

**MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at Sparkwell Parish Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Peacham, Pearson-Bunt, McEwing, Webb, Serpell, Lee, Harvey, Millford, May, Hutton-Fellowes

**In attendance:** Sophie Jones (Clerk), Cllr Baldry (SHDC), Alex Dawson (TW)

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

**064/22     Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Hartley, Cllr Hart, Cllr Thomas

**065/22     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.

**066/22     Declarations of Interest**

None.

**067/22     County Councillor's Report**

Not present at meeting. Email update as follows;

Papers going to the May Cabinet meeting with a design for the new Lee Mill slip road. Assuming it is approved we then have to get the funding.

Cllr Hart also emailed information regarding hosting and supporting Ukraine families. Please contact [sparkwellclerk@gmail.com](mailto:sparkwellclerk@gmail.com) to be emailed this information.

**068/22     District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Baldry informed SPC that the scheduled brown bin garden waste collections have been restored. So far, it has been relatively problem free, although some collections have been missed this week. Food waste is currently on the back burner until the garden waste is completely resolved.

Referencing the Goodamoor Farm Certificate of lawfulness of existing use or development, the CLUED has been overturned at a judicial review brought by Drakelands Restoration. The applicant has the right to make another CLUED application to SHDC, but nothing is shown on SHDC's planning portal at this time.

Cllr Baldry left the meeting at 19.23

**069/22     Public Forum**

No public present

## **070/22 Hemerdon Mine**

Alex Dawson provided an update from Tungsten West. They have had a relatively quiet month with a construction project underway since 16<sup>th</sup> March. There is approximately a year of work ahead of them and are currently 3 months behind schedule due to Covid. Undergoing a handover to Fairport Engineering who are currently in the design stage. The largest contracts have all been signed off and have schedules for the end of Q1 2023, this is when wet commissioning will ramp up. TW are taking delivering onsite of long lead items. The increase in energy and fuel prices is affecting the financing, although tin is at an all time high.

There has been no Loss Time Injuries since TW took over the site. No complaints this past month. The Environmental Permits are ongoing with EA taking a long look at audible noise and LFN. TW are looking at models and building mitigations to reduce emissions from the site. The Environmental Permit still has quite a way to go.

Regarding the Public Consultation to discuss the increase in vehicle movements, circa 400 attendees came to the meeting and 400 submitted online comments. The plan is to submit the Planning Application once all the comments have been taken into account and considered. Hope to submit PA in May/June.

The tree planting is ongoing, with YGS planting onsite, by Hemerdon Hall, the main bridleway and main track. 500 trees will be planted in the next couple of weeks. Alex explains that TW are looking into a longer term solution to deter damage from deer.

A complaints procedure is being developed including a forward looking view on how TW collect complaints from the community. Hope to have an interactive procedure in which the regulator, TW and SPC can have a view of any complaints made.

Cllr Peacham asks if TW have thought about taking on apprentices. Alex says this is something they are looking at but are currently engaged with Universities which involves 6 weeks shadowing for a Masters level. He also asked for a remediation plan for the whole site in regards to tree planting, so that parishioners can see there is a commitment and plan to carry out this work. Alex said such a plan will be available later this summer.

Cllr Webb asks Alex if they will arrange a site visit for local residents. Alex says yes, this will be arranged.

Alex left the meeting at 19.47

## **071/22 Community Fibre**

Cllr Pearson-Bunt explains that all costs of the scheme have been written off and she has folded the company as it's not needed anymore. The final bill will be sent to SPC Clerk.

Hemerdon are also starting a Community Fibre scheme but it is being implemented with different criteria in which no vouchers are necessary. Cllr Peacham hopes to have the scheme completed by late summer 2023.

The Cllrs all congratulated Cllr Pearson-Bunt on the completion of a very successful Community Fibre scheme in Sparkwell Parish.

## **072/22 Climate Change**

- a. Cllrs McEwing and Hutton-Fellowes updated SPC on the progress with the woods by Sparkwell Hall. They organised a working party of 8 people in which they all worked hard for 3 hours to clear the brambles. It's made a big difference. Hoping to arrange another working party after Easter – maybe 23<sup>rd</sup> April. They have applied for a grant through a local community fund to pay for trees. They will clear what they can from the area as certain places have already well established bluebells and other plants. They will see how the area progresses and plant if space is available over the years. Cllr Webb asks what is happening to the hedgehog habitat if the brambles are being removed? Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will leave an area of brambles by the school for the hedgehogs to inhabit. She also adds that there are deer coming up to the woodland so a wildlife sign may be necessary.

**ACTION** – Cllr Harvey will contact Nick Coulton regarding deer/wildlife sign

- b. Cllr McEwing informed the Cllrs about an upcoming Zoom meeting, the details were emailed to SPC by Clerk.

### **073/22 P3 Scheme Footpaths**

Cllr McEwing has now been accepted on to the P3 Footpath Scheme. Cllrs Webb and Hutton-Fellowes are also involved. A message will be put on Facebook and on the SPC website. It has been pointed out that a footpath is missing from the map published so will look into it. The objective is that a network of local parishioners make a commitment to report on any issues with ROW's, so that the PC can coordinate repairs and improvements, as this type of work is not a priority for DCC.

Cllr McEwing has been told the footpaths can be named if parishioners wish it and subject to PC approval. The May issues of PlymLinks and Parish Pump will have a map of the public bridleways.

### **074/22 Yealm Water Quality**

Cllr Peacham explains that the Yealm Water Quality project will be ongoing for quite some time. Samples of water need to be collected once a month at three sites. Cllr Webb will take some water samples. Citizen Scientist are taking samples by the Mine and Plymbridge, the details are online.

### **075/22 Ukraine Refugees**

Cllr May explains that Sparkwell organised some donations to be collected to help with the crisis in Ukraine. There was a list given with an appeal for certain items. 60 empty boxes were donated and then filled by residents. These were then all sent to Romania. Hoping to do another appeal when they know what items are needed. Robin's wife, Di, will post any information on Facebook.

Regarding housing refugees, if local people are willing to help then please contact the church as they have been granted a fast track. Although, rural areas may not be preferable for rehousing due to transport links.

### **076/22 Local Foodbank Shortages**

SPC have been in touch with local foodbanks to check if they are low on donations which they confirmed they are.

**ACTION** - *Cllrs will encourage donations to local foodbanks.*

Cllr Pearson-Bunt has suggested a donation of £1,000 each to the Ivybridge Foodbank and Plympton Foodbank as a one-off hardship donation.

**RESOLVED** – Unanimously to donate £1,000 to the Ivybridge Foodbank and £1,000 to the Plympton Foodbank.

SPC will reassess the situation in a few months to see if a food donation drive is necessary.

## **077/22 Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllr Hartley emailed to say there is no change to Neighbourhood Planning at the moment.

## **078/22 Minutes**

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**RESOLVED** – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be approved and signed

**RESOLVED** – Unanimously that the minutes of the Annual Residents Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be approved and signed

## **079/22 Planning**

- a. 0782/22/FUL; SPC are undecided
- b. 0885/22/FUL; No Objections

## **080/22 Road and Snow Warden**

Cllr Harvey updates the SPC. There are 34 potholes on the parish roads that have been reported. The pothole by Langage has been fixed. The salt bin by road as arriving in to the village doesn't belong to Devon Highways so can't be fixed, it may not even be needed as it's on a gritters route.

## **081/22 Chairman's Business**

Cllr Peacham discussed the upcoming Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Cllr McEwing is currently making the bunting and is in need of purple fabric (old bed sheets, etc).

## **082/22 Correspondence**

Clerk raised issue of cleaning the bus shelters. Have been unable to get local haulage firms to contribute.

**RESOLVED** – Unanimously that the SPC pay for the bus shelters to be cleaned.

## **083/22 Finance**

- a. **RESOLVED** – Unanimously that the budget analysis and bank reconciliation for March 2022 be approved

**084/22    Payments and Receipts**

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

**085/22    Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at **Hemerdon Village Hall** on **10<sup>th</sup> May 2022** at **7.00pm**.

Meeting closed at 22.04

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

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