

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 13th February 2024 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs May, Nicholson, Webb, Lee, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Eric Davis (Ercle Architects)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

019/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Hartley, Hutton-Fellowes, Serpell Denman

020/24 Agreement of the Agenda between Parts I and II

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

021/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

022/24 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hart was not present at the meeting.

023/24 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie provided a monthly update via email as follows, which was read out to the Cllrs; South Hams residents can sign up to or renew their subscription for our garden waste collection service from 15 February. The fee is going up this year to cover costs, though we're offering a discount to those who sign up early. Anyone who signs up between 15th February and 1st April 2024 will pay a discounted fee of £52 for a year-long subscription running from April 2024 that covers collections for one brown wheelie bin. There is a maximum of two subscriptions (which would cover two bins) per household. Anyone who signs up after 31st March will pay £55. This is an increase on last year's fee, but it is necessary to cover rising costs. We're offering the discount so officers have the time required to plan the round routes to be as efficient and possible.

The quickest and easiest way for residents to sign up is on our website:

www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste - the website is also full of information and useful FAQs on the service. Alternatively, residents can call us on 01803 861234, though we encourage everyone to use the website as it's easier and quicker.

For current subscribers who renew by 1st April, there will be no changes to their service, and they can continue to use their brown bin with no interruptions. Subscriptions for the 2023/24 year close on 14th February.

We will be promoting subscriptions to residents with social media, e-mail newsletters, print advertising and a press release.

Free IT and digital training courses

Our partners Learn Devon have a range of free courses to choose from to help residents build on their digital skills. They could help with things like accessing digital banking, connecting with loved ones online and accessing job and training opportunities. Courses include help with the first steps to getting online, building computer confidence to gaining a nationally recognised Award in Digital Skills. Please spread the word about these free courses.

Cllr Thomas attended the meeting to discuss the garden waste subscriptions, which are now available, with the incentive to sign up before April 2024 to receive a £3 discount. The SPC also wishes to record thanks to Cllr Thomas for the new litter bin within Hemerdon village.

024/24 Public Forum

No public present.

025/24 Hemerdon Mine

There was no TW representative at the meeting, but they are happy to receive questions via email in their absence.

Cllr May noted the receipt of draft permit for the Minerals Processing Facility. They are currently undergoing an internal review, and following this a public consultation will be held.

The Cllrs raised concerns that the 3 week consultation period will not allow enough time to respond and review such a high public interest permit.

Cllr Nicholson asked if the permit will satisfy the requirements? He suggested the EA attend a meeting when the public consultation period starts, so questions can be asked and public concerns raised.

ACTION – *Invite EA to a SPC meeting as a Part 2 item or an extraordinary meeting.*

Cllr Webb also had concerns regarding the road widening. There are fears that a speed camera may not be enough to reduce speeding and/or the potential for accidents.

ACTION – *Clerk to ask TW if LLG meetings will continue.*

026/24 Planning

- a. 4241/23/FUL** – Eric Davis from Ercle Architects attended the meeting to discuss the application. It was decided that the SPC will support the application as it provides good employment, and will facilitate the removal of storage container.

Eric left the meeting at 19.18

- b. 4174/23/CLE** – No Comment

- c. 0103/24/FUL** – Concerns with safety implications, hydrogen leaks, affects of blasting from Mine, and disruption of footpath/bridleway closures.

ACTION – Clerk to ask for extension to consultation and for applicants to attend meeting to discuss concerns Cllrs have.

d.4319/23/LBC – No change from previous comments

e.DCC/4381/2024 – Objection amid concerns the connectivity from the pedestrian path is suitable.

f. , g. , h. 4215/23/FUL, 4216/23/FUL, 4217/23/FUL – SPC will support

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 20.16

027/24 Minutes

Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 9th January 2024

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 be approved and signed.

028/24 Climate Change and Biodiversity

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes emailed an update as follows, which was read out by the Clerk in her absence;

Yealm Estuary to Moor (YEM) working group

There was a meeting on Thursday 18 January, to present the River Yealm Sampling Results for the first 12 months of water quality monitoring data. This is part of the Yealm Estuary to Moor (YEM) project which is working towards an unobstructed and pollution-free Yealm, helping fish and other aquatic life to flourish.

Since the January SPC I have:

- Made contact with the Chair of the YEM working group and am awaiting my testing kit.
- Been out with Julia Bertram from Cornwood Parish Council to show her the sampling sites that SPC is responsible for and to identify 2 potential sites for me to take on near Slade and Lucas Wood.
- Been out with Clare to observe her sampling at her monitoring point near Smithhaleigh so I can see how it's done.
- Registered for an account with Cartographer so I can upload any data from my sampling sites.
- Joined the YEM Facebook Group so I am aware of their wider projects.

Parish Footpaths

- I am working through the footpaths I am responsible for and have completed Nos; 4, 5 & 17 so far. Replacing the faded, green footpath signs, adding way markers and new 'close the gate signs'.

- The remaining footpaths all form a circular walk to Lee Mill and will be completed this Saturday (17 February).
- All data has to be with Gill McEwing by 15 March to be submitted for funding.
- Based on the survey we completed last year, Footpath No. 5 between Ledgate Lane and Venton Railway bridges, had a new elevated section of walkway replaced, a new footbridge and a new 'dog style' replaced at the Ledgate Lane end.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes also noted that the residents in the community are interested in registering the Treby Arms as an Asset of Community Value.

RESOLVED – The Cllrs agreed to support the Treby Arms becoming an Asset of Community Value.

029/24 Road & Snow Warden

There is salt and grit available in Hemerdon.

Cllr May discussed 'Utility Scarring' amidst the disrepair of some roads in which work has been done to pipework, etc underground. There is a responsibility from the utility company and Highways Authority to check and repair any damage that may have been caused.

030/24 Tree Warden

No update.

031/24 Parish Assets (Bus Shelters, Benches, etc)

No update.

032/24 Chairman's Business

No update.

033/24 Correspondence

Clerk previously emailed any relevant correspondence. Also, the replacement items for the defibrillators were discussed, along with the Microsoft Office license.

- Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the battery, pads and first aid kit for the parish defibrillators at a total cost of £537.60 (inc VAT).
- Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Microsoft Office license at a total cost of £79.99.

034/24 Finance

- Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for February 2024.

035/24 Payments and Receipts

- Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for February 2024.

036/24 Date of next meeting

Clerk noted an error on the agenda, as the next council meeting in March will be preceded by the Annual Residents Meeting at 6.45 pm, immediately followed by the monthly parish council meeting at 7pm.

The next meeting will be held at **6.45pm** on **Tuesday 12th March 2024** at **Hemerdon Village Hall**.

Meeting closed at 20.37

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date