

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 9th September 2025 at Hemerdon Village Hall

Present: Cllrs May, Hutton-Fellowes, Lee, Serpell Denman, Vinall, Webb, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Carson (DCC), Cllr Edie (SHDC), Cllr Thomas (SHDC), Marica Lyndon (Tungsten West)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

101/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Nicholson

102/25 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.

103/25 Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

104/25 Co-option of New Councillor

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Cllr Mark Vinall to Sparkwell Parish Council.

ACTION – Clerk will send Cllr Vinall the paperwork and set up a new gov.uk email address.

105/25 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Carson presented his monthly briefing to the council. Currently waiting for Devon County Council to shortlist their proposals. A parishioner contacted Cllr Carson with their concerns regarding the Lee Mill slip road. The planning application at this site has been significantly objected to by Highways, it was agreed to withdraw the application.

There are discussions regarding Beech Farm. There was a bid submitted by Devon County Council to Highways but it didn't get approved. Cllr Carson has offered to hold a public meeting to keep traction going forward.

Cllr Thomas noted that VAS shows 80% of road users were driving at speed limit, but the volume of cars is high; 4,000 cars into Lee Mill, 50 out. They have withdrawn the housing application for 25 properties as New Park Road isn't fit for purpose.

ACTION – Arrange a public mee4ting regarding the Lee Mill sliproad. Invite officers to speak on the matter.

106/25 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie circulated a brief prior to the meeting. Regarding Local Government Reorganisation, SHDC are waiting to see what DCC support. The tone is that Government

have misunderstood the costs of LGR. Cllr Thomas noted that any costs have to be recouped over a 7 year period.

ACTION – Clerk to obtain LGR objection document from Clerk at Wembury

107/25 Public Forum

No public in attendance.

108/25 Hemerdon Mine

Marica discussed the feasibility study which was released and accessible online. There is a virtual data room where individuals can access specific documents according to their NDA level. Thirty investors have been looking through the files/folders online via the virtual data room. Tungsten West will be asking for investment from UK government. There is an International Tungsten Conference in Helsinki next week. They have been approached by lots of businesses that use Tungsten and are looking at if they can invest directly with TW. They are currently on schedule to start construction in January 2026 with funding arriving December 2025. There will be a year-long build. Happy for visitors to come to the site. Currently arranging for the Cubs to visit.

From January 2026, TW will look at landscaping, including tree planting and car park repairs. There has been one incident with dust, the sprinklers were on 24/7 which helped/ A couple of fires happened at the Hemerdon side of the site due to people camping and not extinguishing fires correctly. TW have offered to help with signage and can drop off aggregates to fill holes temporarily.

109/25 Planning

- a. 2554/25/FUL – Further information required.
- b. 0109/25/OPA – Concerns regarding soakaway, local foul water, issues with road and issues with parking.

110/25 Minutes

- a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 8th July 2025. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

111/25 Updates from ongoing projects (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Roads, Trees) – to receive any updates from local ongoing projects/issues.

- a. To update council members on speed cameras

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes put together some options for speed camera devices within the parish. Met with Nick Colton and discussed options. Have selected a preferred device and location.

ACTION – Unanimously agreed to proceed with the purchase of the Elan City speed camera device. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will arrange for invoice to be raised. Clerk will request James Friend to install.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes and Cllr Carson discussed the double yellow lines by bus stop. Options are to write to residents requesting not to park there. Alternatively, the HATOC process. Need to prevent people parking so close to corner by the bus stop, so people can drive safely.

ACTION – Clerk to email regarding concerns parishioners have raised with vehicle parking by bus stop.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes noted the funding isn't available to get Wild Animals signs installed. There is an option to have signs made privately. Recommended a signmaker in Ermington.

ACTION – Cllr Hutton-Fellowes will get quotes for 10 x signs to be created.

b. Road quality at Birchland Way

ACTION – Clerk to email Cllr Carson a pin drop location of the road.

112/25 Chairman's Business

Cllr May contacted by a parishioner about apple trees.

SPC unhappy with Cann Woods parking charges.

113/25 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated prior to meeting.

a. To consider repainting parish signpost

ACTION – Cllr May to visit the site and clean up the stone. Clerk will inform parishioner.

b. To review and consider terminating the current Community Benefit Agreement for Newnham Solar Fund CIC.

ACTION – Request to keep the seat open on the CIC for when the Sparkwell Parish Council have more members. Agree to the separation of finances, request that a seat remains open for Sparkwell Parish Council.

114/25 Finance

a. The policies were approved.

b. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for August 2025 (retrospective) and September 2025.

c. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for August 2025 (retrospective) and September 2025.

115/25 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7pm on Tuesday 14th October 2025 at Sparkwell Parish Hall**

Meeting closed at 21.06

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date