alterations and soft landscaping 2 Moor View Cottages Venton

***Action*** *- Cllrs Taylor and Milford will do a site visit*

1. Extension and alterations to existing hotel, Welbeck Manor. The plans are for major changes, conversions and extensions including historic buildings. There was discussion on concerns around changes to the historic buildings and old house and whether there was any Listing. Cllr Taylor confirmed that there was no listing building application so it would appear not. There was no information on the increase in traffic which is a concern but this could be a condition of the application. It was a complex application.

***Action*** *- Cllrs Taylor and Milford will do a site visit*

Cllr Blackler asked Cllr Taylor to let him know his opinion for delegated rights on Committee.

Cllr Blackler then left the meeting.

1. Property on the road to Yealmpton, permission to put up new wall which would replace the old wall which has been taken down. No issues.
2. Cllr Taylor left the meeting so the application for the properties at The Paddock, Hemerdon could be discussed.

The original plan was for 3 houses but is now for 4 plus 2 parking spaces, alterations to site access, installation of a package treatment plant. The main issue is with the entrance which is a farm gate. A visibility display would not be suitable and Highways has said they will recommend refusal to the planning officer.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to the application on the basis of the placing of the entrance.

***Action*** *- Cllr Peacham will draft a response supporting the Highways Officer report and point out additional factors on parking to be brought to the attention of the Planning Officer.*

Cllr Taylor returned to the meeting.

**09/18 Road & Snow Warden**

Cllr Peacham reported that a ton of salt had been delivered and there are x4 yellow boxes that need to be located.

***Action*** *- Cllr May will speak to the Parish Hall. Cllrs Taylor and Milford will check whether a box should be located in Lee Mill.*

Cllr May said that he had received a complaint with regard to the shoddy repair that had been carried out. Cllr Peacham said that any issues should be reported to him so he could report it using the DCC system/website.

**10/18 Tap Fund and Grant Funding**

a. Community Re-Investment Projects (Cllr Ashley) - *carry forward to next meeting.*

b. We had been awarded £1,300 TAP funding which would be enough to train x2 volunteers and equipment for brush cutting (later confirmed at £1500)

***Action*** *– Cllr Peacham to arrange training and equipment*

**11/18 Policies**

a. New H&S Policy for approval. Unanimously accepted

**12/18 Chairman’s Business**

a. Cllr May had attended a meeting in the Village hall. Residents wanted to tidy up the village, planting etc. There were a few issues and they were asking for Parish Council help. With regard to the bus stop, everyone stands on the opposite side of the road which is a boggy mess and needs paving slabs. Unsure who owns the ground, perhaps Welbeck? Cllr Small said that this has been raised previously but it was not dealt with.

***Action*** *– Cllr May to speak to the owner of the Lodge and ask Blue Cedar to put some slabs there for benefit of community*

b. They want to tidy up the area by the football field and the fence. Does the land and fence belong to football field? Can they get rid of fence? Cllr Pearson-Bunt said she believed that part of the land belongs to school and some to DCC, the wooden fence which is in a very bad condition is the demarcation. There had been previous discussion at the school and the Trustees of School were going to refurbish. It is believed that there is knotweed so caution is needed.

***Action*** *- Cllr May to speak to the school and ask when this is going to be done. Perhaps get the village together with the school.*

d. Residents want to put seats by the park but questioned who owns the land? Cllrs Pearson-Bunt and Small confirmed that the Parish Hall owns the land so there would be no issue with that.

c. Cllr Small had been asked to raise a questions on VAT for the village hall. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council can only claim VAT on items purchased by the PC.

e. Lee Mill Playgroup had contacted Cllr May asking whether we had any money available. Cllr May had asked them to send more details so it can be considered at next month’s meeting.

f. The Clerk asked for Register of Interest forms (if changes).

g. The Clerk informed that the format for Minute number would be changing for 2018.

**13/18 Correspondence**

During the past month, the following correspondence has been received by the Clerk: -

a. Cllr Milford left the room

Planning Enforcement – Alleged breach of planning at Cherrytrees, Hemerdon

From an inspection of the approved plans the complainant has advised that an investigation is not now required as no breach of planning control is believed to have occurred.

Cllr Milford returned to the room.

b. Planning Enforcement - Alleged Unauthorised Engineering Works at Goodamoor Farm, Ledgate Lane, Sparkwell

A site inspection reveals that the position of the approved buildings was on steeply sloping ground requiring a considerable amount of fill and that the works taking place to provide a level ground area was in the correct location on the farm. Accordingly there has been no breach of planning control and this case can therefore now be closed.

c. Planning Enforcement - Alleged Unauthorised Breach of Planning Conditions 0326/17/FULAt: "Development Site At Sx568563", Beechwood Way, Langage Business Park, Plympton

The encroachment onto a public footpath of any earth mounded during construction works on the adjacent site is temporary in nature and is a matter most appropriately resolved by the Public Rights of Way officer. A site inspection shows that access is still achievable and that temporary fencing has been put in place to clearly define the footpath. Given these considerations there is not currently considered to be any breach of planning control and this case shall therefore now be closed.

d. FOI request from PETA regarding veterinary reports on the Zoo – we do not hold this information.

e. An application from Dr Clare Lee to join the Parish Council. Dr Lee was in attendance so the meeting was suspended to interview.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt proposed to co-opt seconded by Cllr Taylor. Unanimous vote in favour, Dr Lee duly appointed.

**14/18 Finance**

1. The Clerk provided the budget analysis and bank reconciliation for December 2017 and January 2018

b. Virements – the Clerk asked for approval to vire £100 from the Printing budget, £30 from Admin and £45 from Postage to cover the shortfall in the Salary budget due to a temporary increase in Clerk hours.

Vire from £31 from the Transparency funding to use for shortfall in Equipment budget for the purchase of a laptop

Unanimous agreement

c. The Clerk had been contacted by P Honeywell with regard to the annual invoice for £230 for bus shelter cleaning in Lee Mill and whether the Council wanted this to continue in 2018.

***Action*** *– Clerk to contact P Honeywell for clarification for frequency and what cleaning is done.*

c. Precept Demand has been submitted

d. VAT Claim submitted £648.5

e. Banking arrangements – after discussion it was agreed that Sparkwell Parish Council should look to change their Bank from NatWest to Lloyds/TSB. This is because Lloyds/TSB are better able to provide online banking procedures which would allow sufficient financial safeguards.

***Action*** *– Clerk to Bank to make necessary arrangements and report at next meeting*

**15/18 Payments and Receipts**

a. Clerk Salary - £487.15 (Dec 17 and Jan 18)

b. Clerk expenses - £ 438.04 laptop, software, stationery, postage and travel

c. Payroll4Business - £20 (Dec 17 and Jan 18)

d. Sparkwell Parish Hall - £96.00 June/Dec 2017

**16/18**

Cllr May said that he would like to discuss LFN. He had attended the LFN Meeting and there should be a solution but that is 9 months away. He is now suffering from the effects himself and the situation is not getting any better. There were several experts at the meeting who went through the process of finding a solution The company who got the job identified 3 of the 4 solutions; they guaranteed a reduction of 10db on the LFN and were willing to write that into the contract and keep coming back until they fixed the problems. It is a Canadian company with a very good success rate. Solutions included insulating the building and also more stiffening, there were issues with where conveyors came in and needed that needed sealing as well the height of the building. Although the solution is a way away, this is good progress. Work carried out in the past is of no use.. General noise as well as LFN should be improved. Cllr May said that he was impressed with the new management set up at the mine and what they are now doing and involving the Parish Council.

Cllr Taylor had a notice for the new housing Fairway Gardens golf course.

***Action*** *– Clerk to put the notice on the website.*

**17/18 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 20th March at Sparkwell Parish Hall commencing at 7.00pm. This is the third Tuesday of the month and is due to the Clerk not being available.

Meeting closed at 9.52pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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