

**MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Sparkwell Parish Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs May, Serpell Denman, Hartley, Lee, Webb, Hutton-Fellowes, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Andrew Nisbet (TW), Hayley Holt (TW), Neil Gawthorpe (TW), 2 MOP's

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

**Annual Parish Meeting**

**021/23 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Cllr Lee nominated Cllr Hartley for Chair, this was seconded by both Cllrs Webb and Hutton-Fellowes. As there were no further nominations, Cllr Hartley is duly elected as Chair.

Cllr Lee nominated Cllr May for Vice-Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Hartley. As there were no further nominations, Cllr May is duly elected as Vice-Chair.

**022/23 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair**

**023/23 Apologies for Absence**

None

**Parish Council Meeting**

**024/23 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.

**025/23 Declarations of Interest**

None

**026/23 County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Hart wasn't present at the meeting

**027/23 District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Thomas presents his brief to the council as follows;

The recent elections have seen something of a change at Follaton. The previous Council composition was 16 Conservatives, 9 Liberal Democrats, 3 Greens and 2 Independent members. Last Thursday saw the election of 19 Liberal Democrats, 7 Conservatives, 3 Greens, 1 Labour and 1 Independent Member. As such, the Liberal Democrats have now

taken outright control of the District Council for the first time since its creation in 1974. There will be an Annual Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May where roles and responsibilities will be formally ratified. Cllr Baldry has been replaced as one of our ward members by Cllr Tom Edie. Tom lives in Noss Mayo – he is working away this week but looks forward to meeting you all next month. Cllr Thomas confirms that Cllr John Hart remains as County Cllr until 2025.

### **028/23      Public Forum**

There were 2 MOP present at the meeting. They raised an issue with a planning application previously discussed and a dangerous road junction, which they feel would benefit from a stop sign.

**ACTION** – Clerk to speak to Nick Coulton regarding stop sign

### **029/23      Hemerdon Mine**

Hayley Holt began the briefing from Tungsten West. There is a LLG meeting onsite on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 7pm – site induction emails were sent to attendees. Andrew informed the council that they are currently exporting up to 50 lorries per day but are proposing a variation on the tonnage cap and hours/days of operation. They expect to hear back by the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Cllr May said that he is surprised by this after Mark Thompsons original statement. Neil said that more is needed for the business plan and Mark wrongly made a promise in a previous SPC meeting. He ensured the council that TW have listened to the public, with 75% of the public saying 200 movements is too much and they should stick to 50, so that is what they are doing.

Cllr May said that the SPC will submit any comments to DCC, but he feels that TW should stick to what was originally agreed.

Cllr Webb asked if there is a bigger environmental impact that needs to be considered. Neil doesn't think there is, as there is still the same amount of truck movements as previously. He says their funding partners would like to see a specific tonnage per day in order to get the funding needed. TW contributes to just 10% of the traffic.

Andrew says that there was a report published by the Mineral Planning Authority in February 2023 detailing the targets for aggregate sales in Devon, the aim in 20% and they are currently at 17%. He believes there is a gap to fill. Regarding the screens and tree planting, he says they want to be as transparent as they can. For them to remove the screens they'd have to tear apart the front end which would cost millions. They ensured they won't be using them.

TW left the meeting at 19.24

### **030/23      Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the Annual Residents meeting and Parish Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**RESOLVED** – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be approved and signed.

### **031/23     Climate Change and Biodiversity**

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes is in the process of working on the flooding blog. Unfortunately, the community day had to be cancelled due to bad weather so it will be rearranged for another time. The Scouts have put in stakes around the pond. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes hopes to apply for a grant to provide benches and seating areas.

### **032/23     P3 Scheme Footpaths**

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes informed the council the Scheme is ongoing, there are waymarkers and stickers which will be placed over the summer.

### **033/23     Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Hartley said there is no confirmation on funding so the SPC are pausing the Neighbourhood Plan for the moment.

### **034/23     Road & Snow Warden**

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes asked if Speeding could be discussed in this item going forward. It was agreed that it could as it's an important issue in the parish.

Cllr Hartley said there is a speeding issue in Lee Mill, linked to the need for the sliproad.

**ACTION** – Clerk to email Gary Streeter and John Hart regarding Lee Mill sliproad

**ACTION** – Clerk to investigate getting Wild Animals signs installed.

### **035/23     Tree Warden**

Cllr May said there is nothing to report at present. He also said that he has been added to a register for emergency TPO's.

### **036/23     Parish Assets (Bus Shelters, Benches, etc)**

No update

### **037/23     Planning**

- a. 1082/23/FUL: Approved with conditions on parking.
- b. 0849/23/ADV: Approved.

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 20.01

### **038/23     Chairman's Business**

Cllr Hartley will review the Responsibilities list prior to the June meeting.

**039/23 Correspondence**

Clerk informed Cllrs there will be a rise in price for Payroll. Also, the Cllrs need to fill in Election Expenses forms prior to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June – regardless of whether any expenses were incurred.

**ACTION** – Clerk to email Expenses forms to Cllrs.

**040/23 Finance**

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for May 2023.

**041/23 Payments and Receipts**

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for May 2023.

**042/23 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at **Hemerdon Village Hall** on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023** at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at 20.46

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

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