

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 8 January 2019 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr B Owen (Chairman), Cllr J Bellamy, Cllr T Crook, Cllr D Higman, Cllr E Ross and Cllr Simpson

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Smerdon and four members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

080119.01	Apologies for Absence None received.
080119.02	Open Forum A parishioner informed members that he was very grateful to the Parish Council and everyone else who has worked tirelessly to encourage the reopening of The Church House Inn. He considers the pub to be the heart of the village and thinks that the parish should continue to do all it can to ensure this happens. The Chairman thanked him for coming and expressed her appreciation for his kind words of encouragement. The owner of Mill Leat Farm introduced herself. She gave some background to her family and reasons for purchasing the property. With a need for an additional income in the short-term, she advised members that it was her intention to submit a planning application for 5 camping pitches. The Chairman thanked her for coming and advised that the Parish Council would consider the application when it has been consulted about it by DNPA. A parishioner observed that there is a large pothole on Venford Bridge.
080119.03	District and County Councillors' Report District Cllr Smerdon presented his report, a copy of which is attached. Cllr Smerdon questioned what was happening with The Church House Inn. He was informed that the bar and dining areas were being advertised for let. Cllr Crook advised that he had completed the Community Asset nomination form and would circulate it to members. He also suggested that letters of support are encouraged from local groups and individuals and submitted with the form to demonstrate the community's support for the building to continue as a public house.
080119.04	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation Councillors are 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. All members present declared an interest in item 6.2 as council tax payers in this parish.

080119.05	<p>Ratification of Minutes Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 December 2018 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
080119.06	<p>Finance</p> <p>6.1 Invoices for payment Members approved the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheque no 817 - HMRC (PAYE) - £153.80 - Cheque no 818 - T Crook (website) - £238.55 <p>6.2 Members considered the budget for 2019/20. After discussion, the budget was agreed. The precept to be demanded would be £6,762 + £128 council tax support grant which equates to a 0% increase/decrease on the parish's council tax.</p>
080119.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications: No new applications.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions:</p> <p>7.2.1 0514/18 – Higher Mill Leat, Holne Construction of agricultural worker's dwelling</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has refused to grant planning permission.</p> <p>7.3 DNPA Local Plan Consultation Members agreed to look at the draft plan and collate their comments before the deadline of 4 February.</p>
080119.08	<p>Annual Parish Meeting It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 7.00pm ahead of the monthly Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm. The format of the meeting would be the same as last year. Tea and coffee will be served.</p>
080119.09	<p>Playpark</p> <p>9.1 Inspection reports: Cllr Bellamy advised that there was nothing to report and no action required following December's inspection.</p> <p>9.2 Grass cutting contract for 2019/20: The current contractor has confirmed that his prices for the coming season will be maintained at the same rate as last season (£45 per cut/£720 per annum).</p> <p>9.3 Playpark hedge: The clerk advised that Paul Pearse will cut the hedge before 1 March.</p> <p>9.4 General report from Holne Playpark: There was nothing to report. The next meeting is to be held next week.</p>
080119.10	<p>Leats There were no issues reported.</p>

080119.11	<p>Potholes, Highways Maintenance Reports and Other Highways Issues</p> <p>It was observed that a number of potholes in the parish have been marked ready for repair.</p> <p>The clerk advised that the DCC's Highways Engineer will be looking at the leaning tree at Holne Bridge as reported at the last meeting and would report on his findings at the next meeting.</p>
080119.12	<p>Clerk's or Councillors' reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>The Chairman raised concern about the maintenance of the village green whilst the pub is closed. This had been undertaken by the pub in the past in return for being able to use the area as outside space. It was agreed to write to the owner of the pub and ask that whether it was his intention to maintain the area and if not to remove the benches so that the parish can maintain it.</p> <p>The Chairman proposed writing a letter to Holne Events Group thanking them for arranging the Christmas tree on the green, the lights and the carol singing around it. This was agreed.</p>
080119.13	<p>Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting</p> <p>None.</p>
080119.14	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There were no items of correspondence.</p>
080119.15	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Cllr Simpson rendered her apologies for February and March's meetings.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

.....
Cllr B Owen
Chairman

District Councillor Smerdon's report – January 2019

Over the last year South Hams District Council have been busy looking at all of the land that we own, to understand the potential it might have to enhance the local area if developed. We now have a number of exciting investment and enhancement projects which will create significant benefits for the local economy.

In July the Council undertook an in-depth survey to investigate these projects, then in September a Commercial Property Strategy was agreed, and now the Executive at South Hams have approved a £19 million capital investment programme to make some of these projects a reality. Local Authorities have access to finance for these types of project at very competitive rates from the Public Works Loan Board. South Hams Members were emphatic that any investments should take place within our District, rather than in other parts of the country as has been the case with other Councils.

This strategy provides the council with the opportunity to support the local economy, get pay back on its capital investment and provide an income to help ease budget pressures.

At December's Executive meeting key projects were agreed and they will now progress to the next step, whether that is agreeing the funding arrangements, seeking planning permission or negotiation with stakeholders. The projects include: The development of a 79 bed hotel in Kingsbridge for a national hotel operator, the much needed Health and Wellbeing Centre at Dartmouth which will be leased to the NHS, a new office building at Steamer Quay Totnes for a local employer, the purchase of 10 acres of land for employment use at Sherford, chalet-style holiday accommodation at Beesands, increased car parking at Shadycombe in Salcombe, new employment units and a workshop at Batson in Salcombe.

The land at Sherford will also give the Council expansion opportunities for the future, as a prime location for inward investment. The combined projects will create or protect approximately 80 jobs locally and increase tourism within the District and giving the council an average annual income of and giving the council an average annual net income of over £200,000.

At Decembers Full Council meeting a new multi million-pound waste contract was approved by South Hams District Council for recycling, waste and cleansing services enabling the Council to save over £3 million pounds over the life of the contract and improving our environmental impact and recycling rates. The new services will be delivered to a high standard from 1st April 2019 as part of a new partnership agreement with national waste contractors FCC, who currently also provide waste services for West Devon.

This is a big change for the South Hams who have provided these services through the Council's own workforce for many years. The decision was made following a very intensive and thorough tendering process lasting almost two years. This included robust market testing giving full consideration to every single element of the current services to ensure best value and best quality for residents.

The staff who currently collect the waste and recycling and clean the district will transfer to the new partner company, South Hams District Council have ensured that their valued workforce will continue to provide services with protected terms and conditions and without the need for redundancies.

The future service will offer householders the opportunity to recycle even more of our household waste when the change is made from the current bag and bin system to a kerbside sorted collection system from September 2020.

While South Hams District Council continue to look for different ways of running and maintaining public toilets, Totnes Town Council has asked for a review of the pay on entry proposals for the town.

South Hams District Council currently maintains 41 public toilets at a cost of just under £1 million a year. This is not funded by Council Tax as it is not a statutory service that the Council has to provide. Until now, these public conveniences have been funded through money the council received from Central Government. However, from this financial year the Council's main grant from Central Government has been cut to zero. As a result, last year the Council agreed to conduct a thorough review of all of the toilets it owns and maintains, how often they are used and how close they are to other conveniences.

Following these discussions, the Council identified a range of different solutions which includes installing Pay on Entry at the toilets with the highest footfall, transferring some toilets to local communities (as agreed at South Brent) and as a last resort closure of others. Some negotiations are continuing with towns and parishes.

But at a meeting of the Executive last month, some Councillors expressed their concerns that not all options had been explored and called on the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss how the Council had come to their decisions. In light of the weight of feeling at Executive, and at Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it has been agreed that that more time should be given for solutions to be considered for the public conveniences in Totnes.

To help the Council achieve this it was agreed that officers would have a discussion with the Town Council to ensure that all options are considered.

An exciting programme of improvements to uplift the appearance of Totnes Market Square has been agreed by South Hams District Council, in close partnership with Totnes Town Council.

The enhancement programme designed by local architects Harrison Sutton Partnership, looks to deliver replacement bespoke steps with integrated planters and seating areas. The existing ramp will be widened and re-levelled and clad in oak sleepers with additional improvements to lighting. Mosaic art pieces produced by a local artist and school children will be included in the design, together with a new drinking water fountain.