

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Smerdon, District Cllr Steer, County Cllr Hosking (from 8.50pm), Ross Gray (Tree Warden) and two members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

050319.01	Resignation and Apologies for Absence Members received and noted the resignation of Cllr Vince. Members received and noted apologies from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Simpson
050319.02	Open Forum Two Liberal Democrat candidates standing for election in the South Brent ward in the District Council elections on 2 May introduced themselves to members. Ross Gray advised that he had arranged to talk at the Annual Parish Meeting on 2 April about the ash die-back. He also informed members that he has moved the benches on the village green and reminded members that there will need to be a plan for ongoing maintenance of that area. Cllr Crook, on behalf of the Events Group, requested that a proper hole is made on the village green for the Christmas tree. The hole can be capped whilst not in use. This was agreed.
050319.03	District and County Councillors' Report District Cllr Smerdon reported that at the Full Council Meeting on 21st February, members voted on 2019/20 budget issues. There are no changes to Car Park Charges for the coming year except where this has been agreed as an alternative to the implementation of Pay on Entry at certain public toilets. The Council has adopted a new 4 banded council tax reduction scheme for residents who have difficulty paying. Assistance available ranges from 85% to 25%. Members also voted unanimously to appoint Mrs Sophie Hosking to the position of Chief Executive of both authorities. Sophie has held the post of Head of Paid Service since the departure of Steve Jorden. Interim senior management arrangements have been established and a report will be brought to Council within 6 months to investigate a new senior management structure. County Cllr Hosking (who arrived at 8.50pm having attended Buckfastleigh West's Parish Council meeting) reported that he had received correspondence about the poor state of the road at Mill Leat Lane. He also confirmed that DCC has set its budget at £493.8m - an overall increase of 3%. The Winter Service Task Group's report is approaching completion. The general feeling is that DCC tackled this winter's weather relatively well. Members asked Cllr Hosking about the recent tarmacing of Shuttaford Lane which was very smooth and dangerous for horses. He would make enquiries with the Highways Engineer.

	<p>The Council commented to Cllr Hosking that it was disappointed that DCC has agreed to place signage at Mill Leat lane despite the Parish Council's objection to further signage being placed in this location (as discussed in February's meeting).</p>
050319.04	<p>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.</p>
050319.05	<p>Ratification of Minutes</p> <p>Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 February 2019 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
050319.06	<p>Finance</p> <p>6.1 Invoices for payment</p> <p>Members approved the following payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheque no 820 – C Harper - £45 (Christmas Tree)
050319.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications:</p> <p>7.1.1 0062/19 – The Annexe, Holne Court Farm, Holne</p> <p>Conversion of existing loft space to habitable accommodation</p> <p>Members agreed to object to this application due to the number of Velux windows proposed on this listed building.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions:</p> <p>7.2.1 0620/18 – Holne Park Farm, Ashburton</p> <p>Variation of conditions 2 and 7 of planning reference 0007/18 to allow change of construction materials</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has approved this variation of conditions application.</p>
050319.08	<p>Church House Inn</p> <p>See item 17.</p>
050319.09	<p>Playpark</p> <p>9.1 Members received correspondence regarding the recent cutting of the hedge at Playpark. It was agreed that the timing of the hedge cutting was inappropriate and having discussed this already with the contractor, he has apologised and will endeavor to ensure that any future cutting takes place at a more appropriate hour of the day. Members acknowledge the importance of the hedges in the village and it was agreed that Playpark will discuss the future management of the hedges in Playpark, taking advice from the parish tree warden, Ross Gray. Other observations in the email were noted, but with regard to other hedge cutting in the parish, the Parish Council has little influence over this as this is undertaken privately by the landowners or their contractors.</p> <p>9.2 Inspection reports:</p> <p>Members had not been made aware of any issues.</p>

	<p>9.3 General report from Holne Playpark: A general tidy-up has been arranged for Saturday. A meeting of Playpark has been arranged for Monday.</p>
050319.10	<p>Leats There were no issues reported.</p>
050319.11	<p>Potholes, Highways Maintenance Reports and Other Highways Issues</p> <p>11.1 Members expressed concern about the recent tarmacing of Shuttaford Lane which was very smooth and dangerous for horses. It was agreed to contact DCC's Highways engineer and advise that the surface is inappropriate.</p> <p>It was also noted that rubbish has been left by the contractors at the bottom of hill. The clerk will write to DCC and ask that this is collected.</p> <p>11.2 Members expressed disappointment that DCC has agreed to place signage at Mill Leat lane despite the Parish Council's objection to further signage being placed in this location (as discussed in February's meeting). This would be raised with Cllr Hosking on his arrival to the meeting (<i>see item 3 above</i>).</p>
050319.12	<p>Clerk's or Councillors' reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None.</p>
050319.13	<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 None.</p>
050319.14	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>14.1 Members received email correspondence from Rob Steemson, DNPA Ranger, regarding proposals at Newbridge to prevent vehicles from parking in front of the gates and a request for a financial contribution. Members understood that boulders had been sourced and were therefore unclear why funding was required. It was agreed to wait and see what happens.</p> <p>14.2 The Clerk updated members on the Election process and will distribute nomination packs to those wishing to stand again once received from SHDC. The deadline for submitting nominations is 3 April at 4.00pm. The elections will be held on 2 May.</p>
050319.15	<p>Date of Next Meeting It was agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 7.30pm.</p>
<p>Part II [Contains items which may be taken in the absence of the public and press on grounds that exempt information may be disclosed]</p>	
050319.16	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public Members resolved that the public and press are excluded from the meeting as the item under discussion contains information exempt under Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A Part 1 and Schedule 12 A & Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 Section 2(1)</p>
050319.17	<p>Church House Inn Members discussed possible courses of action with regard to The Church House Inn.</p>

<p>After discussion, it was agreed to encourage an independent group of parishioners to explore options. It was also agreed to follow up previous correspondence with DNPA regarding its stance on the future of the pub. Finally, members agreed to write to the Trustees to seek their opinion on the current situation and to offer the Parish Council's assistance in whatever way it could to secure the re-opening of the pub as soon as possible.</p>
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The meeting closed at 9.20

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Clr B Owen
Chairman