

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 11th March 2025 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Cllr Edie (SHDC), 2 x Members of Public (MOP)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

39/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Nicholson, Serpell Denman

40/25 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.

41/25 Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

42/25 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hart was not present at the meeting.

43/25 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie circulated his report prior to the meeting.

44/25 Public Forum

Alan, the Chairman of the Hemerdon Hall Committee, discussed the recommendation for the hall to become a CIO. The CIO will hold the property in its own name, rather than the custodian trustee, which is Sparkwell Parish Council. Asking for transfer of ownership of Hemerdon Hall to the CIO.

Cllr May is concerned what may happen to the hall if it's not well supported, will it be sold commercially?

Alan responded that if the current charity were to fold, it would revert to a similar organisation. Or sold and the funds disseminated to a similar organisation. The benefit is that any liability of the individual trustees is mitigated.

45/25 Hemerdon Mine

Marica emailed an update which was read out at the meeting;

We are pleased to provide an update on the progress at Hemerdon Mine:

- We are currently on track to complete the final feasibility study by the end of March 2025. The recent tariffs on tungsten imposed by China have sparked significant interest in our project, and we remain optimistic about gaining further momentum with the support of the UK government.
- Unfortunately, due to limited funding, we have temporarily paused our community initiatives. However, we are hopeful that we can relaunch initiatives like the community allotments by the end of the year.
- All environmental, permitting, and health and safety regulations have been successfully met.
- We are excited to announce that our site's open days are scheduled to take place in the summer of 2025.

Marica noted there has been some antisocial behaviour onsite and the security team is looking at options to deter unwanted visitors. She will provide feedback with what measures Tungsten West are putting in place at the next meeting.

46/25 Planning

- 0250/25/ARM – No comment
- 0180/25/HHO – It was noted that incorrect boxes were ticked in application
- 0179/25/LBC – Support
- 4005/24/HHO – Cllr Edie will investigate

Cllr Edie left at 20.13

47/25 Minutes

- Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 11th February 2025

RESOLVED – unanimously that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 be approved and signed.

49/25 Updates from ongoing projects (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Roads, Trees) – to receive any updates from local ongoing projects/issues.

Cllr May noted a TPO.

ACTION – Clerk to contact SHDC to clarify TPO

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes attended the River Yealm Water Quality Group working group in January 2025. Silt collection hotspots were discussed. The farmers will be conducting a risk analysis. Field names and maps will be collected and collated, and mitigations discussed. Another meeting will be coming up.

ACTION – Clerk to link RYWQG website/facebook from SPC website.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes noted the parking at the bus stop in Sparkwell village. The zone needs to be protected due to the hazards parking there causes. Recommended to paint double yellow lines.

ACTION – Clerk to contact Local Police Support Officers regarding this (invite to May meeting). Contact DCC to let them know.

50/25 Chairman's Business

Nothing raised

51/25 Correspondence

- a. To discuss and approve the Summer Fair on the weekend of 12th/13th July between 2pm and 8pm at Lee Mill (on the green by Bottle Park).

ACTION – Clerk to speak to LMCA to check they have liability insurance. Cllrs agreed to the Summer Fair.

52/25 Finance

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

53/25 Items for future agendas

- **Local Government Reorganisation** – Need to discuss (at a future meeting)
- **Road** – Traffic Calming

54/25 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7pm on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at Sparkwell Parish Hall.**

- **Noted Cllr Webb's apologies.**

Meeting closed at 21.07

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date