

**MINUTES OF SPARKWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on 2nd September 2026 at HEMERDON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllrs May, Davis, Hartley, Vinall, Sophie Jones (Clerk).

In attendance: Cllr Carson (DCC), Barnaby Hudson (Tungsten West), 2 Members of Public

Part 1 (Open to the Public)

97/26 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Thomas and Edie sent their apologies.

Cllrs Webb, Serpell Denman and Erasmus sent their apologies, which was agreed by the council.

98/26 Agreement of the Agenda between Parts I and II

Agreed. Councillors noted that one item of business would be considered in Part II of the meeting.

99/26 Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared.

100/26 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Carson provided an update which was read out by Cllr May. Cllr Carson noted that at the Local Liaison Group meeting the funders wanted all the planning permissions in place, therefore the road widening is being pushed forwards.

There will be a HATOC meeting in November regarding the speed limit of the B3417. Cllr Carson is encouraging attendance.

101/26 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Edie was not in attendance but sent his brief prior to the meeting. This was circulated by the Clerk and read out by Cllr May.

102/26 Public Forum

A member of the public attended the meeting with concerns regarding unofficial dog walking fields.

ACTION – Clerk to write letter to South Hams District Council for advice and to raise concerns.

A representative of Sparkwell Hall attended with questions regarding the sustainability of the hall. The playground is costing huge amounts of money.

103/26 Hemerdon Mine

Barnaby from Tungsten West attended the meeting to inform the council that the government have announced a package to support Tungsten West with £71million. They will have a 7.4% stake in the company, a place of the Board and up to 50% of the Tungsten will be available for UK use.

In the mineral processing facility, the old screens have been removed and chopped up. They have taken delivery of a steel enclosure which will be situated in the building itself. Most of the works for the front end have been completed, and the cement is being poured. The PL7 recruitment campaign has been launched. There is approximately 300 people onsite (employees and contractors).

Tungsten West held a "Meet and Greet" session in Hemerdon. There will be sessions in Sparkwell and Lee Moor. They are looking into Mine open days in November. The Hemerdon community raised

concerns regarding traffic and aggregate movements through the villages. TW will be clear on lorry movements at the future meetings to ensure that parishioners are aware.

Regarding tree planting, an ecologist has visited in August to consult on the viability of the sites.

TW are in the process of agreeing an update to the Blast Management Plan. There will be a separate consultant to review it and hope to have an outcome at the end of September.

The shipments are confirmed as one shipment of tungsten per day and one of tin per week.

Regarding the improvements of the road widening and provision of speed camera, there were issues with land ownership. Once the issues are resolved and agreement signed of, they are looking to expediting the works.

Cllr Hartley asked if council members could see the Blast Management Plan. Barnaby will investigate this and get back to the council. TW will also try to get approximate dates for road widening works.

Cllr May informed Barnaby that the dust monitor is missing at Sparkwell Hall and there is no dust monitor at Hemerdon. TW will also provide the data.

104/26 Planning

- a. 0940/26/FUL - Support
- b. 2093/26/HHO – No Comment
- c. 2064/26/FUL – Support
- d. 2109/26/VPO – No Comment

105/26 Minutes

- a. Councillors considered the minutes of the Parish Council meetings on Wednesday 5th August 2026. The meetings were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

106/26 Road Warden

Cllr Vinall has removed significant foliage by the school and playground in Sparkwell, as well as cleaning the signs. He has visited Beechwood Cross, which was flooded and blocked. Cllr Vinall has cleared this blockage and another up the road.

Cllr Vinall has also walked around Sparkwell with Cllr Carson and noted there is an area in the village where speeding needs to be reduced. It was suggested that signs could be put out on the roadside.

ACTION – *Cllr Vinall will research signage that can be placed on the roadside for speeding awareness.*

Cllr Vinall discussed the speeding at Lee Mill along Plymouth Road and the black spot opposite the pub. Traffic calming was discussed; a 20mph gate was suggested along with an average speed camera.

ACTION – *Clerk to email Cllr Thomas to have a site meeting at Lee Mill to discuss the dangerous speeding. Also invite Cllr Carson, Nick Colton, Cllr Hartley and Cllr Davis. Also email Rebecca Smith MP. (Preferably a Friday)*

107/26 Devon County Council Speed Limit Order – to discuss the proposal to introduce a 40mph speed limit of the B3417 (details circulated).

Councillors are in support of this proposal.

ACTION – *Clerk to email Sparkwell Parish Council's support.*

108/26 Chairman's Business

Nothing raised.

109/26 Correspondence

Clerk has circulated all correspondence prior to the meeting.

110/26 Finance

- a. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget analysis report and bank reconciliation for September 2026.
- b. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the payments list for September 2026.
- c. To review Risk Register and List of Assets. Cllrs reviewed and **RESOLVED** to agree the Risk Register and List of Assets.

111/26 Date of next meeting

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

Meeting closed at

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name Date