

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 12th March 2024 at Hemerdon Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Hartley, May, Nicholson, Lee, Hutton-Fellowes, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Edie (SHDC), Marica Lyndon (TW)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

037/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Serpell Denman, Webb

038/24 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.

039/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

040/24 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hart was not present at the meeting.

041/24 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie presented the monthly update from SHDC. There is a consultation on designated bathing waters in which 27 new sites have been proposed by the government, including 5 in South Hams. They are; Coastguards Beach (River Erme), River Dart at Dittisham, River Dart at Steamer Quay (Totnes), River Dart at Stoke Gabriel and River Dart at Warfleet (Dartmouth). You can have your say on these proposals online.

Cllr Edie also discussed the South Hams Community Awards, and encouraged the community to nominate their chosen individual, group and/or organisation.

It was also noted that there haven't been many applications for the Local Allocation Fund. There is still money available which they would like to see dispersed evenly throughout the community.

Cllr Edie mentioned that he'd been contacted by Sparkwell Hall to resurface their car park.

Cllr Edie left the meeting at 19.31

042/24 Public Forum

No public present.

043/24 Hemerdon Mine

Marica updated the SPC on developments at Tungsten West. They have submitted final comments to the Environment Agency for the Mine Processing Facility. They are on schedule for the public consultation on the 18th March 2024, which begins the 6 week consultation period. The EA are producing a short video on comments and reasoning which will be available for everyone.

Regarding the Hydrogen Pipeline, TW have submitted a hold and objection. They can't say if they are for or against the proposal as they need further information before submitting a comment.

Community-wise, TW are holding 2-hour coffee mornings at Hemerdon, Sparkwell, Plympton, Cornwood and Shaugh Prior. Parishioners are invited to pop in and ask TW any questions they may have.

Marica also noted that they have a huge number of laptops available which residents can apply for and receive for free. They are also looking at initiatives to generate community gardens, veggie plots, etc. These initiatives will be discussed at the coffee mornings, and any locations of the land available will be brought to the next SPC meeting.

Marica also mentioned that TW will be opening up the site to schools, bringing people in for visits, educational pieces, etc.

Cllr May asked if they are still on target to be up and running in Q2 of 2025. Marica said that they are, and that they are ahead of schedule in some ways. TW must start from scratch and get staff back onsite. A lot of staff were lost regrettably.

Regarding the next steps, there will be 4 weeks deliberating after the public consultation, which brings them to mid to late May. There will then be a feasibility study throughout the summer. The LLG meetings are also restarting in April 2024. Cllr May confirms that he and Cllr Hartley will be attending.

Marica left the meeting at 19.46

044/24 Planning

a.4241/23/FUL – SPC previous comments stand.

b.4242/23/HHO – No comments.

045/24 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 13th February 2024

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2024 be approved and signed.

046/24 Climate Change and Biodiversity

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes has been forced to put a hold on renovating Smugglers Copse to make it an area of biodiversity due to the proposal of a sports facility. SPC won't fund the woodland for the foreseeable future, or the proposal for the site.

There is a YEM Annual Meeting on Saturday morning which Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will be attending. There will be an update on the project. There are 2 new sampling spots within the parish which Cllr Hutton-Fellowes visited with Julia Bertrum.

ACTION – *Cllr Hutton-Fellowes to discuss a recent funding request of £595 for a Fly Survey with the YEM project.*

047/24 Road & Snow Warden

No updates

048/24 Tree Warden

No updates

049/24 Parish Assets (Bus Shelters, Benches, etc)

It was noted SPC are ceasing the window cleaning of the bus shelter in Lee Mill.

050/24 Boringdon Camp

The Cllrs expressed a desire to reopen the site to the public.

ACTIONS – *Clerk to find out if the site has been transferred to SPC.*

051/24 Chairman's Business

Cllr Hartley informed Cllrs that he has agreed to represent SPC on the Newnham Solar Community Interest Company as a Director. He has also submitted a grant into the CIC for solar panels to be installed on Lee Mill Bus Shelter.

052/24 Correspondence

Clerk previously emailed any relevant correspondence.

- i. River Yealm Water Quality Group funding request – Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will approach the Group for clarification on the request.
- ii. SPC has vacancies for new Cllrs to join. Clerk will arrange advertising to encourage applications.

053/24 Finance

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for March 2024.

054/24 Payments and Receipts

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for March 2024.

055/24 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7pm** on **Tuesday 16th April 2024** at **Sparkwell Parish Hall**.

Meeting closed at 21.36

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date