MINUTES OF SPARKWELL ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING

Held on 12th March 2019 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

**Present**: Cllrs May, Pearson-Bunt, Lee, Peacham and Milford

Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

**In attendance**: Cllr Keith Baldry (SHDC), Cllr John Hart (DCC)

**Not in attendance**: no members of the public attended

**AM001/19 Introduction and Welcome**

Cllr May welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**AM002/19 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Hughes, Cllr Ashley, Cllr Small, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Blackler, PC Dingley

**Resolved** that the apologies be noted.

**AM003/19 County Councillor Report**

As Cllr Hart was delayed in arriving, he said he would give his report as part of the parish meeting.

**AM004/19 District Councillor Report**

Cllr Baldry reported:

For the past 4 years Sparkwell has been part of an enlarged 2 member ward of Newton and Yealmpton. Prior to that he was member for the single member ward of Yealmpton. He shares responsibilities with Cllr Ian Blackler. He is the Leader of the Opposition and on the following Committees:

* Overview and Scrutiny
* Licensing
* Budget Setting Panel
* He chairs the Waste and Refuse Working Group
1. The Joint DCC and SHDC fund (formerly the TAP fund) has made its final payment
2. The Plymouth, West Devon and South Hams Joint Local Plan is being examined by Government. I am expecting this process to be completed by the end of March.
3. He has been involved in the usual level of planning application from the parish. The major housing scheme for Lee Mill was refused by the Development Management Committee. This was achieved with excellent intervention and support from the Parish Council.
4. SHDC has appointed Sophie Hosking as Chief Executive
5. The SHDC share of council tax will increase by £5pa for a Band D property
6. Despite his opposition, the refuse collection service is being privatised and will be run by FCC, a Spanish based company, from April 2019
7. He will be offering myself for election on 2 May
8. He said that his co-Councillor Ian Blackler is not standing and thanked him for his cooperation and wish him well for the future.

Cllr Baldry said that the supermarket are looking for a site within the Lee Mill/Smithaleigh area.

Cllr May thanked Cllr Baldry for is support for Sparkwell Parish Council.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Blackler but he had supplied a report which the Clerk read out:

1. The T 18 restructuring at SHDC has been completed
2. The Chief Executive at the council is Sophie Hosking
3. During this year from his Locality Fund he has given various grants of about £500 to Holbeton, Newton and Noss, Yealmpton, The Ring and Ride, and Sparkwell as well as £470 to the Dementia Project
4. Council Tax will increase by £5
5. The Council are permitted to borrow £60m for investment purposes but only to spend approx £30m before May
6. The Council continues to make savings of about £3.9m every year
7. The Council is to invest in a project to improve Play Park equipment
8. The Council will save £280,000 this financial year by signing a contract with FCC Environment to provide waste, recycling and cleaning services
9. Work will take place in Ermington to provide new work units
10. Money has been set aside to resurface car park areas
11. They are looking at potential investment opportunities to deliver income
12. They are considering a site for another supermarket, which has yet to be decided on
13. The provision of a SW Mutual Bank is still going ahead
14. S106 monies are being released for various projects

Finally his 12 years as our District Councillor Sparkwell are coming to a close; he has enjoyed trying to help where he could.

**AM005/19 Chairman’s report**

Cllr May reported:

He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained that it was not a meeting of the Parish council, but a statutory required meeting of parish residents which must be held at this time of year.

As 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 years activities of the Parish Council.

He introduced himself and said that he was the current Chairman and that also in attendance were fellow parish Councillors and the Clerk to the council Dawn Johnson.

He said that we had welcomed two new parish councillors over the last year Claire Lee and Lesley Hughes.

Cllr May explained that the Parish council meets every second Tuesday of each month except for August and over these 11 meetings we work through a fixed agenda and any additional items raised residents or by ourselves, we include an open forum where any member of our community can raise questions or propose actions regarding local issues to the council.

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

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

In addition Council members attended external events representing the Parish, including: Planning meetings and site visits, Highways department meetings, various workshops and Forums, liaison with Devon County Council, South Hams district council, the environment agency, and police on local issues affecting our parish.

With regards to Finance, we have been able to make grants to the Parish Pump magazine, Citizens Advice Bureau, and Sparkwell Cemetery we have also recommended a Zero percentage increase in our precept for 2019/20.

We have appointed a road and snow warden who spends a great amount of time dealing with highway matters, trying to resolve some of the many issues that arise during the year, regularly reporting on the location and severity of potholes and local road condition including flooding issues to Devon County highways department we have had some success with the road surfaces being patched as required, and the potholes filled, we have still to resolve the flooding issues but rest assured we are constantly raising this issue at all levels Also as part of this role extra salt storage bins have been placed around the parish and are regularly “toped up” as required, we have had a successful application to South Hams for funding to provide chainsaw training and equipment so trees can be cleared on local roads by our members.

We look to comment and report on all planning applications and enforcement issues within the parish with site visits by our appointed representatives as required, we support applications as well as opposing developments that are clearly unreasonable or excessive, with the case of the Place Lands Lee Mill development being one where we were successful in our objections.

With regards to policing we do no longer have a representative at our meetings but do receive a statement on occasions; however arrangements and communication with the police are difficult at present as the former Neighbourhood structure appears to be in a state of collapse. But we will continue to request representation for the parish.

We have of course been exceptionally busy throughout the past year with the big issues surrounding the Drakelands mine operation, continually applying pressure to Wolf Minerals to ensure they are working within the parameters of the planning permission, keeping them informed regarding blasting issues, and ensuring they were making progress and on track with the noise and vibration mitigation plan as agreed with the environment agency, As you are all aware the mine has recently closed and been placed into administration.

He confirmed that we are constantly monitoring the situation as best we can although information is still a bit sparse currently, to this end we have requested the reinstatement of the local liaison group meeting with Devon County Council Minerals planning authority and the environment agency.

We understand that Devon County Council is not able to call on the restoration bond until such time as the site has ceased operation for two years or the operator serves notice that mining has ceased completely.

We as a Parish Council are committed to ensure the best outcome for this site and we will be discussing the restoration of the area if and when this is the case.

He gave assurance that the parish council will continue to spend wisely and serve the residents to the best of our ability giving time freely as volunteers taking on tasks with determination and dedication.

He thanked his fellow Councillors for their help and hard work over the last year, the district and county councillors for their regular support and wanted to thank the parish clerk Dawn for her unwavering dedication, support and guidance to him personally and his fellow councillors.

He said that we currently have vacancies on the Parish council and elections will open soon, and encouraged people to apply and help provide the community that you want.

**AM006/19 Local Issues and public question time**

None raised as no members of the public were present.

Meeting closed at 6.40pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

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