

MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 1st April at Hemerdon Village Hall

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

In attendance: Cllr Edie (SHDC).

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

31/26 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Nicholson and Webb

32/26 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.

33/26 Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

34/26 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Carson circulated a brief prior to the meeting, which was read out to council members.

35/26 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie noted that the consultation regarding Local Government Reorganisation is ongoing. The Devon+ proposal has gained some support. It is also indicative that decision will be sensible as opposed to political.

36/26 Public Forum

No public present.

37/26 Hemerdon Mine

Tungsten West did not attend. It was noted that there was a recent Local Liaison Group meeting, which Cllrs May and Vinall attended.

38/26 Planning

- a. 0579/26/LBC – SPC supports this application
- b. 0370/26/FUL – SPC supports this application
- c. DCC/4452/2026 – SPC supports this application

39/26 Minutes

- a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 4th February 2026. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

40/26 Road Warden

There were no updates. There was a discussion

41/26 Updates from ongoing projects (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Roads, Trees) – to receive any updates from local ongoing projects/issues.

Cllr Hutton-Fellowes noted that the footpaths within the parish that are the parish council's responsibility are still routinely checked and reports submitted but nothing is progressing. Due to this, the decision has been made to give path maintenance back to South Hams District Council.

It was also noted that the River Yealm Water Quality Group had their AGM recently. Cllr Hutton-Fellowes explained how much work the group do and will present an overview in the May full council meeting.

42/26 Chairman's Business

It was noted that a parishioner raised concerns regarding the bank from the railway bridge to Sparkwell. It's really deteriorating and is contributing to the drain blocking. The deterioration is largely due to deer migrating.

Cllr Serpell Denman discussed the litter pickers within the parish as they've done a great job.

43/26 Correspondence

All correspondence circulated prior to meeting.

- a. To approve the transfer to Bee Happy Payroll Services (retrospective)

Cllrs approved the transfer to a new payroll provider, Bee Happy Payroll Services.

- b. To discuss and appoint a member of the Sparkwell Parish Council as a Director at Newnham Solar Fund CIC.

Cllr Vinall has agreed to join the Board of Directors for Newnham Solar Fund CIC.

ACTION – *It was agreed that the Clerk would provide an Action List to circulate to councillors every month.*

44/26 Finance

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for February 2026 and March 2026.
- b. Cllrs confirmed the appointment of Hillside Business as the Internal Auditor for 2025/26.

45/26 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **7pm** on **Wednesday 6th May 2026** at **Sparkwell Parish Hall**.

Meeting closed at 20.55pm

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date