

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING Held on 14th March 2023 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

Present: Cllr Peacham, Hartley, Millford, Webb, McEwing, Pearson-Bunt

In attendance: Sophie Jones (Clerk), Cllr Thomas

AM001/23 Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Peacham welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AM002/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Serpell Denman, Hutton-Fellowes, May, Lee, Harvey

AM003/23 County Councillor Report

Cllr Hart was not present at the meeting.

AM004/23 District Councillors' Report

District Cllr Dan Thomas presented a joint report from both himself and District Cllr Keith Baldry;

During this year we made a successful recommendation from the Sustainable Locality Fund for payment to the Parish Pump. We received no other local Applications; our allocation for 2022-23 is now fully committed but we would always look to support Sparkwell Parish if asked.

The South Hams share of Council Tax agreed for 2022-23 will be increased by £5 pa for a band D property. The South Hams share of Council tax is less than 10% of the total Council tax bill. The main elements are County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner.

We were very pleased to be able to support the Parish Council in ensuring that not only was the SHDC Environmental Health Officer involved in the application for increased journeys to the mine BUT also that Climate Change Officers got involved. It was pleasing to see that eventually, SHDC were able to offer a professional opinion that took their residents into account as well as green policies. We were both relieved that the applicants chose to withdraw. Much credit must go to Parish Councillors for their dedicated persistence.

In November 2022, after nearly 18 months of constant demands from opposition parties, the administration at SHDC finally saw sense and brought the waste and recycling collection service back in house. As a direct result, collection rates have improved hugely, with a tiny proportion of collections reported as missed. It is true that many are still on the old service, and some are receiving a co-mingled collection but it is also a fact that things are very much better than they were under the failed privatisation. Garden waste is now being collected from residents who have opted in to the £49 per year subscription, which is working well.

All Councillors are up for re-election in May, though Keith is standing down. He has been a District Councillor for 16 years and was a County Councillor for 4 years

before that (which included Sparkwell Parish) but is aware that the next 4 year term would take him into his 80s. He thinks this would make him too old, Dan doesn't agree!

AM005/23 Chairman's report

Cllr Peacham's report;

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, thank you all for taking the time to attend this evening's annual residents meeting. This is not a meeting of the Parish Council, but a statutory meeting of parish residents which must be held at this time of year.

The public notice states 'residents can use this forum to bring up any current local issues you may have or anything in relation to the past year's activities of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council meets every second Tuesday of each month, except for August. We work through a fixed agenda and any additional items raised by our parishioners or by ourselves.

Also, in attendance at our monthly meetings are our elected representatives from both the District and County Council. At each meeting we deal with various points including finance, planning issues, highway matters and any correspondence we may receive.

We also update and adopt policies and procedures to ensure compliance with legislation including; Financial Regulations, Audit Regulations and Information Access.

Over this last year, the Parish Council successfully challenged a planning application by the Mine to increase HGV movements from 40 to 400 per day, to protect our parishioners' interests. With regards to finance, we have been able to make grants to local food banks and continue to employ a Lengthsman to keep our drains clear.

A big thank you to our parish clerk Sophie for her hard work, support, and guidance, to me personally and all the councillors, ensuring we are all kept up to date with the latest requirements and procedures. And to the team of councillors who generously give up their time for the benefit of the Parish.

To conclude I would like to thank you all again for attending this evening and to let you know that we currently have vacancies on the Parish council so please do apply and help us provide services and support the community.

Please feel free this evening to raise any current local issues, or anything in relation to the past year's activities of the Parish Council that you would like to discuss.

AM006/23 Local Issues and public question time

There were no MOP's present

Meeting closed at 18.25

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date