

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 10th January 2023 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Peacham, Pearson-Bunt, May, Millford, Hutton-Fellowes, Serpell Denman, Webb, Lee, McEwing, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Thomas (SHDC)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

208/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Hartley, Harvey

209/22 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.

210/22 Declarations of Interest

None

211/22 County Councillor's Report

No update

212/22 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Thomas informed the council that there is some Locality Fund money available which needs to be spent by March 2023. It can be spent on anything with a clear and local benefit. Requests need to be emailed to Cllr Baldry and Cllr Thomas. If they support the idea, they will then progress it on to the next stage of the application.

213/22 Public Forum

No public present

214/22 Hemerdon Mine

There were no representatives from Hemerdon Mine at the meeting.

Cllr May discusses the recent Permit Applications from TW. A briefing note was distributed but there are several changes with no mention of a public consultation. SPC are concerned that the short time frame given for comments to be made is not enough to adequately process the briefing and give an appropriate response. There are concerns that the public may not be aware of the permit applications.

ACTION – Clerk to write to EA requesting an extension to the consultation period.

Regarding tree planting, Cllr Peacham says there was a meeting due prior to Christmas. There have been suggestions to form a community run area for tree planting but there may not be enough community support and volunteers.

215/22 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on 13th December 2022

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th December 2022 be approved and signed.

216/22 Climate Change and Biodiversity

a. Cllr McEwing updated the council on the progress at Sparkwell woods. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will prepare a map of the woods, and they have arranged for a contractor to tidy up the area.

Cllr Peacham has been invited to a monthly 'Green Drinks' meeting. The group currently meet in other parishes and have offered to meet within Sparkwell/Hemerdon too. Cllrs decided it'd be best to revisit the idea at a later date when the agenda isn't as full.

i. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes has obtained a quote of £50 to fix the bench at the bottom of Birchlands.

RESOLVED – All agreed to instruct contractor to fix bench for £50

b. Revisit at next meeting

c. No updates from Cllr Harvey

d. Revisit at next meeting

217/22 P3 Scheme Footpaths

Cllr McEwing has arranged to meet with a contractor to show him the trees/hedges that need to cut on paths 6, 27 and 35. Ros Davies will complete any repairs.

218/22 Neighbourhood Planning

No update

219/22 Road & Snow Warden

Cllr Harvey has delivered more salt.

The councillors discussed the recent flooding within the parish. The sign on the bridge where the flooding is present isn't calibrated correctly. The sign is misleading as the '0' doesn't truly represent the ground so doesn't accurately show the depth of the water. Cllr Peacham says that DCC/Highways are responsible for the sign.

ACTION – Clerk to write to Nick Coulton to inform him of the flood and incorrect sign

Cllr Peacham also suggests filming the flooding as it's happening to get it investigated properly and figure out the root cause. Cllr Pearson-Bunt wonders if residents can flag up where they know of flooding so that a map can be built. She also suggests the idea of building soakaways.

ACTION – Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will speak to a local resident on Facebook to see if they are able to record the flooding in progress.

300/22 Tree Warden

No update

Cllr May left the meeting at 20.30

301/22 Parish Assets (Bus Shelters, Benches, etc)

No update

302/22 Planning

- a. 4247/22/FUL: Reject
- b. DCC/4328/2022: No Objection
- c. 4203/22/FUL: SPC have decided the EA need to determine the impact of the application thoroughly.
- d. 4379/22/VAR: No Comment

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 21.17

303/22 Chairman's Business

No update

304/22 Correspondence

The Clerk discussed that the window cleaner's fees have been requested for the oncoming year. SPC have asked Clerk to discuss with Cllr Hartley at Lee Mill prior to approving window cleaning service.

Cllr Pearson-Bunt has been co-opted as a board member of DALC.

Cllr Millford has requested Highways to remove signs they are currently storing at a local bus stop as no one can access it.

305/22 Finance

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the draft budget for 2023/24
- b. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the precept demand for 2023/24
- c. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for December 2022.

306/22 Payments and Receipts

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

307/22 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **Hemerdon Village Hall** on **Tuesday 14th February 2023** at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at 21.50pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date