

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

held on 4th May 2021

Present: Cllrs May, Pearson-Bunt (joined later), Harvey, Lee, McEwing, Milford, Peacham, and Webb
Dawn Johnson (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Thomas (SHDC)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

Annual Parish Meeting

083/21 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Clerk had not received any nominations for the position of Chair. None of the Cllrs present wanted to stand.

The Clerk confirmed that if no Chair is elected then the Council must elect a chair at and for each individual meeting. Election of the Chair would be the first item on the agenda.

Cllr May offered to Chair the meeting.

Cllr May was duly elected Chair of the meeting unopposed.

The Clerk had received nominations for the position of Vice Chair

Cllr Ruth Pearson-Bunt proposed by Cllr Lee. Seconded by McEwing.

With no further nominations Cllr Pearson-Bunt was duly elected (in her absence, having already confirmed she was happy to stand) unopposed.

084/21 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair

Not applicable.

085/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Hart (DCC), Cllr Baldry (SHDC), Cllr Ansell

Parish Council Meeting

086/21 Agreement of the Agenda between Parts I and II

Councillors noted that one item of business would be considered in Part II of the meeting.

087/21 Declarations of Interest

None

088/21 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hart had sent apologies and a report which the Clerk read out:

(a) This has been a very strange year. The Covid-19 pandemic over the last 12 months has had a dramatic effect nationally and locally. In Devon we have been very lucky in that our residents have on the whole been following the Government guidance of Hands, Face and Space.

We have gone through 3 lockdowns; our children have been home schooling, with many parents working on their own computers in another room doing their day job at the same time.

Devon County Council, created Team Devon, working with the 8 District Councils, the Town and Parish Councils through DALC, and with the Voluntary sector to work collaboratively to support the most vulnerable in the County: offering food parcels, doing shopping or stopping and talking to lonely people. Parish Councils became the focus of many of these activities.

We now have a number of vaccines and in Devon there is a willingness to be vaccinated. Over 95% of those eligible have already been vaccinated and the Covid-19 figures have greatly reduced. However, there are still small outbreaks in Devon so he asks that we all be careful and not drop our guard. The County has a number of buses stopping in market towns on a regular basis offering instant testing.

(b) Cllr Hart wrote on behalf of all Devon councils supporting an extension of remote meeting, but the Judgement was that this issue was for Parliament to sort out not the Courts.

(c) He has also recently written to all Devon MPs and the Secretary of State for DEFRA and George Eustace in defence of National Parks, particularly Dartmoor. Saying that they should be locally controlled and not that all 10 parks be run by a QUANGO in London or wherever.

(d) Finally, he thanks the Parish Council for our support over this last year. Life has been very different for all of us; he has had to spend far more time in front of a computer than he ever dreamt he would. With National and Regional Covid-19 committees as well as being leader of DCC he has not always remembered to send in reports on time. Cllr Hart looks forward to actually meeting up with us all at a Parish Council meeting sometime when it is safe to do so.

089/21 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Thomas reported:

(a) Due to Purdah he was unable to report very much from the DC. He was at the meeting to find out if there was anything the PC wanted to raise.

(b) Cllr Thomas is hopeful that a site visit at Boringdon Camp will go ahead shortly. Cllrs Peacham and May confirmed that they would like to attend a meeting at Boringdon Camp when able to do so.

(c) Cllr Thomas referred to the £3,000 grant that each Cllr will have to spend on Green Projects. The criteria are still being written. He believed that the PC was in a good position to apply for a grant under this new scheme.

Cllr Peacham said that he had heard about covid memorial sites being identified and that that Boringdon Camp could be site.

Cllr Pearson Bunt joined the meeting.

Cllr May thanked Cllr Thomas for his support and attendance (and Cllr Baldry) at our meetings.

090/21 Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

091/21 Hemerdon Mine

The normal monthly meeting with Cllr Peacham and May had not taken place.

Cllrs Harvey, McEwing, Pearson-Bunt and Webb attended the mine on Tuesday to talk about the biodiversity project.

Cllrs reported that it appeared that Tungsten West were taking the re-generation of the area and continuing re-generation areas seriously. However concrete facts and plans were light on the ground. They said that 80% of the trees planted had survived but had not been able to grow above the plastic protectors because of the deer. Without proper deer fencing the trees will never flourish.

The environmental consultants are looking into different approaches for deer such as grow brambles around the area; an idea which is flawed. Another idea were mini forests which again is not viable.

They could not give any indication on intentions for the area around Hemerdon Ball.

The mine has suggested trying to get funding from other industry for offsetting their carbon footprint.

Cllr Peacham said that with regard to the southern boundary extension, heads of agreement were signed with Newnham and Hemerdon Estates 18 months ago. This agreed what price will have to be paid if they go ahead with planning application.

They have asked the manager of the re-generation to supply regular updates,

Restoration of the mine will only happen if the mine fails. There is a pot of money being held by DCC which is not for early restoration.

The view of the PC is that the mine needs to look after what they have.

Cllr Webb had suggested that the mine wasn't large on the world front as there were new tungsten mines elsewhere. However, TW stated that Hemerdon was going to be very competitive.

092/21 The future of virtual meetings

The Clerk reported that the High Court judgement ruled against the continuation of virtual meetings saying that this was a matter for Parliament to sort out and not the Court.

This means that the PC's next meeting will be on 13th July 2021, face to face, as agreed at our last meeting.

093/21 Neighbourhood Planning

The PC agreed that we needed to have a Neighbourhood Plan so we need to start it off.

Cllr Peacham will lead the initial approach with Cllrs Lee and Webb which will be publicised to recruit help and start the process moving.

094/21 Climate Change projects

(a) Boringdon Camp – see above at Minute 089/21

(b) Wildlife initiative – Cllrs McEwing and Pearson-Bunt have been growing plug plants and Cllr Peacham is going to have some.

Cllr Thomas explained that they have signs in his Parish stating which tier the area is in for grass cutting, specifically how often it should be cut. We can speak to Cllr Baldry about this.

(c) Cllr McEwing explained that she had been approached by someone who has also been in touch with Lutton and Cornwood PCs. They are keen to look at setting up an informal small working group between the parish councils to support the planting of trees on Headon Down. The land owner is Sibelco, China Clay. Cllr McEwing will suggest speaking to Sibelco estate manager first of all to see whether this is feasible.

095/21 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting on the 13th April 2021

RESOLVED unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 13th April 2021 be approved and signed at a later date.

096/21 Planning

(a) Planning Application Ref: [0482/21/FUL](#)

Description: Conversion of existing property into two properties including addition of conservatory

Address: The Longhouse, Old Newnham Farm Plympton PL7 5BL

RESOLVED that the Parish Council objects as not enough information supplied with regard to the conservatory.

(b) Planning Application Ref: [0483/21/LBC](#)

Description: Listed building consent for conversion of existing property into two properties including addition of conservatory

Address: The Longhouse, Old Newnham Farm Plympton PL7 5BL

As above in (a)

(c) Planning Application Ref: [1000/21/HHO](#)

Description: Householder application for demolition and replacement of existing garden room and new first floor rear extension above existing lean-to

Address: Houndall Farm Sparkwell PL7 5DG

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

(d) Appeal reference: [APP/K1128/W/21/3269800](#)

Proposal: Retrospective change of use of building/yard (agricultural contracting use) to use for agricultural engineering business (resubmission of 2447/19/FUL)

Location: "Land at Choakford Corner", Plympton, Plymouth

Appeal start date: 12 April 2021

RESOLVED that the Parish Council rejects the application.

(e) Planning Application Ref: [0972/21/HHO](#)

Description: Householder application for alterations to improve access, conversion and raising roof of garage for living accommodation and enlarge decking area

Address: Valle Vista Hemerdon PL7 5BU

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the application.

(f) Planning Application Ref: [1284/21/CLE](#)

Description: Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of land for storage of machinery, materials, plants and vehicles (Class B8 Use)

Address: Elfordleigh Nursery Larch Grove Plympton PL7 5EB

RESOLVED that the Parish Council objects to the application.

(g) Planning Application Ref: [DCC/4233/2021](#)

Description : Variation of Condition 2 of DCC/3874/2016 to permit the continued use of land for the importation, storage and treatment of waste materials suitable to create soils appropriate for land restoration until 14th September 2026

Location: Lee Moor China Clay Works

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is undecided on the grounds of not having the requisite knowledge and refer to the Environment Agency. The PC does encourage restoration work.

(h) The Clerk reported that we had received notification, for information only, of:

Application Number: 1567/21/PDM

Proposal: An application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of Agricultural Buildings to 1 x no. dwellinghouse under Class Q (a and b)

Location: Houndall Barn, Sparkwell, Ivybridge, PL7 5DG

097/21 Road and Snow Warden

Nothing to report.

098/21 Chairman's Business

Nothing to report.

099/21 Correspondence

- (a) Cllr Ansell has resigned from the PC due to ill health. The Clerk has published the Notice of Vacancy so if no response by the 24th May we can co-opt.
- (b) Road Closure Notice - From Tuesday 1st June 2021 for a maximum of 5 days. Langage Cross to Voss Cross Plympton. Alternative route will be signposted. Closure is for patching works.
- (c) Road Closure notice – From Monday 7 June 2021 for a maximum of 5 days. Road affected is from Hemerdon to Newnham Road. Closure is for patching works.

100/21 Finance

- (a) Annual Return

- i Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

RESOLVED that the Annual government Statement be signed by the Chair (as soon as possible) and minuted.

- ii Annual Accounting Statements 2020/21

RESOLVED that Part 2 of the Annual Return be signed (as soon as possible) and minuted.

- iii Consider and approve the Certificate for Exemption 2021/21

RESOLVED that the criteria for exemption is met.

- (b) Audit report and observations. The Clerk had circulated the report but due to this being delivered 2 ½ hrs before the meeting, she gave verbal observations:

Referring to the Internal Audit Observations:

Box B

- 1 The invoices are all checked by the Clerk in accordance with the Finance Regulations but the auditor has said that the Clerk needs to sign and date.
- 2 Powers for Grants are recorded in the Finance spreadsheets but not in the Minutes – remedy in the future.

Box C

- 1 Not signed at the time submitted to Audit due no face to face meetings. Minutes will be signed next week.

Box E

- 1 This was rectified at the meeting on the 12 January 2021 and Minuted at 019/21

Box I

- 1 As per the new Regulations – Cllr Ansell was going to undertake this task so it needs to be added to the next meeting agenda to appoint a new reviewer.

Box L

- 1 The Clerk said that she had found the explanation of “not less than one day” confusing and therefore the date was out by one day. For example, the date of announcement was 20th July and the date of exercise of rights was the 22nd and should have been the 21st.

(c) Grant application from the Parish Pump

The Clerk advised that she had twice requested further information for the Council to consider but this had not been received.

(d) to consider budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for April 2021 (circulated)

RESOLVED unanimously that the reports be approved.

101/21 Payments and Receipts

Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for April 2021

102/21 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 13th July 2021 at Sparkwell Parish Hall at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date

