

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 13th May 2025 at Sparkwell Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Cllr Carson (DCC), Cllr Edie (SHDC), Amanda (Luscombe Maye), Claire Puckey (Four Rivers Dementia Alliance), Marica Lydon (Tungsten West)

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

Annual Parish Meeting

55/25 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Nicholson proposed Cllr May for the role of Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Lee and agreed unanimously.

Cllr Lee proposed Cllr Nicholson for the role of Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Hutton-Fellowes and agreed unanimously.

56/25 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair – to sign the declaration in presence of the clerk.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair was signed.

Parish Council Meeting

57/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Webb.

58/25 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.

59/25 Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

60/25 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Carson attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Sparkwell Parish councillors and welcomed any questions.

61/25 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie circulated his report prior to the meeting. He wanted to note there is an ongoing National Landscape survey, which he welcomes people to fill out. There is also a current notice for the fire risk on Dartmoor.

62/25 Public Forum

Amanda, a representative from Luscombe Maye, discussed a Class Q application at Venton Barn. They have applied for a small extension at the rear of the building, which Amanda said meets with new Class Q criteria.

63/25 Hemerdon Mine

Marica attended the meeting. Tungsten West are on schedule. Feasibility Packs went out last week. Nineteen of the EA board visited the site. They will use precast concrete enclosures rather than steel, which they feel have a better frequency. EA are happy with this. They will have the full funding in December 2025, ready for construction in January 2026. Due to the tariff increases in China, Tungsten is more in demand.

They are moving on at pace. Staffing levels are low; 13 people (not including security) are doing multiple roles.

Regarding the LLG meetings, Marica will contact Cllr Tony Carson to arrange.

Cllr May asked if another planning application will be needed due to the changes mentioned? Marica said the EA are aware of everything so far and it is not out of the parameters.

There was concern from the Councillors regarding the new enclosures. Marica noted that Tungsten West are trying to be a better neighbour to the parishioners.

Cllr Nicholson also noted that the road by Hemerdon Mine is a long-standing concern of the councils and one which both the Mine and Cllr Carson could assist with. A discussion needs to be had with Devon Highways. Incidents are getting worse. Can't live in a community that accepts fatalities on a highway that's not fit for use. A safety audit is needed.

ACTION - Clerk to write to Cllr Carson regarding the road.

Marica left at 20.21

64/25 Four Rivers Dementia Alliance

Claire Puckey from Four Rivers Dementia Alliance attended the meetings to discuss their work within communities over the last 10 years. The local charity was set up 13 years ago and has been self-funded the entire time. She notes they can't change the person living with Dementia, but they can change the community. When a person is referred to the charity, it begins with an initial visit from Claire. Support will be tailored according to their needs. They provide home-visits, emotional support and practical support. They run regular groups, in which anyone can attend (whether they live within the parish or not). Walking groups, gentle-seated exercise, Listen and Laugh (a reading group), Carers catch up (once a month), informal coffees and chats. They provide support to all kinds of business and organisations to become dementia friendly. Awareness sessions can also be arranged.

65/25 Planning

- a. 0597/25/PIP – No comments
- b. 0585/25/FUL – Comments made regarding considerations that should be taken into account.
- c. 1273/25/CLE – Cllr Lee to speak to Case Officer

66/25 Minutes

- a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 11th March 2025

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

67/25 Updates from ongoing projects (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Roads, Trees) – to receive any updates from local ongoing projects/issues.

Nothing raised.

68/25 Chairman's Business

Nothing raised.

69/25 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated prior to meeting.

70/25 Finance

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for April 2025 and May 2025.
The payment for Sparkwell Hall for £18 was refused due to the hall being double booked.
- b. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for April 2025 and May 2025.

71/25 Items for future agendas

- **Local Government Reorganisation** – add to June 2025 agenda
- **Road Safety**

72/25 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7pm on Tuesday 10th June 2025 at Hemerdon Village Hall**

Meeting closed at 21.00

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date