

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 1 October 2019 at 7.30pm

### Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), J Bellamy, T Crook, D Higman, E Ross and R Applegarth (from item 4)

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Smerdon, Ross Gray (Tree Warden) and five members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

<b>011019.01</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• County Cllr Hosking</li><li>• Bill Allen (DNPA Ranger)</li></ul>
<b>011019.02</b>	<b>Open Forum</b> <p>The owners of Middle Stoke House spoke in relation to items 8.1.1 and 8.1.2. A written statement was read out asking that the Parish Council supports DNPA's decisions not to issue a Certificate of Lawfulness and to support the Enforcement Notice which has been issued.</p> <p>A resident advised members that she was present to hear the response of DNPA regarding the installation of 5G masts (item 11). She asked the Parish Council to invoke the precautionary principle in line with its duty of care for human life and well-being due to concern about electro-magnetic radiation and the lack of evidence and research which has been carried out.</p> <p>Ross Gray expressed concern about the increase in wild swimming in the River Dart, particularly at Sharrah Pool, as a result of social media and other advertising and the impact it is having on wildlife. In his view, DNPA's bylaws are outdated and need to be reviewed and he requested that representation is made to DNPA asking that they take steps to review its bylaws so that appropriate action can be taken to protect the moor and River Dart.</p>
<b>011019.03</b>	<b>County &amp; District Councillors' Reports</b> <p>District Cllr Smerdon advised that he had nothing to report from South Hams. As a member of DNPA, however, he will raise the 5G and wild swimming issues at the DNPA meeting on Friday. He also informed members that the Moor Otters will be returning to Dartmoor during the summer of 2020. DNPA is consulting on its final draft of the Local Plan which the Parish Council is discussing at item 8.3. The visitor centre at Postbridge is now closed whilst it undergoes a significant extension and refurbishment to house the archaeological remains at White Horse Hill.</p>
<b>011019.04</b>	<b>Casual Vacancy</b> <p>Members received an application from and agreed to co-opt Richard Applegarth to fill one of the casual vacancies. Mr Applegarth completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the clerk and joined the meeting.</p>
<b>011019.05</b>	<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>

011019.06	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes</b> Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 September 2019 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
011019.07	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b> 7.1 <b>Invoices for payment</b> The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque no 832 – S Hughes (Ink and postage) - £30.81</li> <li>• Cheque no 833 – HMRC (PAYE) - £157.80</li> </ul>
011019.08	<p><b>Planning</b> 8.1 <b>New applications:</b> 8.1.1 Middle Stoke Farm, Holne – Appeal against the refusal to issue a Certificate of Lawfulness for Residential Use of The Old Stables</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed that, based on the evidence which was presented to DNPA with the original application for a Certificate of Lawfulness, the Parish Council should support DNPA’s decision to refuse to issue a Certificate of Lawfulness and therefore should not support the appeal.</p> <p>8.1.2 Middle Stoke Farm, Holne – Appeal against Enforcement Notice issued by DNPA on 5 February 2019</p> <p>Given that the Parish Council supports DNPA’s original decision to refuse to issue a Certificate of Lawfulness, it therefore supports the issuing of an Enforcement Notice and, based on the grounds for appeal, does not support this appeal.</p> <p>8.2 <b>Decisions:</b> 8.2.1 0283/19 – Conversion of existing loft space, Holne Court Farm, Holne</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission.</p> <p>8.2.2 0210/19 – Construction of agricultural workers dwelling, Higher Mill Leat, Holne</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission.</p> <p>8.3 <b>DNPA Local Plan Consultation</b> Members received the final draft of the Local Plan for Dartmoor. Having commented on the previous draft, it was agreed there were no further comments.</p>
011019.09	<p><b>Wild Swimming</b> Members discussed the increase in wild swimming in the River Dart particularly at Sharrah Pool and the impact it is having on protected wildlife.</p> <p>It was agreed to accept Peter Smerdon’s offer to raise the matter at the Park meeting on Friday and if anyone from the Park was willing to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the matter further they would be very welcome to attend.</p> <p>The issues of parking and accessibility to areas of the moor and River Dart was also discussed and it was agreed that this could also be raised with DNPA and DCC Highways to try and find a solution to the problem. Parking around Bakers Park was cited as an example.</p>
011019.10	<p><b>Church House Inn</b> Members discussed the signage which had been placed on the village green. It was noted that the signage has now been moved to the entrance of the pub and therefore no further action was required. A resident has also commented on the untidiness of the wheelie bins and empty bottles etc which are stored down the side of the pub. Cllr Applegarth agreed to speak to pub informally about their ongoing arrangements and plans.</p>

011019.11	<p><b>5G and Smart Metres</b></p> <p>Members received a response from the Head of Development Management regarding DNPA’s policy on the installation of 5G masts. He confirmed that that rolling out 5G mobile phone coverage nationwide is a stated objective of government. The adopted industry code of practice is that telecommunications operators should engage with planning authorities and local communities when considering their network plans and that should not change. Government is currently consulting and everyone is invited to comment. In particular, the consultation talks about four ways in which the range of permitted rights that companies already enjoy to place telecoms apparatus in the countryside could be further relaxed. The government is seeking to ensure that the projected roll out is not hampered by legislation, allowing an easier route to improved communications across the country. As a group of English National Parks, a coordinated response is being considered to emphasise the need to recognise the impact of this development in protected areas. That must be tempered by the benefits that improved data coverage brings to all residents and users of the National Park.</p> <p>A link to the consultation document was provided and it was agreed that Cllr Crook would have a look at the document and consider a response.</p> <p>In the meantime, as there has been no reference to the impact of radiation on health and well-being, it was agreed to ask DNPA whether it had evidence to satisfy itself that there will be no short or long-term impact on the health of those living on the moor as a result of installing these masts.</p>
011019.12	<p><b>Playpark</b></p> <p>12.1 Members received the quarterly inspection report. It was noted that all matters raised in the report were either low or very low risk. Agreement still needs to be reached with regards to the monthly checks.</p> <p>12.2 Cllr Bellamy reported that Playpark were seeking written confirmation from Earthwrights of the works recently completed. He also advised that the grass contractor has requested that the playing field is rolled. Cllr Applegarth informed members that he had a roller which could be used for this purpose. The new play area road sign has been installed but it was rather concealed by vegetation which Cllr Bellamy offered to trim. The hedge laying will take place on 9 November. Holne Books have agreed to fund the cost of the donation. The bug hotel is coming together. The Playpark Halloween event will be held on 26 October in the Village Hall.</p>
011019.13	<p><b>Least</b></p> <p>No issues.</p>
011019.14	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b></p> <p>Members received a reply from DNPA Ranger, Bill Allen, responding to issues raised in September’s meeting. It was agreed to write back to establish who would be maintaining the footpaths in the parish now that the Parish Council no longer have any members who are brushcutter trained. From the response, it also seems that there are some grey areas in relation to land ownership, responsibility and maintenance which needs further clarification. It was suggested that someone from DNPA could be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to clarify these issues.</p>
011019.15	<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>
011019.16	<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>
011019.17	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>17.1 Members received details of the Moor Otters project in Summer 2020. It was agreed to forward the details to the Shop and Tearoom.</p>

	17.2 Members received an email regarding the noise created by strimming in the churchyard. It was agreed to forward the email to the Church for their consideration.
<b>011019.18</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> It was agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm.

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