

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 3rd December 2025 at Hemerdon Village Hall

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

In attendance: Cllr Carson (DCC), Marica Lyndon (Tungsten West).

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

132/25 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Lee and Serpell Denman

133/25 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.

134/25 Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

135/25 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Carson presented his monthly brief to the council, which was also circulated prior. The County have appointed a new adult care department. Six out of thirteen areas are rated as high risk. Devon's gritter lorries are out and about. As of Sunday 16th November 2025, 24,000 tonnes of salt is in the shed for the winter.

Council leader Julian Brazel has called upon local councils to come together during the government restructure in delivering the services that residents deserve. Cllr Carson noted that the Locality budget request for LMCA for £500 was successful.

There have been concerns that the flooding under the bridge on the way to Sparkwell is excessively dangerous. Cllr Carson will speak to Nick Colton. It was noted that due to this area being flooded frequently, it should be visited more often by the Highways team.

136/25 District Councillor's Report

No District Cllr was in attendance.

137/25 Public Forum

No public were in attendance.

138/25 Hemerdon Mine

Marica from Tungsten West (TW) noted that funding is progressing as they are completing their due diligence on investors. They are on schedule to commence build work from January 2026. They will consult with each of the parishes regarding opportunities and will recommend family/friends for positions available. Both skilled and unskilled roles are available – 150 people to be employed by July 2026. There will be possible pop-ups in each area for recruitment.

Marica noted that when a military helicopter was recently flying over Hemerdon, Sparkwell and Plympton recently, TW received nine complaints for noise and vibrations. They were reassured it was not the mine. TW want to repair any damage and trust issues caused by the previous owners,

Wolf Minerals. Marica asked Councillors if they can advise a way to repair the relationship. Cllrs recommended running regular drop-in sessions.

Marica and Cllr Carson left the meeting at 19.30pm.

139/25 Planning

- a. DCC/4443/2025 – no comment
- b. 0109/25/OPA – Objection.

140/25 Minutes

- a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 11th November 2025. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

141/25 Local Government Reorganisation

No updates.

142/25 Updates from ongoing projects (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Roads, Trees) – to receive any updates from local ongoing projects/issues.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes informed the council the speed indicator device has been paid for. James Friend, the parish handyman, has visited the site and provided the clerk with a quote for works.

RESOLVED – Councillors approved the quote from James Friend for £125.60 + VAT to install the speed camera.

143/25 Chairman's Business

The septic tank at the Miner's Arms car park was discussed. There is a South West Water truck that visits three times a day to empty the tank. It is noisy and disruptive when it arrives.

ACTION – Clerk to write to SWW to seek clarification on the septic tank and whether there are any long-term solutions to resolve it. Also inform them of the noise complaints.

144/25 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated prior to meeting.

- a. To consider funding the Christmas Tree at Sparkwell Parish Hall for £100

ACTION – Clerk to speak to Lynda and offer a contribution of £50 for the Christmas Tree.

145/25 Finance

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for December 2025.
- b. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the list of payments for December 2025.
- c. To consider a donation to Ivybridge Caring.
Defer this item to February 2026.
- d. To consider funding request from Citizens Advice for between £300 to £500.

RESOLVED – Cllrs resolved to contribute £300 to Citizens Advice.

146/25 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7pm** on **Wednesday 14th January 2026** at **Hemerdon Village Hall**

Meeting closed at 20.25

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date