

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 7.30pm

### Present

Cllrs T Crook (Chairman for this meeting), R Applegarth, J Bellamy and E Ross

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking, Bill Allen (DNPA) and one member of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

<b>031219.01</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Owen</li><li>• Cllr Higman</li><li>• District Cllr Smerdon</li><li>• District Cllr Pannell</li><li>• Ross Gray (Tree Warden)</li></ul>
<b>031219.02</b>	<b>Open Forum</b> <p>Bill Allen (DNPA) reported that there is a service level agreement between DCC and DNPA – money is paid by DCC to DNPA to maintain the Public Rights of Way. Funding has reduced over recent years however, and DNPA are having to think about alternative ways to sustain the quality of maintenance. In May 2016 a publication was produced entitled ‘Looking after public rights of way’ – Advice for farmers and landowners. In particular, he drew members’ attention to the responsibility for gates and stiles, side growth/overhanging vegetation and trees. He very much values the working relationships between DNPA and local people. An annual survey of Rights of Way is carried out by DNPA Rangers with the help of volunteers who then feed back into one central system which then generates a list of unresolved issues. Brushcutter training is available for anyone in the parish who wishes to be trained to use a strimmer. Bill handed out a copy of the Ranger Code which is widely available on the moor and reminds visitors about how to respect the moor.</p>
<b>031219.03</b>	<b>County &amp; District Councillors’ Reports</b> <p>District Cllr Smerdon sent a written report advising that at the DNPA Forum on 22 November, he heard about the Rural Crime Initiative which Devon and Cornwall Police and DNPA are jointly running. In the discussions that followed, the Police Inspector said they realised communications with residents (and Parish Councils) needed to be better and they were working on it.</p> <p>Cllr Ross advised that she had also attended the DNPA Forum and was concerned that Cllr Smerdon had not reported on an important part of the meeting relating to the Glover Report. The independent review has called for bold action to reignite the founding spirit of the National Park movement in order to make them greener, more beautiful and open to everyone. The key recommendations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a new National Landscapes Service to act as a unified body for England’s 44 national landscapes, including 10 National Parks and 34 AONBs</li><li>• creating a 1,000 strong ranger service to be the “friendly face” of our national parks and help engage schools and communities</li><li>• giving every school pupil the opportunity to spend a night “under the stars” in these special landscapes to help more children to connect with nature</li><li>• new protections, responsibilities, titles and funding for AONBs to help them be greener, more beautiful and more welcoming to the public</li><li>• a transformed approach to recover and enhance nature, working with farmers and</li></ul>

	<p>conservation groups to reverse years of decline and bring landscapes alive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>backing for a new National Park in the Chilterns and a new National Forest, taking in areas such as Sherwood Forest, as part of a drive to increase woodland spaces to fight climate change</li> </ul> <p>County Cllr Hosking reported that the total rainfall in October was 167mm compared with 63mm last year. Consequently, there are a lot more potholes to deal with. The scheduled programme for resurfacing and improvements etc has been put back for potholes. He reminded members that the TAP fund has been replaced by three new grant funds - Doing What Matters, Crowdfund Devon and Making the Connection. Full details of these grand funds can be found on DCC's website. Cllr Hosking reported on the success of the summer reading challenge run by Devon libraries. As a result, lending by Devon libraries has increased by 4%. A fact sheet has been produced on all the organisations involved in Action on Climate Change. Finally, Cllr Hosking reported that the boulders at Newbridge have been moved. The grant funding, previously promised, can be released provided the boulders are not on private land.</p>
<b>031219.04</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b></p> <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>
<b>031219.05</b>	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes</b></p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 November 2019 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
<b>031219.06</b>	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Grant Application</b></p> <p>Members received and considered an application for a small grant from Holne Community Shop and Tea Room towards the cost of purchasing one of the Moor Otters. It was agreed that the request for £150 should be granted.</p> <p><b>6.2 Budget and Precept 2020-21</b></p> <p>Members received a first draft of the budget for 2020/21. It was agreed that this would be discussed further and agreed in January's meeting.</p>
<b>031219.07</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>7.1 New applications/appeals:</b></p> <p>0544/19 – Change of use of land for siting of two shepherd huts as holiday lets, Prides Farm, Holne</p> <p>After discussion, and consultation with the applicant, it was agreed to support this application. It was also agreed to support the applicants' desire for a swift decision to enable them to get this project up and running before the Easter holidays.</p> <p><b>7.2 Decisions:</b></p> <p>No decisions to report.</p>
<b>031219.08</b>	<p><b>Devon Air Ambulance Lighting Mast</b></p> <p>Members received an update from Toby Russell, DAAT. He advised that he had met with Ru Roberts, the landowner, to discuss her preference for the location of the lighting column and other details relating to the proposed installation of the mast. She wishes to discuss the proposal with the residents of Little Bewden. [By way of an update, Cllr Bellamy advised that 5 residents support it, 1 is unsure</p>

	<p>and 1 has objected]. A report is now awaited from Toby. It will detail the suggested next steps etc. which will firstly involve the Parish Council raising an enquiry with Western Power to get a quote for a new supply into the field. At the same time, he will be asking MAT Electricians to provide a quote for the lighting part. The full costs will then be known. He has requested that one or two Councillors now take this forward to bring about the project more quickly. He suggested that they may wish to have a meeting with Ru herself just to make sure that there is connection between the Council and her.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllrs Applegarth and Bellamy will lead on this on behalf of the Parish Council. In the meantime, the clerk would chase Toby's report.</p>
<b>031219.09</b>	<p><b>Playpark</b></p> <p>9.1 Ross Gray will be unable to carry out the cutting this year. Cllr Ross reported that David Best has agreed to do it. Cllr Applegarth commented that the arisings from the hedge laying need to be taken away. If they have not been taken by 1 January, he would clear them.</p> <p>9.2 The clerk advised that SHDC has not yet responded to the Council's enquiry about the equipment inspections. This would be followed up before the next meeting.</p> <p>9.3 It was reported that someone had been seen exercising their dog at Playpark despite the 'No Dogs' sign at the entrance. It was agreed to monitor this.</p> <p>It was noted that there are a number of moles on the field. It was agreed that Cllr Ross would ask 'Mick the Mole' to address the problem.</p> <p>The hedge laying was a great success. Members thanked everyone who had been involved.</p> <p>The next meeting of Playpark is in January.</p>
<b>031219.10</b>	<p><b>Leats</b></p> <p>It was noted that the leats are running well. The sump at Playpark has been cleared.</p>
<b>031219.11</b>	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b></p> <p>11.1 Members received a response from DCC Highways Engineer about the Lengthsmen service. At the moment DCC is not able to access the lengthsmen programme but Skanska are working on this. However, there are two scheduled visits to Holne per year which is usually over one or two days each visit and the Highways Engineer can try and co-ordinate works with the contractor for specific sites if the Council lets him know where they are. It was agreed to provide Highways with the grid references of specific locations which require particular attention.</p> <p>11.2 Cllr Applegarth reported that the road surface at Playcross is very slippery as the chippings seem to have worn away. A horse is known to have slipped and vehicles have been skidding. It was agreed to report this to Highways.</p>
<b>031219.12</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>None</p>
<b>031219.13</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>031219.14</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>14.1 Devon Countryside Access Forum - it was noted that new members are being sought.</p>

	14.2 Details of two consultations relating to Connecting Devon and Somerset and Schools Admissions and Transport were noted.
<b>031219.15</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> It was agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 7 January 2019 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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**Clr B Owen**  
**Chairman**