

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 21 April 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), R Applegarth, J Barkas, J Bellamy and T Crook

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking and District Cllr Pannell

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

210420.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Fairman• Cllr Ross
210420.02	Open Forum <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>
210420.03	County & District Councillors' Reports <p>County Cllr Richard Hosking's report is attached.</p> <p>District Councillor Pannell and District Councillor Smerdon's report is attached.</p>
210420.04	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation <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>
210420.05	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 February 2020 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the minutes are published on the parish notice boards and on the parish website in advance of the subsequent meeting.</p>
210420.06	Finance and Governance <p>6.1 The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HMRC (PAYE) - £157.80• R Applegarth (Reimbursement for planning application fee) - £167.92• SHDC (Recharges in respect of the uncontested elections in May 2019) - £71.12• Clerk's salary and disbursements - £236.67 (1 April)• DALC annual subscription - £69.37 <p>6.2 Members noted the key elements of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulations permit the holding of remote meetings (with conditions) • Local councils can decide the methods they will use to facilitate the holding of remote meetings • There is no requirement to hold an annual meeting • There is nothing in the Regulations permitting parish meetings to meet remotely. In NALC's view, the current Government guidance means that parish meetings should not take place in person, including the annual meeting of the electors <p>6.3 Members noted the new Regulations amending the deadline by which the Annual Governance Statement and Accounts of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return need to be published from 30 September to 30 November. The clerk advised, however, that she was in the process of completing the audit paperwork and would be sending this to the internal auditor to carry out the internal audit remotely. It is hoped that the documents will be ready for Council to approved in June's meeting.</p>
210420.07	<p>Community Response to Coronavirus Pandemic</p> <p>Cllr Crook reported that he was pleased with the system which has been set up to support local residents. A couple of enquiries a week have been received from people needing help and there are around 30 volunteers between Scoriton and Holne. There has also been good support from the shop. Members thanked everyone who is involved in providing this excellent support for parishioners.</p>
210420.08	<p>Planning</p> <p>8.1 New applications/appeals:</p> <p>8.1.1 0102/20 – Extension to agricultural building (16.5m x 22.7m) at Higher Mill Leat Farm, Holne</p> <p>Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p>8.1.2 0170/20, 0171/20, 0172/20 & 0173/20 – Replacement of 5 bar gate with pair of close boarded gates at Long Barn, Michelcombe</p> <p>Members agreed that they had no objections to this application.</p> <p>8.2 Decisions:</p> <p>None</p>
210420.09	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Lighting Mast</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth advised that this project was on hold. A planning application has been submitted but will not be processed yet until the lockdown restrictions are eased. He informed members that there were some anomalies with the drawings and when appropriate he would meet with the planning officer to resolve the issues. A fee has been paid but it is likely that an additional payment will be required because the Parish Council does not own the land.</p>
210420.10	<p>Venford Reservoir</p> <p>It was agreed to defer this item until members were able to meet face to face.</p>
210420.11	<p>Playpark</p> <p>The Playpark Committee is looking at adding some adult play equipment at Playpark and a grant application has been completed to help with the funding of this. It was agreed that Cllr Bellamy would contact the grass cutting contractor to establish his intentions about cutting the grass given the current government restrictions. Cllr Applegarth offered to chain harrow the field if the contractor was unable to cut the grass.</p> <p>Members received and noted an observation received from a parishioner regarding the signage at Playpark restricting use of the path between Little Bewden and Playpark during the government lockdown. It was agreed that the signage would remain until restrictions are eased.</p>

210420.12	<p>Leats</p> <p>The Chairman advised that she had cleared the leat around Church Park which will hopefully improve the flow. Cllr Applegarth advised that he also continues to monitor the leats and clear them when necessary. He advised that he intended to speak to the Commoners about the responsibility for leats and try and encourage some joined-up thinking.</p>
210420.13	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>No new issues were reported.</p>
210420.14	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>None</p>
210420.15	<p>Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting</p> <p>None</p>
210420.16	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Members received correspondence from Ross Gray advising them that SHDC has not renewed his contract to maintain the churchyard. Furthermore, he was only advised by SHDC of their decision on 31st March – the day his contract was expiring. District Cllr Pannell advised that he had spoken to colleagues at SHDC and it was unlikely that the decision would be reversed as a decision had been made earlier in the year to take the contract back in-house. It was noted that representation has also been made by the church itself. After discussion, it was agreed that the clerk would write to the SHDC Member for the Environment seeking his views on the decision and how Mr Gray had been treated , to express the Council's disappointment that Mr Gray's contract was not being renewed and to request that the decision is reconsidered.</p>
210420.17	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Zoom on Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

County Councillor Report – Cllr Richard Hosking

1. **Coronavirus containment**

The Country is gripped by the Coronavirus crisis. Having adopted a strategy of containment we are all staying at home as much as possible and practicing social distancing. The message in this County Council report to everyone is Keep Safe.

We are all extremely appreciative of those who work in the NHS, caring community and key services, and thank you for your dedication at this challenging time. I paste below a link to a U tube clip that says it all.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c29Z-3hymws&feature=youtu.be>

Congratulations on establishing a Community Support network. This is quite a challenge for our smaller Parishes. Your Community Support contact details have been provided to our MPs and the Devon County Council Community Support network.

A huge thank you to everyone in the Parish who may be engaged in the Community Support effort or who is continuing the battle against Coronavirus as an NHS, Care or Key Worker.

I will continue to feed to Parish Clerks important National and County information and announcements as I become aware of them. Website addresses for important public bodies such as the NHS, Public Health England, Devon & Cornwall Police, Health & Safety and HoTSW LEP with Business advice have been provided to Teresa.

Devon County Council is establishing a Devon wide network of hubs organised at District level to provide information and access to voluntary services. This will be organised locally by Cassandra Harrison at South Hams District Council. There is a Devon interactive map onto which your Support Group details can be added.

I paste at the end of this e-mail three recent Connect Me reports from Devon County Coronavirus providing a wealth of information about staying safe, Social Care, County Council funding of up to £5,000 for Community Support volunteer services, Devon County Council Services, Business Support, Highways and links to the important national websites. **The middle report includes a plea for the return/recycling of any redundant community equipment please. Such items as walkers, shower stools, raised WC seats are in scarce supply and return will be appreciated.** The items will be collected.

The County Council are currently still providing all of our Statutory Services and staff have responded superbly to requests to redeploy to fill absences, to prepare for anticipated shortfalls as the virus progresses and to provide additional services.

I will be pleased to assist anyone in the Parish who may have difficulty accessing any of our services.

2. **Highways**

Safety has become the determining factor for highway maintenance and repair. Safety defects will be repaired where possible and when social distancing can be observed. Work on patching, drainage and footways has currently been suspended.

Thanks to the good weather the number of pothole reports are falling and the waiting list is reducing daily. We have two “dragon patchers” working in the County that will hopefully improve the rapidity and quality of repairs.

Road use has fallen dramatically and we are investigating the possibility of maintenance works to our busier stretches of road.

Safety inspections, on highways, bridges and trees will continue.

Nick Colton is working from home and is currently not able to carry out on site visits. However he continues to diligently respond to e-mails and I will report any defects you raise to him.

3. **Issues raised regarding Holne Parish**

- a. Sorry to hear that New Bridge dating to 1410 has been damaged. Pleased to hear that repairs are anticipated within the week.
- b. Boulders at New Bridge cattle grid.
I believe we are making progress with this application. I will be seeking your confirmation this evening that;
 - (i) The scheme was proposed by the Dartmoor National Park?
 - (ii) The land on either side of the pedestrian gate is owned by the National Trust.
 - (iii) The pedestrian gate is used by walkers and horse riders and is an established public right of way?
 - (iv) The reason the National Trust have not carried out this work themselves? I am guessing this is because it primarily benefits the public right of way?

The Parish Council have agreed to obtain a letter from the National Trust confirming that they are in favour of the scheme and the boulders may remain.

Pleased to have forwarded a Locality application form for funding towards Holne Playpark.

4. **Devon Carbon Plan**

I circulated recently an update on the Devon Carbon Plan together with notes concerning anticipated delay with the publication of the plan (now in two parts), the Citizen's Assembly and Public Consultation.

5. **Ofsted Report on Children's Services**

Devon County Council Children's Services were very surprised and disappointed to receive an Inadequate rating following the 2020 Ofsted inspection and report. There were three areas that were identified as requiring improvement;

- a. Care leavers in unacceptable accommodation
- b. Children in unregulated placements
- c. Neglected or abused Children left in families too long

An improvement Plan is being implemented including the appointment of a DfE approved Consultant, Nigel Richardson and an Improvement Lead and Improvement Director.

6. **Questions**

I will be pleased as ever to answer any questions.

7. **Future Meetings**

Congratulations to Holne on holding their first Virtual Meeting. I have now attended a Scrutiny Committee meeting, Cabinet Meeting and Overview Group on Team (windows 365), this is the second Parish Council meeting on Zoom.

Parish Councils update from South Hams - Cllrs Pannell & Smerdon
21st April 2020

- **SHDC.** Council has been in emergency mode, with urgent decisions being taken by senior officers in consultation with the Leader. As with Parish Councils, SHDC has now received guidance that meetings may be held remotely using video conferencing. The advice is that this should only be used for decisions on Coronavirus-related issues and matters of the utmost urgency. SHDC has Full Council Meetings on Thursdays 23rd and 30th April. One of the first decisions will be to confirm the appointment of the new Chief Executive for South Hams and West Devon, following the move of Sophie Hosking to Cornwall. There could be significant financial implications from the emergency for SHDC – loss of income and emergency expenditure – but it will depend on whether the Government is able to recompense local authorities in full. The council is facing a shortfall of several million pounds from the crisis – for example due to the Business Rate and Council Tax reliefs, and the loss of income from car parking etc. The Government has declared that it will recompense councils for their losses but there is concern that this should be in full or local authorities will face a very difficult financial situation.

- **Planning. FOR THOSE NOT IN DNPA AREA.**
New applications are once again being accepted. Less controversial plans are being decided, as in the past, by officer delegation, with local Ward Member consent if necessary. It seems unlikely at present that Development Management meetings will be held by video conferencing, so major planning applications and those which cannot be decided by Ward Member approval are likely to be held over until normal meetings resume.
 - **Waste services.** Household recycling centres closed. Refuse collections continuing as normal at present but may need to be reduced/amended
 - **Public areas.** Public toilets are closed for reasons of public health, as should children's play areas. Parks and open spaces should be kept open at present for exercise, so long as people respect distancing
 - **Council tax reduction.** Help is available for people who already receive help with their Council Tax because of low incomes, and may be extended
 - **Small Businesses.** Help is available to businesses which have had to cease operations because of Government regulations. Business Rate holiday for the current year – nothing to pay. Those eligible for this have been informed by letter sent to their business address. Cash grants of up to £25,000 from the Government for those in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. There is also the Government assistance available to pay 80% of staff wages up to £2,500 per month
 - **Grants for local community groups and Town and Parish Councils.** Quick grants of £500 from Devon County Council and also £500 from DNPA (for those in the National Park) available to community groups/parish councils who are supporting people with food banks, shopping, emergency financial assistance etc. Bigger grants of up to £6,000 also available from Devon CC. SHDC has funding of up to £250 per parish for virus-related work in the community, but the size of grants will depend on the number of applications in each area.
 - **Food parcels.** The Government has identified a small number of people 'shielding' at home because they are vulnerable with health conditions. SHDC arranged the delivery of food parcels to those who needed them but this is now being handed to a food distribution company to manage.
 - **Working with Community Groups.** Devon CC and SHDC have identified and published lists and maps of community groups who are helping those in need. They are

liaising with these groups so assistance can be co-ordinated and to avoid duplication. Groups are being issued with a short guide covering issues such as selection and registration of volunteers, safeguarding, risk assessments etc.

- **Food banks.** Morrisons have said they will supply surplus food to groups running food banks
- **Domestic abuse.** There is an increased risk of domestic abuse. Help is available from Devon and Cornwall Victim Support. Email victimservices@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk Tel: 0300 303 0554

Here are some links which may prove useful, if you don't already know them:

- **Covid 19 related Helpline for South Hams** [01803 861297](tel:01803861297)

Advice is still available for other matters through the South Hams DC website, but responses may take longer as some staff have been switched to virus-related activities.

- **Local Action Support Fund** <https://southhams.gov.uk/LASFund>
- **Post Office support for getting access to cash**
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-52229698>
- **Info on grants and funding for individuals, groups and businesses.**
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/document/grant-and-funding-support/>
- **The Silver Line** - FREE confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day 0800 470 8090
<https://www.thesilverline.org.uk>
- **The Mix.** Online support Webchat for 10-18 year olds, online counselling for up to 28. Group chat, general chat, helpline, email and text support and webchat 0808 808 4994
www.themix.org.uk
- **Victim Care Unit** on 01392 475900
<https://www.victimcaredevonandcornwall.org.uk/Help-and-Support/> This link is more local support and covers a wide range of topics which is useful.
- **National Domestic Abuse** free phone helpline 24 hours is 0808 2000 247 - the web link <https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/>