

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING

Held on 12th March 2024 at Hemerdon Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Hartley, May, Nicholson, Lee

In attendance: Sophie Jones (Clerk), Cllr Edie, Marica Lyndon (TW)

AM001/24 Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Hartley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AM002/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Serpell Denman, Hutton-Fellowes, Webb

AM003/24 County Councillor Report

Cllr Hart was not present at the meeting but emailed a report which the Clerk read out;

The County Council budget for 2024 / 25 was passed the other week, Council Tax will rise by 4.99%. There is an increase of £44million in spend but we also need to make savings of £49million by doing things differently and doing different things.

The Devon / Torbay Combined Authority Devolution consultations are ongoing. They close next Friday 22nd March. So far, comments have been favourable. A final report will hopefully go to both councils before the end of April to approve this deal for Government to ratify in May.

DCC has been negotiating a Safety Valve funding support with Government over the overspend in the Special Education Needs budget. Talks are progressing well.

Work is ongoing over the Freeport infrastructure including the cycle/pedestrian bridge over the A38 at Deep Lane. Also, design work is ongoing for the development of new roads for the extension of the industrial estate.

As I have reported already, there is an agreement with Tungsten West to position a speed camera along the B3417. This will make it possible to get the speed along this road reduced to 40mph from 60mph and hopefully reduce the number of accidents along this road.

Not sure if the streetlight is still on in Venton. Both Nick Colton and I have reported it as well as the residents. Please keep reporting potholes. Devon has been lobbying Government for more money for Road Maintenance. We have only been promised an extra £6.5million for next year so far. Which was why I had my question about the state of our roads asked by John Acres of Radio Devon to the Prime Minister the other week

AM004/24 District Councillors' Report

District Cllr Edie presented the annual report from SHDC.

Reflecting on the past year, South Hams District Council has seen some significant changes with newly elected District Councillors joining. For the first time in decades the Council is led with a new majority of Liberal Democrats holding the chamber and as such there have been some changes and priorities shifting. This is an exciting time for South Hams and in May 2023 Dan Thomas, the previous District Councillor for the Newton and

Yealmpton ward (including Sparkwell), returned to his seat and Tom Edie, a newly elected councillor, was elected and joined Dan to work alongside him and the Lib Dems. The Councillors continue to work with, and for, Sparkwell Parish in various ways including supporting community concerns over the planning amendments with Tungsten West and the Hemerdon Mine development and they have provided financial support to the Lee Mill Community Association. Since the election we have seen a full recycling service reestablished to the whole of the South Hams and a new set of working focus areas as listed in the corporate strategy including investments in Climate and Biodiversity, Housing, Community Services and Economy and Jobs. We look forward to more collaborations and to continuously support Sparkwell for the next year.

AM005/24 Chairman's report

Cllr Hartley's report;

Good Evening All,

Thank you all for taking the time to attend this evening's Annual Residents Meeting.

This is not a meeting of the Parish Council, 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.

Over this last year, the Parish Council successfully engaged on the following;

The Hemerdon Mine Planning Applications. We thank Tungsten West for the engagement over the last 12 months. Hemerdon Mine continues to be a focal point of discussion within our community. We have worked diligently to engage with stakeholders, including residents, environmental organisations, and Tungsten West, to ensure that the interests of all parties are taken into consideration. Our aim is to ensure a balance between economic development, environmental sustainability, and impact to residents is understood and hopefully by all. We will continue to do this, and the best for you as residents.

The Lee Mill Slip Road has also been another topic widely discussed within the Parish.

Efforts are ongoing to improve the existing infrastructure and enhance road safety in our community. We are hopeful we will see increased engagement during 2024 specific to short term "improvements" / changes whilst the long term Slip Road plans remain "on-hold".

We have continued engagement on the change to Parish rubbish collections.

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, and undertake over work required within the Parish.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I want to take this opportunity to encourage engagement from you the public with the Parish Council, your active participation and engagement is essential to our success, and I encourage each and every one of you to continue to voice your ideas, concerns, and aspirations for our community. But also be mindful that we are volunteers giving up our personal time to everyone within the Parish. As I am sure you are all aware we currently have vacancies on the Parish council so please do apply and help us provide services and support the community.

I want to say a thank you to:

- Sophie Jones our Clerk for her hard work, support, and guidance, over the last 12 months.
- My Sparkwell Parish Council colleagues for the knowledge, passion and enthusiasm.
- District and County Councillors for the continued engagement.

AM006/24 Local Issues and public question time

There were no MOP's present

Meeting closed at 18.55

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date