

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 4 October 2016 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr B Owen (Chairman), Cllr J Bellamy (from item 2), Cllr D Higman, Cllr E Ross, Cllr G Simpson & Cllr D Troake

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Rowe and one member of the public.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.30pm.

041016.01	Resignation & Apologies for Absence 1.1 Members received the resignation of Cllr Tom Powell who was unable to continue in his role due to work commitments. 1.2 Apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District Cllr Smerdon• Ross Gray (Tree Warden)
041016.02	Casual Vacancy Members received an application from John Bellamy to fill one of the casual vacancies. It was agreed unanimously to co-opt Mr Bellamy to the Parish Council. Mr Bellamy signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed by the clerk, and joined the meeting.
041016.03	Open Forum There were no comments.
041016.04	District and County Councillors' Report County Cllr Rowe gave a report – copy attached. There was a brief discussion about superfast broadband provision. It is understood that half the village will have Airband and half will have BT. There will be an additional meeting in Ashburton in November to accommodate the huge interest locally in the hospital closure consultation. The Chairman advised that it had been suggested by a parishioner to arrange a consultation meeting in Holne. Only daytime meetings have been offered which may limit the number of people who could attend. It was therefore agreed to establish what level of interest there is in an additional meeting in Holne before making any further arrangements.
041016.05	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and to declare any disclosable interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they have in any items to be considered at this meeting. Unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a Councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting. There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

041016.06	<p>Ratification of Minutes Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 September 2016 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
041016.07	<p>Planning 7.1 New applications: 7.1.1 16/0042 - Land adjacent to Village Farm, Holne Beech - Crown lift to give 3m ground clearance and reduce lateral branches by 2m Members had no objections to this application.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions: There were no decisions to report.</p>
041016.08	<p>Finance 8.1 Members approved the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheque no 770 - Project Cosmic - £30.00 • Cheque no 771 - HMRC (PAYE) - £149.40 • Cheque no 772 - Lee Accounting (South West) Ltd - £90.00 <p>8.2 Members received and noted the bank reconciliation to 4 October 2016.</p>
041016.09	<p>Leats There was nothing to report.</p>
041016.10	<p>Michelcombe Noticeboard Cllr Higman informed members that he had looked at the noticeboard and reported that the backboard needs replacing which he offered to do before the next meeting.</p>
041016.11	<p>Playpark 11.1 Members received a report from Cllr Higman with regard to the roadside hedge and sump. Having looked at the hedge, he thought that it would be possible to take the barbed wire away and lay the hedge with posts inside. There is a possibility that an offer has been received to undertake this at no cost. It was agreed to explore this offer further at the next Playpark meeting before making any further decisions.</p> <p>Cllr Higman reported that the Council's contractor, Simon Birbeck, has quoted £75 to trim back the Little Bewden boundary hedge in Playpark. However, it was reported that David Best had already undertaken this voluntarily. It was agreed to write to Mr Best to thank him. Cllr Higman also reported that he had spoken to Simon Birbeck about the grass cuttings in the leat and he had agreed to try and minimise this as much as he could. Cllr Ross confirmed that Wayne Grimley would undertake the clearing of the sump during the winter at no cost to the Council.</p> <p>11.2 It was agreed to ask Peter Owen to cut the field hedge in Playpark.</p> <p>11.3 It was reported that a bench is missing in Playpark, thought to have been taken away to repair. It was agreed to establish its whereabouts.</p> <p>11.4 Cllr Owen informed members that members of Playpark would be undertaking some leat clearance at the weekend including clearing under the clapper bridge should anyone wish to join them.</p>

	<p>11.5 Members were informed that following the latest inspection of the play equipment by SHDC, the Council has been advised that the rubber buffer on the entrance gate is missing and needs replacing as this could create a finger entrapment. The Chairman agreed to raise this at the next Playpark meeting.</p>
041016.12	<p>Defibrillator It was agreed that this would be discussed next month.</p>
041016.13	<p>Consultation – Council Tax Referendum Members received details of a consultation relating to the capping of parish and town council precepts. In response to the relevant consultation questions, the Parish Council agreed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you agree with extending referendum principles to larger, higher spending parishes? No. • Do you agree with the proposed approach to take account of transfer of responsibilities? No. • Do you agree with the suggestion of extending further to all parishes and if so what level of principle should be set? No. • Do you have views on the practical implications of a possible extension to all? It goes against the principles of local democracy.
041016.14	<p>Service of Remembrance It was agreed that Cllr Troake would lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.</p>
041016.15	<p>Potholes, highway maintenance reports and other highways issues The following matters were noted/raised:</p> <p>15.1 Members received a response from Lisa Edmonds, DCC, with regard to the Council’s complaint about how the road closures in August had been managed. She advised that when a Utility Company apply to the County Council for a Road Closure, there is certain criteria that they have a responsibility to meet, one of those is to liaise with the very local residents who will be affected by the closure, they also have to advise the Parish Council as well as various other bodies and Advance Warning Boards should be placed on site prior to the start of the closure. The Road Works Team at County Hall will check their systems on receipt of the application, to make sure there are no clashes with other works, be it DCC or other Utilities, and to also check if there is the possibility of works being co-ordinated together to lessen any further inconvenience. BT Openreach will be best placed to respond to the issues raised by the Council but she advises that from the closure information, they appear to have engaged a separate contractor to carry out their works. Whilst appreciating the Council’s sentiments, she advised that there may have been a justifiable reason for them to keep the road closed, with the impression that no works were occurring, and in that case, it is probably more beneficial for all if the road remained closed, rather than randomly opening and closing it, which would cause more inconvenience and confusion to the travelling public. She further stated that it would have been useful to have been advised of the issues at the time so that investigations could have been undertaken and, with earlier intervention, some of these issues may have been alleviated.</p> <p>15.2 It was reported that the cattle grid sign has been knocked over by Forestone.</p>

	15.3 There had been no response as yet from DCC with regard to the Council's request for a 'No Through Road' sign at Forestoke. The clerk will follow this up.
041016.16	Clerk's or Councillors' reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None.
041016.17	Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting None.
041016.18	Correspondence None.
041016.19	Date of Next Meeting It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting as 1 November 2016 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.

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Clr B Owen
Chairman

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

Community Hospitals - many parishes have been represented at Open Meetings during the Consultation process concerning the possible closure of some of our local community Hospitals. The process is ongoing at present and it is important that you have your say. There is a meeting at The Civic hall in Totnes on Tuesday 11th October at 6.30pm. People can write or correspond their views via the internet.

Broadband - the broadband phase 1 is near completion with the target being 90% coverage by the end of 2016. Air band is going live across Dartmoor soon?

Sherford New Town is starting to come out of the ground, the first tranche of houses are progressing and it is hoped that they will be occupied in the Spring of 2017.

Women against state pension changes. The County and indeed most District Councils including south hams have debated this in a resolution recently and have had total support and members have agreed to write to an canvas M.P.'s on this issue. There has been a change in the age at which people can obtain their State pension if born after the beginning of April 1951 they have to wait extra years before they are entitled to get a pension from the state. This was not made widely known and many women have been left without an income or a job and so have had to rely on their partners.

Devolution within the South West (not including Cornwall) - talks are ongoing amongst the various parties. It will be some time before a decision is reached as to if we proceed or not. The problem as always is finance. It appears that at present Central Government will not change its views much on the financing of Local Government and councils will not be much better off via Brexit.

And finally, a meeting has been arranged at Spaces Studio 3 at Dartington Hall with Neil Parish M.P. on Thursday 27th October starting at 7.30 pm. He is a member of a panel to discuss Food and Farming post Brexit. Anyone who is interested in E.F.R.A. is welcome to attend.

As usual some of you meet on the same evening .Three PCs meet on the same night and two on another two occasions. However, if I am elected to serve on Devon County Council in May next year only Dartington and Staverton will still be in my Division.