

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 7 January 2020 at 7.30pm

### Present

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

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking, District Cllr Smerdon, District Cllr Pannell and 3 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Ross at 7.30pm.

<b>070120.01</b>	<b>Resignation and Apologies for Absence</b> Members received the resignation of Cllr Higman. Members very much appreciated Cllr Higman's contributions whilst on the Council and it was agreed to write and thank him.  Members received the following apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Owen</li><li>• Cllr Crook</li><li>• Ross Gray</li></ul>
<b>070120.02</b>	<b>Open Forum</b> A parishioner reported that there is a large pothole just before the bend after Chase Gate in the direction of Ashburton just passed Stoneycross. It was agreed that the clerk would report this.
<b>070120.03</b>	<b>County &amp; District Councillors' Reports</b> District Cllr Pannell informed members that Parish Councils are not subject to the referendum rules for increasing their precepts. SHDC's precept is likely to go up by the greater of 2% or £5. SHDC has been praised for its work to protect horseshoe bats. In December, the Council unanimously voted to go on to the next stage of the Climate Change policy, working with DCC to achieve net carbon footprint of 0% by 2030.  District Cllr Smerdon reported on DNPA matters. He informed members that he has copy of DNPA's draft management plan. This will be submitted for examination in early 2020. With Britain leaving the EU, we are likely to see changes in the way farming is supported.  Cllr Hosking reported that he hasn't yet had the chance to examine the boulders at Newbridge but will do so over the coming weeks. DCC is trying to prioritise the cleaning of gulleys. The lengthsman service is very limited.  Cllr Hosking was asked how surface dressing of highways is prioritised. Cllr Hosking advised that there is not a simple answer. Each road is categorised and lower categories are no longer maintained. Then it depends on the way it has been surfaced in the past and its frequency of usage. It also depends on the way the road was originally constructed.
<b>070120.04</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> 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.  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.

	All members present declared an interest in item 6.2 as council tax payers in this parish. It was agreed to grant all Councillors a dispensation until the day before the next ordinary elections to discuss and vote on item 6.2 on the grounds that otherwise it would impede the transaction of the business (i.e. the meeting would be inquorate for that item).
<b>070120.05</b>	<b>Ratification of Minutes</b> Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 December 2020 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.
<b>070120.06</b>	<b>Finance and Governance</b> <b>6.1 Invoices</b> The following payments were approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheque no 839 - Mick Clare (to set traps and catch five moles) - £90</li> <li>• Cheque no 840 - HMRC (PAYE) - £157.80</li> </ul> <b>6.2 Budget and Precept 2020-21</b> Members considered the budget for 2020/21. After discussion, the budget was agreed. The precept to be demanded would be £6,851 + £64 council tax support grant which equates to a 0% increase/decrease on the parish's council tax. <b>6.3 Application for funding</b> This item was withdrawn.
<b>070120.07</b>	<b>Planning</b> <b>7.1 New applications/appeals</b> 7.1.1 0552/19 – Increase approved opening times to March-October and exchange one camping plot for an additional shepherd hut for use all year round at Higher Michelcombe Farm, Holne  Members agreed to support this application.  7.1.2 0580/19 & 0581/19 – Erection of agricultural lean-to at Higher Mill Leat Farm, Holne  Members agreed to support this application.  <b>7.2 Decisions:</b> No decisions to report.
<b>070120.08</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting</b> It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.
<b>070120.09</b>	<b>Devon Air Ambulance Lighting Mast</b> Cllr Applegarth advised that he had been chasing Toby Russell for an update but had not been able to make contact with him yet.  Members also received an email from a parishioner voicing concerns against the proposal for a lighting mast. It was agreed to advise the parishioner that the Parish Council is supportive of the proposed mast and that they should register their objections with DNPA once a planning application has been submitted.
<b>070120.10</b>	<b>Playpark</b> 10.1 The clerk advised that SHDC had not removed Holne Playpark from the Localities inspections list last year as requested. The cost of rejoining the scheme which covers inspections and insurance would be £200. Members agreed that the Parish Council should rejoin the scheme and cancel the current arrangements with The Play Inspection Company.

	<p>10.2 The next meeting of Playpark is in January. David Best has confirmed that he will cut the hedge. Cllr Applegarth confirmed that the wood pile has now gone.</p> <p>10.3 Members received comments from Ross Gray about the playpark hedge and a suggestion that the old section of fence between playpark and Little Bewden should be removed. It was agreed that this should be referred to the Playpark Committee for its consideration.</p>
<b>070120.11</b>	<p><b>Leats</b> Cllr Applegarth reported that the leats are flowing and there are no issues.</p>
<b>070120.12</b>	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b> 12.1 Members were advised that the slippery surface at Playcross have been reported to the Highways Engineer. He has agreed to have a look but has advised that it is unlikely there will be a quick fix to this as options are limited.</p>
<b>070120.13</b>	<p><b>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</b> None</p>
<b>070120.14</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> None</p>
<b>070120.15</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> None</p>
<b>070120.16</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> It was agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 4 February 2020 at 7.30pm.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.

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