

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 7.30pm

### Present

Cllr B Owen (Chairman), Cllr E Ross & Cllr D Troake

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Smerdon and one member of the public

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.30pm.

<b>070217.01</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr D Bellamy</li><li>• Cllr D Higman</li><li>• Cllr G Simpson</li><li>• Ross Gray</li></ul>
<b>070217.02</b>	<b>Open Forum</b> Bo Hanson presented a new village website which is currently under construction, <a href="http://www.holnevillage.co.uk">www.holnevillage.co.uk</a> , and invited the Parish Council to be part of it. The cost to the Parish Council will be approximately £89 for the first year and £59 per year thereafter. The site will incorporate the Historical Society, Scoriton Review, Community and What's On. Members agreed that this would be the perfect solution to the issues that the Parish Council is having with the existing website and not being able to upload any documents without the site crashing. The Chairman thanked Bo for this opportunity and for coming to speak to members about it.
<b>070217.03</b>	<b>District and County Councillors' Report</b> County Cllr Rowe sent a written report – copy attached.  District Cllr P Smerdon gave a report – copy attached.
<b>070217.04</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> 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.
<b>070217.05</b>	<b>Ratification of Minutes</b> Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 January 2017 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

070217.06	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>6.1 <b>New applications:</b> 0050/17 – Erection of temporary horse shelter at Land at Langaford Bridge, Holne</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Troake would make a site visit and circulate his recommendation to members prior to being sent to DNPA.</p> <p>6.2 <b>Decisions:</b> 0566/16 – Use of barn as a dwelling at Michelcombe Farm, Holne (Certificate of Lawfulness)</p> <p>Members noted that this application has been refused.</p>
070217.07	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>7.1 Members approved the following payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque no 781 – Cosmic (Web hosting) - £75</li> </ul> <p>7.2 Members noted that the Council’s internal auditor, Ken Abraham, will be unable to carry out any future audit work due to ill health and agreed the appointment of Hania Lee of Lee Accounting to carry out future internal audits of the Council.</p>
070217.08	<p><b>Defibrillator</b></p> <p>Members noted that the Parish Council’s application to the TAP fund for £600 towards the cost of purchasing a defibrillator has been successful. It was agreed to obtain quotations to install the defibrillator outside the shop and tearoom and to arrange for a pro forma invoice to be available for the next meeting so that a cheque can be signed and the defibrillator ordered.</p>
070217.09	<p><b>Annual Parish Meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the main topic for the evening would be the future of the Church House Inn. The meeting will provide a forum for parishioners to find out what is happening and for them to express their views. It was also agreed to invite one of the Trustees to the meeting so that they can explain what is happening.</p>
070217.10	<p><b>Church House Inn</b></p> <p>Members raised ongoing concerns that the Church House Inn is still untenanted and there is no apparent prospective buyer. Concerns were raised about the impact of this on the fabric of the building which had been empty for almost a year. A discussion ensued about how, if at all, the Parish Council could intervene. Firstly, members agreed that an application should be made to South Hams District Council to nominate it as a Community Asset. A suggestion was also made to have a community ‘clear up’ day where, with the permission of the Trustees, volunteers could go and clean/tidy the pub. It was agreed that Cllr Ross would contact Chair of the Trustees, Marion Kaye, to suggest this. Cllr Ross advised that she would also try and make contact with the Bishop to establish if anything else could be done.</p>
070217.11	<p><b>Leats</b></p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>
070217.12	<p><b>Playpark</b></p> <p>With regard to the maintenance contract for 2017/18, it was agreed that no amendments would be made to it but that Cllr Bellamy would liaise with the contractor on a regular basis and keep a general eye on things.</p> <p>It was observed that the pile of gravel which has been extracted from the leat was growing and it</p>

	would soon need to be disposed of somehow.
<b>070217.13</b>	<p><b>Potholes, highway maintenance reports and other highways issues</b></p> <p>13.1 Members receive an update from DCC Highways Officer, Lisa Edmonds, in response to matters raised in previous meetings, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An order has been raised for the ditch to be dug out by the Post Box on Michelcombe Hill.</li> <li>• The road at Staddicombe is considered private and not Highway maintained at public expense, so has been inspected.</li> <li>• The Parish Council’s suggestion that the Lengthsman cleans the drains on Holne Chase Hill on his next visit has been passed on.</li> <li>• Lisa is aware of the issue with the cattle grid and has been battling to get it cleared. It has been inspected in heavy rain and though the bulk of the grid appears to be clear, the outlet pipe obviously wasn’t as the road was running like a river. This has been passed back to DCC’s Routine &amp; Reactive Team to sort out.</li> <li>• The gullies on Holne Chase Hill are cleaned annually, and being a gritting route, this location is also checked prior to winter, having the grips dug out etc. It has been ploughed and swept over the past couple of years as it suffers with leaf fall, and this is something which is done on an annual basis. These will be inspected and if there is an issue with any of the gullies, they will be added to the extra jetting list.</li> <li>• Hembury Woods has been inspected and the relevant pothole defects have been logged on the system for repair.</li> </ul> <p>13.2 It was agreed to report the general condition of the road opposite Staddicombe down to Shuttaford. There is also a pothole on the right hand side of the road as you come down approaching Stoney Post.</p>
<b>070217.14</b>	<p><b>Clerk’s or Councillors’ reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>070217.15</b>	<p><b>Chairman’s urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>070217.16</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>070217.17</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting as 7 March at 7.30pm.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

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**Cllr B Owen**  
**Chairman**

## District Council Report – February 2017

Following discussions by Members at a Budget setting meeting last week it was agreed to recommend to the Executive and Full Council that SHDC increase Council Tax by £5 (which equates to a Band D council tax of £155.42 for 2017/18, an increase of £5 per year or 10 pence per week). This equates to a rise of 3.25%.

A proposal for both SHDC and West Devon Borough Council to set up a Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) is now unlikely to move forward in its current form. A Member led, politically balanced working group (Joint Steering Group) was set up to answer nine critical questions. They have concluded that, while there are no legal or technical matters that would prevent the Councils from setting up a LACC, additional pension costs in the early years would take the Councils longer to pay back than the Members of the Joint Steering Group were comfortable with. A decision not to move ahead at this time could mean that both Councils will have to continue to explore other ways to close their looming funding gap.

As you may be aware the A38 has recently been cleared of vegetation by the contractor 'Kier' working on behalf of Highway's England. This annual task is part of co-ordinated work between Highways England and the Local Authorities, including South Hams, that are responsible for litter collection. At SHDC, we currently have two of our four 'Rapid Response Teams' working on the A38 litter picking and collecting fly-tipped material. This work will be ongoing for the next couple of weeks.

Councils are now able to issue fixed penalty notices to fly tippers who have been identified, indeed in cases of repeat offending it is now possible to seize their vehicles and have them crushed. South Hams has issued as many fixed penalty notices as all other Devon Councils put together, (15) including Plymouth and Exeter, and we continue to try and address this anti-social problem by being as vigilant as possible.

I shall be attending a meeting with National Grid to discuss their planned works starting in April on the main pylon line which runs South of the A38 and affects the Parishes of Rattery and South Brent. This major refurbishment will involve renewing all the conductors, or wires, and could result in road closures where a road has to be crossed.

South Hams District Council has received funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government to support the delivery of community led housing, where second home ownership has a significant impact on the local housing markets. As an area which has a high proportion of second homes, we have been awarded one of the highest sums in the country. South Hams has over 4000 second homes, 9% of the total. This funding amounts to £1.8 million, 50% of which has already been paid to us. We have until the end of March to confirm back to the Government how we propose to spend it over the next 3-5 years, so as to ensure we get the remaining 50%. Indications are that there will be future funding in subsequent years of the current parliament. A key requirement is the involvement of community led housing groups, such as Community Land Trusts. South Brent Community Land Trust, as an already constituted organisation, should be ideally placed to take advantage of this opportunity.

## **Devon County Council report to 30th January 2017**

Most of this month has been taken up with reviewing The Budgets which is very difficult given that D.C.C. needs to cut its spending by £21.mil. Over the next 4 years.

It looks like D.C.C.share of the Council Tax will be increasing by approx.4.99% which equates to approx.£62.00 on a band D property.3% Of this is for Social care and 1.99% is for general budgetary needs. This will be debated at the Full Council Meeting on the 16th February.

I have been involved with the Peoples Budget. This deals mainly with the needs of The Elderly, The Vulnerable and Children's social care. It is hard to predict how many people will be in need of these services.

There are a higher proportion of people over the age of 65 and then 85 in Devon than most other counties. They need and deserve our help and support when the need arises. The council will be supporting this group with an extra 10% in this budget as it has been over spent this year. Central Government has agreed that those Councils who manage social care can add 3% to their share of the Council Tax for 2017/18 although this has not been agreed and finalised at D.C.C. yet.

Schools Budgets have fared well compared to other sectors for funding.D.C.C. Is still pressing for a Fairer National Funding Formula as Devon Schools are funded considerably less per head than our counterparts in the Midlands and the North.approx. £355.00 per pupil less .So our Schools lose out.

There have been consultations and debates concerning the closure of some of the local Community hospitals. It is mainly about the loss of Beds and not the whole Hospital being closed .in fact it is proposed that there will be new Dr.Surgeries and Clinics etc. Started in these areas. According to the S.Devon Clinical Commissioning group (C.C.G.) more beds in general Hospitals will be freed up with more help in care in the Community Packages etc.

This is some of the work I have been involved in.

Look out for scams all the time. There are some particularly nasty ones going around. Beware of emails and tele callers. Never Ever give ANY personal details out without checking to whom they are given to. If in doubt don't do it.

Rosemary Rowe