

# MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

**Present:** Cllrs May, Millford, McEwing and Lee  
Sophie Jones (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Alex Dawson (Tungsten West), Max Dennings (Tungsten West), Catherine Bookless-Browne, Andy Hartley

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

### **146/21 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Peacham, Cllr Pearson-Bunt, Cllr Harvey, Cllr Webb, Cllr Hart, Cllr Baldry

*In absence of Chairman and Vice-Chair, Cllr Lee nominated Cllr May as Chairman which was agreed by unanimous vote.*

### **147/21 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.

### **148/21 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **149/21 County Councillor's Report**

Report from Cllr Hart read out by Clerk:

Covid has not gone away, there has been a reduction of cases over the last six weeks but Devon is still hovering at the national average. Large increase in numbers of young people and some are then taking Covid home to their parents. Numbers in hospitals are low and even lower in Intensive Care. Please be careful and get your booster jab and Flu jab when offered.

Devon is putting together a bid to Government for more powers and responsibilities.

Working with our Town and Parish Councils, Dartmoor National Park, the eight District Councils, Plymouth and Torbay. In other words, the whole of the county of Devon. We have already pointed out to Government that this group of councils are three times the size of Bristol and represent the largest grouping of people in the South West. We have already had a meeting with Civil Servants and are now waiting for an invitation to meet up with Ministers.

Devon has now received our first Afghan Refugees. They are staying in hotels in Exmouth. This is a transit site as they are gradually being rehoused around the country.

Officers are drafting a planning application for the new Lee Mill slip road. The Public consultation was very supportive for the scheme. We then have to find the money to do it.

### **150/21 District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Thomas reports of behalf of Cllr Baldry that the waste and recycling contract is the biggest talking point in the parish, with many mistakes still being made. SHDC are willing to

get vans out three times a week to ensure all bins are collected if necessary. They have visited Chelson Meadow and can see it is an effective method of recycling with South Hams recycling being eight times less contaminated than Plymouth (where they use just one bin). Cllr Thomas asks that the Parishioners still let SHDC if there are any problems. FCC are being charged for every error they make.

Cllr Thomas also reports that Lowdamoor Planning is being rejected but it may go to appeal. The issues that Larch Grove are having are currently being investigated by the Enforcement Agency. A full planning application will be submitted for YGS's change of use.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 19.15

### **151/21 Public Forum**

Andy Hartley has asked SPC if the ground by the bus shelter at Lee Mill can be maintained and planted. Currently has twelve residents willing to help. The public liability needs to be renewed, which covers the grass cutting.

**RESOLVED** – Unanimously approved by all Councillors.

### **152/21 Hemerdon Mine**

Alex Dawson updates the Council on Tungsten West. The Feasibility study for a mine restart has gone well. Max Denning and team have worked hard to get mine refinanced which is looking to be successful and should be approved by end of October 2021. There will be a period of rebuild needed which is expected to take nine months. Followed by three months dry commissioning and three months wet commissioning. Expected to have full main production by quarter one 2023. Will be going to market for hiring employees and appointing a contractor to run CDM operations.

Regarding the environmental perspective, TW are still maintaining the standards set from the onsite environmental permits. They have appointed a new Senior Environmental Officer to take the lead on permits.

TW have two bespoke environmental planning applications, modified to include waste. These are available on Citizens Space if Parishioners want to view or leave any comments. Questions go directly to Alex, which he will be happy to answer.

Max says the message is rebuild and restart. TW and SPC need to be closer than ever in terms of communication. He understands the anxiety that the mine restart and low frequency noise may bring and will try to appease it.

Alex says they will run public consultation meetings when subject matter arises to provide narrative to community.

Cllr McEwing asks if they are aware of the Wind Turbine project and if TW are involved in it?

Max says Devon Energy Collective have told them about the project but it's a very separate entity to them. TW will drive dialogue on the mine, and DEC will drive dialogue on community wind farm.

Max and Alex left meeting at 19.56

### **153/21 Community Fibre**

Report from Cllr Pearson-Bunt and read out by Clerk:

I can report that (i) all except 3 core DCMS voucher properties have been connected now (out of the original 41 required) and that (after a lot of nagging) DCMS have given a six-month extension to the redemption period to allow the technical difficulties affecting these properties to be resolved. Hopefully, this will allow the vouchers to be redeemed during that period and the whole scheme to be fully funded. (ii) The fallen tree in the village continues to be an issue as the current tenant is refusing access. Once access is granted this should allow 9 properties in the Birchland area to be connected. With the exception of these two items, we are advised by Openreach that Sparkwell village is fibre to the premises (FTTP) ready and all properties in the village centre can now apply for a connection and access enhanced speeds. This is done by going to a price comparison site and entering into an appropriate contract with a contractor to install the connection.

## **154/21      Climate Change**

- a. Cllr McEwing updated the council on the Wildlife Initiative. She says the Big Green Week meetings went well and had lots of interest in clearing laurel by Sparkwell Parish Hall to create better environment for future planting. Also, there is potential to approach with the same idea for Tin Woods. Asks if Sparkwell Parish Council will agree to do initial stages and then create a working group. Dave Kernow has offered his time freely to assist.

**RESOLVED** – Unanimously approved by all Councillors

Cllr McEwing would like to paint more hedgehog signs. Currently completed two but will paint three more. Cllr McEwing has asked if she could use reflective paint to enable signs to be seen at night. Also, varnish is needed to help prevent signs from fading or weather damage. The reflective paint is £40 and the varnish is £40.

**RESOLVED** – Unanimously approved by all Councillors

Cllr McEwing has been approached by Tim Clewer from Shaugh Prior regarding the Green Drinks Project and if anyone is interested in joining. It involves monthly meetings to discuss green/wildlife initiatives. Any interest to see website [www.transitiontavistock.org.uk/events/green-drinks/](http://www.transitiontavistock.org.uk/events/green-drinks/)

Also, Cllr McEwing has reported on the Wind Turbine farm. A steering group may be created, with ideally two people from Sparkwell, two people from Shaugh Prior and two people from Cornwood - not necessarily people from council.

Clerk read out report from Cllr Peacham regarding Climate Change and Biodiversity:

I attended a Zoom Meeting for an update on the project which is to clean up the River Yealm system from its source, Lee Moor Clay Pits to Noss Mayo. The project is still in early stages but progressing led by Devon River Authority. The scheme is to create a wildlife corridor throughout its length, both in the water and for some 150m either side of its bank. Water quality in most of the river system is rated as "red and declining" by the EA due to Sewage discharges and runoff from agriculture, etc. Its ecosystem is rated as poor and at risk due to a whole host of reasons. It's an ambitious scheme and will take several years to develop but it is moving forward. I'll keep a watching brief on it.

- b. To be moved to next month's meeting

- c. To be moved to next month's meeting

**155/21 Neighbourhood Planning**

Nothing to report

**156/21 Newnham Solar CIC**

To be moved to next month's agenda

**157/21 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**RESOLVED** - unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved and signed

**158/21 Planning**

- a. Planning Application Ref: 3444/21/FUL Comments by 14 Oct-21

Applicant Name: Mr P Davies – Advanced Medical Solutions

Description: Proposed rear extension to manufacturing facility to create additional warehouse space. Proposed modifications to landscaping, external footpaths, and drainage provisions to suit new extensions.

Address: Advanced Medical Solutions Ltd Western Wood Way Langage Business Park Plympton PL7 5BG

**RESOLVED** – Unanimous vote to support

Cllr May and Catherine Bookless-Browne left meeting at 20.34.

- b. Planning Application Ref: 3227/21/CLE Comments by 21 Oct-21

Applicant Name: Mr Steven Rendle

Description: Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of agricultural building as a dwellinghouse

Address: Goodamoor Farm Sparkwell PL7 5FB

**RESOLVED** – Objection on deliberate concealment

Cllr May and Catherine Bookless-Browne re-joined meeting.

**159/21 Road and Snow Warden**

Nothing to update

**160/21 Chairman's Business**

Cllr May has been in talks with Cllr Peacham regarding the EA Facebook announcement.

**RESOLVED** – All Councillors happy with announcement

**ACTION** - Clerk to put on Facebook day following meeting.

### **161/21 Correspondence**

1. Ongoing issues in Larch Grove with YGS – damage to wall by lorry. Forwarded to SHDC who are chasing EA. Cllr Thomas also gave update at meeting.
2. Poppy wreath – Clerk will purchase same as previous years. Standard wreath with SPC logo in centre. It's £37.40 including postage.

**RESOLVED** – unanimously agreed by all councillors

**ACTION** – Clerk will order poppy wreath

3. Bottle Park – Mr Goodridge would like to plant a memorial tree in Bottle Park, in memory of his wife. He is hoping to have a service on 29<sup>th</sup> October as this would have been their anniversary.

**ACTION** – To obtain more information regarding costs, etc.

### **162/21 Finance**

- a. All approved.

### **163/21 Payments and Receipts**

Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for September 2021

### **164/21 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in Hemerdon Hall

Meeting closed at 20.55

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

Name ..... Date .....