MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 11th June 2019 at Hemerdon Village Hall

**Present**: Cllrs May, Taylor, Lee, Small

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance**: Cllr Hart (DCC), Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Matt Barrow (Connecting Devon & Somerset “CDS”)

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

**090/19 Apologies for Absence**

PCSO Di Summers, Cllr Peacham, Cllr Pearson-Bunt, Cllr Milford, Cllr Baldry

**Resolved** that the apologies be noted.

**091/19 Agreement of the Agenda between Parts I and II.**

Councillors noted that two items of business would be considered in Part II of the meeting.

**092/19 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**093/19 Police Business**

Apologies had been received but a report had been supplied which the Clerk read out (see attached)

**094/19 District Councillors Business**

Cllr Thomas delivered a report from Cllr Baldry:

1. Apologies for not being at the meeting
2. South Hams DC has held its annual meeting and at that meeting appointments to Council positions and committees took place
3. Cllr Rosemary Rowe was elected as Council Chairman for the year
4. Cllr Judy Pearce (Con) was elected as Council Leader for 4 years to replace Cllr John Tucker who did not stand for re-election to SHDC
5. The political composition of the Council is 16 Conservatives, 10 Liberal Democrats, 3 Green Party and 2 Independents
6. Cllr Julian Brazil (LD ) was elected as Chairman of Development Management, Cllr John Birch (LD) as Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny
7. He has been invited and have accepted a place on the Executive with the Environment portfolio. He remains Leader of the Opposition. He has it that he will not accept collective Executive responsibility and retains the right to oppose decisions where he considers it necessary. This is unusual but not unique

The Chairman asked that congratulations be passed on to Cllr Baldry.

1. Out of the newly elected Council 10 of the 31 councillors are new, including Dan Thomas. A turnover of one third is unusual. There has been an extensive programme of training, which continues
2. At this week’s Executive meeting the main item was Climate change. SHDC declared a Climate Change emergency. An action plan will developed and South Hams will work with other Devon Councils including Devon CC and Plymouth to address the emergency.
3. Cllr Thomas thanked residents for their votes and said that he has joined Social media groups for the Parish
4. He is keen to help wherever he can.

The Clerk raised the question of missed refuse collections in Lee Mill, specifically towards the bottom of New Park Road. He will look into this. Cllr Taylor said this could be caused by the fact that the bins had to be left in an alleyway and that new crews might not be aware.

Cllr Small raised an issue about refuse lorry drivers. His understanding is that vehicles must not be left unattended. It has been reported to Cllr Small that lorry drivers have been seen getting out of the vehicles and leaving the engines running. Cllr Thomas will raise this.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting.

**095/19 County Councillors Business**

Cllr Hart reported:

1. The Climate Change Declaration will be approved and circulated within the next few days; 11 authorities have signed up. It is now being fronted by the Deputy Chief Constable and they will be using the Gold Command communication system so that if there is an emergency, then it can be co-ordinated easily.
2. More protests are expected and Cllr Hart is endeavouring to meet with the groups to open dialogue and explain what DCC is doing, which is a lot
3. They have reduced hedge cutting to only visibility splays to help the wildlife.

It was said that the hedges at the Hemerdon junction ware still causing a problem with visibility.

1. Hemerdon Mine. Someone is putting up money to do a due diligence examination of the minerals and systems to see whether they can make a viable go of it. Cllr Hart has been to the site and is impressed with how much work has been carried out. They also demonstrated what they intended to do if there is any further problem with dust.

Cllr May said that any organisation must be aware that they need to resolve the LFN problem; he wouldn’t expect Environment Agency to allow them to start any operation without putting the remedies in place.

1. Lee Mill new road – DCC now owns the land so they will be able to do something, but it will take time to plan.

**096/19 Open Forum**

1. Wolf Update – The Clerk had been in touch with Sue Penaluna (DCC) who said that the meeting will be arranged but that she needs to be able to advise us properly about what’s happening and things remain uncertain for now. She has a meeting this week and will report back to us as soon as possible.

Cllr Hart left the meeting.

**097/19 Matters Arising**

1. 058/19 – Broadband

Cllr May welcomed Matt Barrow to the meeting. MB explained that CDS is a partnership between DCC, Somerset CC, Torbay, some districts, Bath & North East and North Somerset. They work with government using tax payers money to bring superfast broadband of 30mg per second and above to areas that wouldn’t otherwise get it commercially. They are not allowed to use taxpayers money to shore up commercial providers such as BT, Virgin etc.

Some areas are deemed as commercially viable and others are not viable. The M5 is fine, as is Plymouth and Torbay, while the rest of region is theirs.

For Phase 1 they contracted with BT and paid to implement fibre optic technology in non-commercial areas. This is good technology as it goes to the cabinet not to the property.

However in more rural areas there is a problem as the speed gets worse over distance. 30mg per second is arbitrary and it is what they are working towards, however 1.2km from the cabinet you would drop below that speed.

Phase 1 enabled 330,000 properties to get superfast broadband using that technology. Towards the end of the programme, the solution was not working well as properties were too far away from the cabinet and beyond 1.8km, the speed drops off completely.

Phase 2 covers Dartmoor and Exmoor and this contract has been given to Airband who deliver a wireless signal rather than a physical connection. There may be some properties in the south of the parish where the contract is with Gigaclear.

The information he has suggests that the parish is absolutely fine but he guesses as he has been invited to the meeting, that this may not the case!

Hemerdon should be between 14/30mg from BT, although a few properties may not be covered. Sparkwell, apart from small number of properties north east of the village, is covered by Airband. He wanted to know what the reality is.

Feedback to MB included:

* Cllr Lee said that her BT line is exceedingly slow and has had no contact from Airband
* Cllr May lives a little way from a cabinet but not 1.2km and the signal is bad; the Airband mast is at the top of the hill on the edge of the quarry but he had not heard anything from them
* The Zoo uses Airband but it doesn’t work on occasion and there are pockets of no signal. There is no alternative

It would appear that Airband have gone into Sparkwell but have not informed residents about their service.

MB stated that the BT connection is unlikely to be improved so Airband is the best option. The masts must be in the line of sight, and there are several in the area.

Some more rural areas are then less attractive to providers and if it is proved that Sparkwell is unreachable, then it will be removed from the open market review and go back in to play They have worked with individual communities to come up with solutions.

***Action –*** *MB will talk to the Airband**Community Ambassador**to raise the issue. Information can be sent via the PC who can circulate to the village using the Parish Pump and Facebook page.*

*There are other individual properties which are not marked as being included so it may be that they could use a Better Broad band Scheme voucher for up to £500 for equipment and installation of short term solution. MB will send a link to apply.*

The Chairman thanked MB for his time and the information he had given and MB then left the meeting.

1. 080/19 – speeding traffic. The Clerk had contacted the Police after the last meeting, refer to Police report.

**098/19 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 14th May 2019

**Resolved** **unanimously** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th May 2019 be approved.

**099/19 Councillor Responsibilities**

Councillors considered the Councillor Responsibilities discussed at previous meetings and circulated by the Clerk.

**Resolved** to adopt the Responsibilities as published.

**100/19 Draft Publication Scheme**

Councillors considered the draft Publication Scheme circulated by the Clerk.

**Resolved** to adopt the Draft Publication Scheme.

**101/19 Planning**

Cllr May left the room

1. Planning appeal APP/K1128/W/18/3216796   
   Appeal against the rejection of a Permission In Principle application from Mr and Mr R May to build three homes.

The Parish Council had supported the application originally and supports the Appeal.

Cllr May returned to the meeting.

1. Planning Application Ref: 1441/19/HHO Applicant Name: Ms Dawn Occleshaw Description: Householder application for construction of garage  
   Address: Florence Cottage Western Row Hemerdon PL7 5BU

**Resolved** to object to the application on the basis that

* the site already has two additional parking spaces with good access without impacting on views from cottages opposite
* the addition of two garages will turn the ‘meadow’ aspect of the field and adjacent garden into a vehicle park for four cars or vans
* the garages will project above the level of the ancient stone hedge bank with a negative impact on the view of the eastern side of the site
* in addition the location of the garages appears to block the development of the viewing splays yet to be completed for the adjacent four dwellings development in accordance with a DCC Highways Order.

1. Planning Application Ref: 1284/19/FUL   
   Applicant Name: Woodside Animal Welfare Trust

Description: Formation of night-staff flat at roof level over existing building

Address: Woodside Animal Welfare Trust Plympton PL7 5ED

**Resolved** to support the application.

**102/99 Road & Snow Warden**

Nothing to report.

**103/99 Chairman’s Business**

None

**104/99 Correspondence**

1. Highways England regarding A38 Smithaleigh rock face stabilisation works (eastbound). 17th June to 18th October 2019.

**105/99 Audit**

Councillors considered the Internal Audit report and observations.  
The only observation is that we did not approve the Annual Governance Statement last year (for 2017/18), which should have been done before approving the statement of accounts. We did do so but it wasn’t minuted properly. We have done so for this year at the last meeting and it has been minuted clearly.

**106/99 Finance**

1. Investment Strategy – Councillors considered the Investment Strategy and **Resolved** to approve.
2. Nat West Bank accounts – transfer of deposit to current account

**Resolved** to approve the transfer of the deposit account funds to the current account. Form signed by Nat West signatories.

1. The Clerk had submitted the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for May 2019

**Resolved** that the reports be approved.

**107/99 Payments and Receipts**

1. Payments list

**Resolved** that the report be approved.

**108/99 Date of next meeting** -

The next meeting will be held on the 9th July 2019 at 7pm at Sparkwell Parish Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.41pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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



**SPARKWELL PARISH POLICE CRIME REPORT**

**May 2019**

**Crimes;** 2

06/05 – Hemerdon – Assault ABH – currently under investigation.

24/05 – Hemerdon – Owner / person in charge of dog out of control, delivery driver suffered a bite to the thigh – under investigation.

Speed Monitoring

We will be out monitoring the traffic at different times and locations due to Speed being an issue through the villages. One was completed at approx. 1400hrs at Sparkwell one afternoon, in the hour a good number of vehicles passed none were over 30mph and the majority were at 20mph. 20mph is not enforceable it is an advisory limit.

**Social media messages-**

Have a question? Need an immediate response? Use: WebChat!

WebChat is an online service where you can talk directly to our contact centre staff; just the same as calling us.

WebChat allows you to ask us a question or receive updates on existing crime reports, all at your own convenience.

Simply visit [www.dc.police.uk](http://www.dc.police.uk) and click on the WebChat icon to begin chatting to a member of our call centre staff.

Why call when you don’t have to?

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