

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 2 July 2019 at 7.30pm

### Present

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

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking (arrived 9.00pm) and six members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

020719.01	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ross Gray</li></ul>
020719.02	<b>Open Forum</b> <p>The applicant of planning application 0198/19 informed members that he was attending the meeting in order to answer any questions members may have in relation to this planning application to be discussed at item 5 (a)(i).</p> <p>Two parishioners commented on the inadequacy of the warning signs on the highway around Play Park. A copy of their email had been circulated prior to this meeting and would be addressed at item 13.1. They added that the current signs were erected before the housing at Little Bewden had been constructed and the demographics have since changed.</p> <p>A parishioner expressed her approval of the changes made to the way the churchyard is being cut. She spoke about her involvement in the Moor Meadows Project – a community initiative to restore, conserve and create flower-rich grasslands across Dartmoor – and advised that the Parish Council or Church might be approached about it. She also expressed her concern about the roll out of 5G and smart metres and the impact of electromagnetic radiation. She claimed that little research has been carried out about the dangers of radiation to public health and requested that the Parish Council takes the matter up with the next tier of government. District Cllr Smerdon informed members that he had attended a meeting in Buckfastleigh about this at which concerns were expressed. He advised that currently network providers do not need permission in South Hams to erect masts. It was suggested that the Parish Council could establish the view of DNPA and what its plans are etc. The Chairman suggested that this is discussed as an agenda item in September's Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>A parishioner asked whether Highways had taken any further action with regard to the stone in the bottom of the hedge at the top of Chase Gate hill. The clerk agreed to follow this up with Highways. He also asked about the consultation on the closure of Ashburton Fire station. He was advised that this would be discussed at item 16</p>
020719.03	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> <p>Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and invited to state whether they have any interest in the items to be discussed during this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.</p> <p>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>

020719.04	<p><b>County &amp; District Councillors' Reports</b></p> <p>District Cllr Smerdon advised that both SHDC and DNPA are involved in Climate Change declaration. A Devon-wide group has been formed where all leaders are working together with Plymouth and Exeter University. There is a 6-month information gathering period.</p> <p>He has now been fully inducted into his role at DNPA. DNPA now has a new Chair and Vice Chair as Bill Hitchens and Maurice Retallick have both retired. He advised that various climate change groups have met with Kevin Bishop. The Moor Otters project may be repeated – a final decision is awaited.</p> <p>County Cllr Hosking advised that Highways will be improving the surface of Shuttaford Road so that it is less slippery. He advised that new grant fund opportunities are available to replace the TAP fund. With regard to the Fire &amp; Rescue Authority consultation, Cllr Hosking advised that they are looking at streamlining the service. He advised that the service is called out much less for fires and the focus is now on prevention. The Authority is looking at reducing the size of its vehicles and have looked at coverage and clustering. Finally, he advised that he has been appointed to the Local Enterprise Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Crook thanked Cllr Hosking for the grant towards the purchase of the new marquee for the Events Group.</p>
020719.05	<p><b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.</p>
020719.06	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes</b></p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 June 2019 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
020719.07	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Invoices for payment</b></p> <p>The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque no 827 – HMRC (PAYE) - £157.80</li> <li>• Cheque no 828 – S Hughes (defib signs) - £32.22</li> </ul>
020719.07	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>7.1 New applications:</b></p> <p>7.1.1 0262/19 - Retrospective application for dwelling adjacent to Little Cross Cottage, Holne</p> <p>Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p><b>7.2 Decisions:</b></p> <p>There were no decisions to report.</p>
020719.08	<p><b>Village Maintenance and Grass Cutting</b></p> <p>Members discussed the maintenance and grass cutting around the village. The following arrangements were either in place or would need to be made:</p> <p>Village Green - traditionally, maintenance of the green has been undertaken by the tenants of the pub in return for them using the area for their benches. This was to be discussed further at item 10.</p> <p>The area around the bench at Greendown – this is maintained by Peter Bellamy.</p> <p>The area around the bench are Bearwood - this is maintained by Cllr Ross's gardener.</p> <p>2 x footpaths - one running adjacent to Playpark and one at Watery Lane between Holne and Scoriton – it was agreed to ask DNPA Ranger Bill Allen to arrange for these to be regularly maintained.</p> <p>Playpark – this is undertaken by Simon Burbeck. It was agreed that Cllr Bellamy would monitor this and contact Simon direct if there are problems.</p>

	<p>Cllr Crook offered to walk the parish footpaths and report any problems to the Council.</p>
<b>020719.09</b>	<p><b>Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Site</b>  Following the site meeting last month, members agreed to support the proposal for a site in the field adjacent to Little Bewden. It was noted that Holne Books will fund it (mast and light) and DAAT will fund the installation of the electricity. The Parish Council would be responsible for its insurance and maintenance.</p>
<b>020719.10</b>	<p><b>Church House Inn</b>  It was noted that the pub has new tenants and has now re-opened. A letter to this effect from the leaseholder, Russell Stevens, was also noted.</p> <p>Members discussed the number of tables on the green and also those which had been placed on the right of way access. It was agreed to write to the new tenants and advise them about the previous arrangement regarding the number of tables on the green and its maintenance.</p> <p>It was noted that additional information had been requested by SHDC in order for them to consider the Parish Council's application to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value.</p>
<b>020719.11</b>	<p><b>Playpark</b>  Members received and noted the contents of the annual inspection report which had been carried out by The Play Inspection Company. A moderate risk with the swings was identified and they have therefore been decommissioned whilst Holne Playpark speaks to Earthwrights about repairing them under the warranty.</p> <p>Despite arranging for quarterly inspections to be carried out, members noted the advice of the insurers that playground equipment needs to be inspected by a competent person at least once every 4 weeks. ROSPA's advice is that the regular check is intended to be quick and simple – its primary function being to identify faults or dangers arising from vandalism or breakage. Such inspections can be carried out by staff other than specialists whose duties may take them to the playground from time to time.</p> <p>It was agreed that the clerk would circulate an example of a checklist which could be adapted for use by the Parish Council/Playpark. It was agreed that members of Playpark would discuss this further at their next meeting.</p> <p>Members noted that Devon Rural Skills Trust is laying the hedge on 9 November.</p>
<b>020719.12</b>	<p><b>Leats</b>  No issues.</p>
<b>020719.13</b>	<p><b>Potholes and Highways Maintenance</b></p> <p>13.1 Members received an email from a parishioner requesting that the Parish Council considers new warning signage around Playpark as the current signage is outdated and wrongly positioned since the building of Little Bewden. The clerk advised that the email had already been forwarded to Highways for consideration. In the meantime, members agreed to support the suggestions which had been made.</p> <p>13.2 Members received an email from a parishioner regarding traffic and parking issues in the centre of the village. Members understood the problems being outlined though it was acknowledged that they were currently being exacerbated by building works being carried out at various properties in the centre of the village. Whilst there are no obvious and easy solutions, members agreed to hold the issue in abeyance and review and discuss it more thoroughly in September once the works in the village have finished and the pub has established itself again.  Potholes at Lay Bridge, Newbridge and Stoney Post were reported.</p>

<b>020719.14</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>Following an observation that it had been cut too early, the Chairman reported that she had spoken to Richard Applegarth who cuts the verge opposite Tithe Barn. He was aware that he had cut it earlier than usual and had noted the comments. The Chairman informed members that she had thanked him for cutting it and expressed her appreciation for his help.</p>
<b>020719.15</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>020719.16</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>16.1 Members received an email from a representative of South Dartmoor Community Energy about having a roadshow event this autumn/winter. Members considered that the most appropriate venue for such an event would be the tea room. It was therefore agreed to approach the Chair of the Shop and Tearoom, Paul Arrowsmith.</p> <p>16.2 Members received correspondence from Rob Steemson, DNPA, requesting a contribution towards the cost of purchasing and installing boulders to prevent inappropriate parking at Newbridge. It was agreed to make a contribution of up to £250. With the same contribution being made by Widecombe Parish Council, this would make a sum of £500 available for the project. Cllr Hosking agreed that an application to his community fund could be made for funding support.</p> <p>16.3 Members were consulted on the proposed closure of Ashburton Fire Station. It was agreed to write strongly objecting to the proposals on the grounds that the fire station is located next to open moorland which is not only susceptible to fire but is also a heavily used recreation site. Travel to incident times and local knowledge of the roads and routes is also an important factor.</p>
<b>020719.17</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 7.30pm.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

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