

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on 2 April 2019 in Holne Village Hall at 7.00pm

### Present

Cllr B Owen (Chairman), Cllr J Bellamy, Cllr T Crook, Cllr D Higman, Cllr E Ross, Cllr Simpson, County Cllr Hosking, District Cllr Smerdon, Ross Gray (Tree Warden), 3 members of the public and the clerk (Suzanna Hughes)

**The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.**

<b>APM020419.01</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> None received.
<b>APM020419.02</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b> The Church House Inn remains high on the agenda of every Parish Council meeting. The sale eventually went through last summer with the first opening day coincidentally the same day as the Holne Revel. However, this has been short lived and the pub has been closed since September. This situation causes great concern within the community with a real worry it may never again function as a pub. Given that this has been a hostelry since 14 <sup>th</sup> century there are 700 or so years of history at stake. The Parish Council has applied to register the Church House Inn as a community asset. This would ensure, should in due course, the property come on the market, the Parish Council/community would have an opportunity ahead of the public to purchase it. The Parish Council continues to try and keep communication channels open. The village Christmas Tree brought light to the village and thanks to Bo and the Events Group for sourcing, erecting and lighting. The PC will ensure the village green and leat are appropriately managed.  The Parish Council has continued to bombard Highways with complaints of potholes and other maintenance. We succeeded in getting Shuttaford Lane treated. It has been in an appalling condition. Sadly it has been repaired to the standard of a motorway and certainly not horse or ice friendly.  We have also been successful in bringing to attention the state of the gate at Newbridge. Cars often park so close it is impossible to open the gate for horses or livestock to use. DNP have agreed to surround the gate with granite blocks to prevent this happening  Resuscitation training was arranged in November which was well attended and is an important additional skill for use with the defibrillator. I am pleased to say it has not been needed. As a reminder ring 999 if you come across anyone who is collapsed. The machine talks you through the procedure. Nothing to be frightened of. Never be concerned about doing something wrong-you can't make somebody more dead.  Playpark group is very active. They held a very successful Pumpkin carving at Halloween. The group check the equipment monthly to ensure it meets standards and reports to the Parish Council.  Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow councillors for their support over the last year. Lis, Gilly, David, Tim, John, and Annie. The councillors are due for re-election in May. Both Gilly and Annie will not be standing so we have 2 vacancies. I'd like to thank them for their input, particularly Gilly who has

been a Parish Councillor for 15 years or so, is a past Chairman and has been an extremely active member.

I'd really like to urge you to consider becoming a Parish Councillor. It's an interesting and important community role.

I'd also like to thank our councillors, for South Hams, Pete Smerdon, and for Devon County Richard Hoskings and to Ross as tree warden, Paul as snow warden. Thanks also to the Events Group.

And, of course, thank you to our clerk Suzanna for her efficient guidance, management and organising of the Council as always.

**APM020419.03**

**Clerk's Finance Report**

Balances held March 2019

Current Account	£ 4,836
Savings Account	<u>£ 4,452</u>
Total	<u>£ 9,288</u>

Grants Donated 2018/19

Parish Link	£ 60
RBL	<u>£ 22</u>
	<u>£ 82</u>

Major Sources of Income 2018/19

Precept & C. Tax support grant	£ 6,886
VAT reclaimed	<u>£ 310</u>
	<u>£7,177</u>

Grants received 2018/19

TAP fund (VH car park resurfacing)	£600
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The balance in the Parish Council's accounts at the end of this financial year is £9,288 which is £2,354 more than at the end of last year. This means that we have adequate reserves and despite a drop in the council tax support grant, there has been no need to increase the precept in the coming financial year. The amount Holne will receive through the precept and council tax support grant this coming financial year will be £6,940 which means the rate for a band D property in this parish will remain at around £50 per year.

The Parish Council's spending this year has very much mirrored the budget it set over 12 months ago, with a couple of exceptions. First, the Parish Council budgeted £650 for maintenance – general parish maintenance and maintenance of playpark equipment. This has not been spent. And second, whilst the Parish Council has made its usual donations to the Parish Link and the Poppy Appeal, it has not received any applications for a small grant from village organisations this year and this pot of money, £400, has also not been spent.

The Parish Council will be approving the accounts at the Parish Council meeting this evening and as always, they are subject to internal audit. As part of the new audit framework all the accounts and audit documents will be published on Holne's website from June and, as always, I am happy to answer any questions.

<p><b>APM020419</b></p>	<p><b>Ross Gray - Tree Warden</b>  Reported sad news about ash die-back disease spreading across this country and Europe which is important to learn. Ross recalled what happened to the elm trees many years ago and the fact that they have disappeared from the moor with no record.</p> <p>Ash die-back is so prevalent now and the authorities have given up trying to stop it by felling the trees. It is present in Devon but is affecting trees at different rates.</p> <p>He advised people to look at the tops of the trees – are they developing or can you just see sticks? You might also see lesions on the trunks. The base of the tree may sprout out as the tree tries to fight it off.</p> <p>Some trees may be resilient. However, at least 20% of Devon trees are ash and if a tree shows a quarter of die-back and is near or on a public place, it must be taken down. If you see a suspicious tree, report it to DCC/SHDC. Don't put it off.</p> <p>It is also important to keep a record of ash trees as a record for the future. Take photos of trees in their locations as a record for future generations. Consider replanting trees – a wide variety and in many locations. There is help available to buy new/young trees through SHDC and The Woodland Trust.</p>
<p><b>APM020419.04</b></p>	<p><b>Public Open Forum and Questions</b>  A parishioner reported that she had attended a meeting in Buckfastleigh in February about Smart metres and 5G. Energy companies are hoping to have smart meters installed in everyone's house by 2020. She informed members that there may be health implications of this and how the data is shared. Cllrs Bellamy and Crook shared their understanding on how smart meters work and how data is shared. The parishioner also raised awareness of the potential impact of 5G.</p> <p>Concern was expressed to County Cllr Richard Hosking about whether any action had been taken regarding the surfacing of Shuttaford following a recent serious accident involving a horse. DCC Highways are aware of the issue.</p> <p>A parishioner reported a pothole from Butts Cross towards the moor. Cllr Bellamy advised that he had reported it online and it has now been patched.</p> <p>It was reported that water has been coming out of Holne Moor Leat and has broken up the road surface. It has been reported to DNPA and it is hoped that something is being done in the summer. Cllr Bellamy will take some photographs and will report it again.</p> <p>It had been observed that the cutting of tree limbs at Vennford Reservoir has been done in an insensitive manner. It is believed that it has been undertaken by volunteers of South West Lakes Trust. It was agreed to write to South West Lakes Trust and express concern.</p>
<p><b>APM020419.05</b></p>	<p><b>Close</b>  The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting before closing the meeting at 8.00pm.</p>

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Cllr Belinda Owen