

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING Held on 8th March 2022 at Hemerdon Village Hall

Present: Cllr Peacham, Hartley, May, Lee, McEwing, Pearson-Bunt, Serpell

In attendance: Sophie Jones (Clerk), Cllr Thomas, 2 MOP's

AM001/22 Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Peacham welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AM002/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Millford, Cllr Webb

AM003/22 County Councillor Report

Cllr Hart was not present at the meeting.

AM004/22 District Councillors' Report

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

During this year we made successful recommendations from the Sustainable Locality Fund for payments to Sparkwell Parish Hall and separately for clearing the area around the hall, and for the Parish Pump. We have earmarked funding for the Lee Mill Community Assn and await a bid. Our allocation for 2021-22 is now fully committed.

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 are working with South Hams Environmental Health Officer to be involved in plans for the Tungsten Mine. Most of the decision making is for the County Council. In March 2021 revised arrangements for refuse collection were introduced by FCC, the Council's contractor. It is fair to say that some of the new rounds have not worked well. Garden waste collection was suspended from August 2021 until the end of this month. Some areas are still not receiving the full recycling collection as required in the contract. This includes a separate food waste collection. Legal pressure is being applied to FCC.

AM005/22 Chairman's report

Cllr Peacham began his report by thanking everyone for taking the time to attend the Annual Residents Meeting. This is not a meeting of the Parish Council but a statutory meeting of parish residents to enable residents to bring up any concerns or local issues.

The current chairman of the SPC is Cllr Glen Peacham and Vice Chair is Cllr Ruth Pearson-Bunt. The Parish Council meets the second Tuesday of every month, except for August and over these 11 months we work through a fixed agenda. Each meetings we deal with finance matters, planning issues, highway matters, police business 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. In addition, the council members attend external events representing the parish including Local Liaison Group meetings with the Mine, Planning site visits, Highways department meetings, various workshops and forums, liaise with DCC and SH EA and Police on any local issues that affect the parish. Many Councillors take on roles which include a substantial amount of work in their own time. Cllr Peacham would like to thank them for their work and dedication over this last year. There is always scope for Parishioners to get involved in projects without becoming a full member of the council.

Putting in significant time and resources with the management team at Tungsten West to ensure that parishioners concerns are heard. The issues with the previous operator Wolf will not be repeated, eg LFN and Blasting. We have some confidence that TW have taken issues fully on board and will attempt to combat these issues at source.

SPC continue to maintain three Defibrillators, one in Lee Mill, one in Sparkwell and one in Hemerdon.

We recognise that we have a huge task facing us with Climate Change and the necessity to reduce our carbon consumption. We have in the last 12 months installed Solar panels in both Sparkwell Hall and Hemerdon Hall with financial support from Newnham CIC Solar Fund.

Cllr Peacham would like to take the opportunity to thank his fellow councillors for their help and hard work over the last year. The district and county councillors for their regular support. A big thank you to Sophie, for her hard work and support. Pleased to report we have a full council, with several new members and confident we have a strong team that are willing and able to serve the community.

AM006/22 Local Issues and public question time

MOP's didn't wish to raise any issues/questions.

Meeting closed at 18.33

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date