

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 8th July 2025 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs May, Hutton-Fellowes, Lee, Nicholson, Serpell Denman, Sophie Jones (Clerk)
In attendance: Cllr Carson (DCC), Marica Lyndon (Tungsten West), Luscombe Maye Representative

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

88/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Webb (SPC), Cllr Edie (SHDC)

88/25 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.

89/25 Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

90/25 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Carson presented his monthly briefing to the council. He visited Hemerdon Mine with Sue Penaluna and found it very informative. Will revisit again on 22nd July. There have been issues with HGV's using sat navs and getting stuck in narrow lanes. Rebecca Smith MP is proposing that commercial vehicles use specific sat nav for commercial vehicles. It has recommended the speed limit on the B3417 road is reduced to 40mph. The committee agreed that Highways Officers would consult HATOC regarding the proposal. There will be double yellow lines painted around Langage Industrial Estate to ease the traffic at roundabouts and junctions.

91/25 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie circulated a brief prior to the meeting.

92/25 Public Forum

A representative from Luscombe Maye was in attendance to note that revised plans have been submitted for planning application ref 0585/25/FUL.

93/25 Hemerdon Mine

Marica updated the council on the progress at Hemerdon Mine (Tungsten West). On the 4th June, they were designated a strategic project under the EU's critical mineral strategy. They are having ongoing conversations with investors around the world. They have secured £2.4million as a top up, which they hope will secure them until they receive the full funding.

The current start-up date is predicted to be January 2026. The dust monitoring for this quarter will be circulated this month. They are also offering site visits for parish councils and parishioners. They will be starting a careers roadshow and attending educational settings to discuss mining opportunities. They have featured on Sky, BBC, in The Times and Telegraph. The next LLG meeting will be on the 10th September.

94/25 Planning

- a. 0585/25/FUL – Comments submitted regarding Biodiversity, Highways and Construction Management Plan condition.
- b. 1844/25/FUL – Objection due to insufficient information on application.
- c. 1867/25/LBC – No objections.

95/25 Minutes

- a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 13th May 2025 and Tuesday 10th June 2025. There was an addition to the minutes of Tuesday 10th June item 83/25 “Cllrs Carson and Thomas offered to provide financial support to the flashing speed limit signs.”
The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

96/25 Updates from ongoing projects (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Roads, Trees) – to receive any updates from local ongoing projects/issues.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes circulated the location of signs that need replacing in the parish and projects that need to be tackled. Three lampposts have been earmarked regarding the speed signs.

Cllr Nicholson left the meeting at 20.20

97/25 Chairman’s Business

Cllr May noted there is a planning committee on 10th July and there is a bench needing to be replaced in Bottle Park.

98/25 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated prior to meeting.

- a. Newnham Solar Fund – to review current legal agreement.

ACTION – Clerk to request a copy of the Community Benefit Agreement and will discuss once reviewed.

99/25 Finance

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for July 2025.
- b. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for July 2025.

100/25 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7pm** on **Tuesday 9th September 2025** at **Hemerdon Village Hall**

Meeting closed at 20.52

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date