

**MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Hemerdon Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs May, Nicholson, Vinall, Webb, Sophie Jones (Clerk)

**In attendance:** Cllr Carson (DCC), Marica Lyndon (Tungsten West), Mike (Fairway Gardens Project), Mark and Claire (LMCA).

**Part 1** (Open to the Public)

**116/25      Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Hutton-Fellowes, Lee, Serpell Denman.

**117/25      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.

**118/25      Declarations of Interest**

Nothing declared.

**119/25      County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Carson presented his monthly briefing to the council. It was noted that there are Local Government Reorganisation proposals from Devon City Council, South Hams District Council and the current unitaries. Also, there is grant funding available for species recovery, purchase of furniture and equipment for people in need, care and improving the wellbeing for people over the age of 65, play equipment and lastly, small grants for homeless people. The Locality Budget needs to be spent by the end of March 2026, anything up to £1,000 can be applied for. There is a need for more foster carers. The current average age of a foster parent is 63, meaning there are a lot of carers in their 70's.

**ACTION** – Clerk to upload link to Facebook and send to the LMCA.

**120/25      District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Edie circulated a brief prior to the meeting which was taken as read.

**121/25      Public Forum**

Members of the Lee Mill Community Association (LMCA) attended to discuss the bus shelter at Lee Mill which has been converted to a bookstore (item planned for minute 129/25 below). The electric meter within the bus shelter is costing the LMCA approximately £300 a year. Ideally, they'd like to swap the meter for solar panels.

**RESOLVED** – The council resolved to pay for the water but and guttering at a total cost of £450. Clerk to pay contractor directly.

**RESOLVED** – The council resolved to reimburse the LMCA for the new benches installed at Bottle Park.

It was also noted that the church in Lee Mill is up for sale. It would be appreciated if any updates were passed onto Sparkwell Parish Council.

**122/25      Hemerdon Mine**

Marica from Tungsten West (TW) noted that they are in the latter stages of closing the virtual data room. There has been lots of interest for investment and they are completely due diligence on who they would like to invest in them. TW are on schedule to close funding at the end of this year. The National Wealth Fund were shortlisted on the date of this meeting. The recruitment plans are also on schedule. The National Wealth Fund may invite parishes to an open forum to gauge feedback, which will be hosted by Tungsten West, but they won't be present. Full production will be 12 months after build begins. There will be a phased start up and solutions are being discussed regarding an alternative to transporting aggregate via lorries.

Marica also noted that TW have requested all the historical complaints from the Environmental Agency and which areas are most prominent. They want to see if there are any specific areas that were more affected than others when Wolf Minerals were in operation.

Cllr Nicholson shared concerns that the widening of the road by the mine will increase the possibility of accidents. It was asked that rather than widening the road, TW request a variation on the condition and instead request to install a speed camera. Speed issues are rife there and there will be an environmental impact from widening the road. Cllr Carson will get the data of incidents that have occurred on that stretch of road. Marica has invited Cllr May to meet to discuss the impact to parishioners previously when Wolf was operating. Marica acknowledges how detrimental the vibrations were previously and the impact of low frequency noise. TW get complaints on an almost weekly basis regarding trucks and/or noise. They'd like more monitoring done so that the cause and fault can be determined.

Lastly, Cllr May noted how important the LLG meetings are.

#### **123/25 Planning**

No planning applications as of 06/11/2025.

#### **124/25 Minutes**

- a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

#### **125/25 Fairway Gardens Project**

Mike Tappenden attended the meeting to discuss the Fairway Garden Project that Sparkwell Parish Council donated funds towards. He circulated a report with some photos and details of the project and the progress they have made. It is a vital project, focussed on wildlife and insects. Cllr May reiterated how important the project has been and wished for the council to support the project with ongoing costs.

Sparkwell Parish Council wish to formally record it's their gratitude to the participants of the Fairway Gardens project for the marvellous job that they have all done.

**ACTION** – Clerk to ask Cllr Thomas the availability of funding towards environmental projects, which may help the Fairway Gardens project.

Cllr Carson left the meeting at 20.30

#### **126/25 Local Government Reorganisation**

Councillors discussed whether to sign the unified response to the House of Commons.

It was resolved that Sparkwell Parish Council will not be signing the unified letter. All parishes have different needs and objectives, the issues with the current boundary are not reflected in the letter. It was also noted that the Plymouth proposal is just one of several. There are areas of the letter that

SPC agree with, but there is not currently enough information on all proposals to make an informed formal response. Sparkwell Parish Council would like to thank Yealmpton Parish Council for the time and effort taken to write the letter.

**127/25 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 camera and installation.

No updates this month. Deferred to December.

b. To discuss and consider contributing to the River Yealm Water Quality Group for the Fly Survey.

Deferred to December.

**128/25 Chairman's Business**

A parishioner has complained of apples landing in her garden.

It was also discussed if Sparkwell Parish Council should move its monthly meetings to the first Wednesday of every month to enable more members to routinely attend.

**ACTION** – *Cllrs resolved to agree to the amendment of the monthly full meeting day to the first Wednesday of every month.*

**129/25 Correspondence**

All correspondence circulated prior to meeting.

a. To consider reimbursing LMCA £510 for the purchase of 2 picnic benches at Bottle Park.

b. To grant the LMCA permission to add guttering and a water butt to the Lee Mill Bridge old stone bus shelter building (currently used as a community book shed).

c. The above-mentioned book shed is currently maintained by the LMCA. They have requested the council gift the building to them.

These items were discussed in minute 121/25 above.

**130/25 Finance**

a. To discuss and consider the Ring and Ride Grant request.

**RESOLVED** – *Councillors resolved to donate £400 to the Ring & Ride.*

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

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

**131/25 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at **7pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at Hemerdon Village Hall**

**Meeting closed at 21.30**

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed .....

Name ..... Date .....