

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 3 March 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), R Applegarth, J Barkas (from item 2), J Bellamy, T Crook and E Ross

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Pannell, Ross Gray and two members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Crook at 7.30pm.

030320.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Fairman
030320.02	Casual Vacancy <p>Members received an application from Justine Barkas to join the Parish Council as a co-opted member. The application was accepted. Mrs Barkas signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed by the clerk, and immediately joined the meeting.</p>
030320.03	Open Forum <p>Ross Gray asked about the parish's future strategy on hedges. If it doesn't have one, he suggested that the Parish Council considers it and he circulated a copy as an example.</p> <p>Reference item 9, he suggested that the Parish Council pushes the DNPA to have in their Management Plan some recognition of the quiet areas for wildlife along the River Dart.</p> <p>Ross reported that he had attended the 2020 Vision for Holne meeting in the Village Hall at which he had suggested a tree planting scheme like the one in 1977. Over the summer, the parish could try and identify suitable parcels of land to plant trees with a view to planting them next winter.</p> <p>Cllr Ross supported everything Ross said. She is appalled that hedges have been decimated which has not allowed any young trees to grow, particularly at Langaford. It was agreed to add this as an agenda item next month.</p> <p>Cllr Ross supports the view of Branfield that 'Dartmoor is full'. DNPA should protect the wild areas but it was acknowledged that DNPA has very limited powers.</p> <p>Michael French disagreed that the hedges had been poorly cut. The hedge was in a poor condition and will grow back and the views have now improved.</p>
030320.04	County & District Councillors' Reports <p>District Councillor Pannell reported as follows: Budget meeting was held on 13 February. Council tax in 2020-21 will increase by £5 for a Band D property (approx 3.02%). Total council tax for a Band D property will be £1,990.82. There will also be a 4% increase in car parking charges.</p> <p>Climate change – a fund of £400,000 has been set aside for projects to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>Waste recycling changes will be introduced from 28th September. There will be events to publicise the changes leading up to the distribution of new containers. Black and brown bin collections will continue as now and new containers will be provided for food, waste, glass, paper, cartons, glass etc.</p>

	<p>Officers are willing to attend parish meetings to brief communities about the changes.</p> <p>Firewood & coal - new regulations are being introduced over the next two years. There are questions about policing this? Will Environmental Health have to monitor?</p> <p>Coronavirus - public health is the responsibility of Government and national health officers, the NHS, local Public Health authorities and Devon County Council. South Hams may advise on the legality of certain measures such as postponing/cancelling parish/town council meetings and is making its own preparations for maintaining and adjusting services to the public if large numbers of staff are sick. Fortunately, many members of staff are capable of working from home, which might help in an emergency.</p> <p>Cllr Pannell reported that he still had a limited amount of funds available for local projects from his locality budget.</p> <p>Cllr Owen asked what South Hams District Council is doing about reducing plastic? Cllr Pannell promised he would ask the question of colleagues.</p> <p>County Cllr Richard Hosking reported as follows: Budget – expenditure is increasing from £498m to £541. Adult Social Care and Children’s Services account for the bulk of this increase. The highways budget has increased by 5%. The DCC element of of the Council Tax for an average Band D property will be £1439.36. It is the maximum DCC is allowed to increase without a referendum. A deficit is being held on the balance sheet which is a £21m overspend on education for special educational needs. A similar sum is being accumulated this year. The government may be able to help to reduce that.</p> <p>Climate change - Devon has joined a partnership to work together with 28 other stakeholders to produce a Devon Carbon plan which will be published in Autumn 2020. 15 schools have been invited to attend the youth parliament to discuss climate change. A Citizen’s Assembly and a consultation will follow.</p> <p>Stones at Newbridge – Cllr Hosking reported that he had visited the site and is happy with the arrangement. There is still a question about the whether his grant can fund the work which involves private land and he will follow this up.</p> <p>He advised that he still has some locality funding available for local projects.</p>
<p>030320.05</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation 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>
<p>030320.06</p>	<p>Ratification of Minutes Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 February 2020 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
<p>030320.07</p>	<p>Finance and Governance 7.1 The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Hams District Council (Annual insurance and inspection fee for play area) - £240 • Holne Shop and Tea Rooms (grant approved in December’s meeting) - £150

030320.08	<p>Planning</p> <p>8.1 New applications/appeals None</p> <p>8.2 Decisions:</p> <p>8.2.1 0581/19 – Erection of agricultural lean-to (10x13.72m), Higher Mill Leat Farm, Holne Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission</p>
030320.09	<p>Consultation on the Dartmoor National Park Management Plan</p> <p>Members were reminded that the Plan can be viewed online and the period of consultation ends on 20 April.</p> <p>Members agreed with the comments made in the open forum that DNPA should give consideration to designating and protecting areas of the moor for wildlife particularly along the River Dart where wild swimming is increasing in popularity and is being promoted nationally through newspaper and magazine articles. Particularly sensitive areas should be identified and protection given. This also means clearer instruction to visitors through byelaws and DNPA needs greater powers to enforce those byelaws. At the moment, DNPA has no legal powers. Funding is also needed to protect these areas. It was also considered that the Plan is diametrically opposed: keeping it beautiful and encouraging people to come don't go together. Consideration should be given to moving the date of the Ten Tors event from May to avoid the nesting season.</p> <p>Maintenance of highways – if visitors are being encouraged, is there funding available for increased highways maintenance? Joined-up thinking is needed between agencies.</p> <p>As well as responding to the consultation, it was agreed that Cllr Crook would draft a letter to the Duke of Cornwall voicing the Parish Council's concerns as outlined above.</p>
030320.10	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Lighting Mast</p> <p>Members received the following update:</p> <p>Costs & DAA grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Power Distribution have quoted £4100 to bring a new supply to the site • MAT Electrics will need to produce a quote for the other aspects, including the lighting work • Once MAT have provided a quotation, DAAT can review the grant available and from that calculate the community funding required <p>Planning application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A planning application for the column will need to be submitted to DNPA by the Parish Council • DAAT can help the Parish Council complete the planning application (the PC will need to start the online application and provide a draft Location Plan and Block Plan). The cost will be £144 for the online application plus approximately £20 for the plans. <p>Cllr Applegarth reported that having met with the owner of the land where the proposed mast will be sited, she can't commit to a long-term agreement in respect of the land. Members accepted this and agreed to proceed with the project regardless. If the land becomes no longer available to site the mast, it was accepted that the mast would have to be dismantled and resited elsewhere. The equipment would be owned by the Parish Council.</p> <p>It was agreed to ask Cllr Pannell for a contribution towards the cost of the planning application from this locality budget as offered in the open forum.</p>

030320.11	<p>Venford Reservoir Cllr Fairman had requested that members discuss the maintenance of paths, fences, benches, gates etc with a view to writing to South West Lakes Trust to establish its intentions for future maintenance. As Cllr Fairman was absent from the meeting, however, it was agreed to defer this item until next month to enable him to explain to members exactly what the issues are.</p>
030320.12	<p>Recent Storms 12.1 It was agreed to thank members of the community for their support clearing drains, ditches and buddle holes during the recent storms. 12.2 It was noted that SHDC does not provide free sandbags. The Parish Council agreed that parishioners would need to purchase their own sandbags if needed.</p>
030320.13	<p>Church House Inn Cllr Applegarth reported that the storage of used bottles etc along the side of Church House Inn seems to be much tidier. It was agreed to continue to monitor this.</p>
030320.14	<p>Playpark The clerk advised that Simon Birbeck was happy to continue to cut the grass at Playpark. Having not increased costs for some years, the cost per cut will increase from £45 to £50 per cut. Members accepted the increase. Due to the storms, the clear- up weekend was cancelled though some work was done. The Easter Egg Hunt is planned for 4 April. The Chairman reported that there is an ash tree in the boundary hedge at the bottom of playpark which may have ash die-back. The clerk advised that boundaries are shared and therefore any cost to remove the tree would be shared between the landowners. Ross Gray agreed that he would look at the tree and advise the Parish Council whether it has ash die-back. He would be able to tell by June if this was the case.</p>
030320.15	<p>Leats Cllr Applegarth reported that he has unblocked a few leats all seem to be running now. Members confirmed that leats running through private land are the owners' responsibility. It was agreed to publish an article in the Parish Link to remind land owners of this responsibility.</p>
030320.16	<p>Highways and Footpaths Cllr Applegarth reported that Bill Allen has delivered the new hanging post for the gate at the top of the footpath opposite Hill Top. He will replace it once the weather improves.</p>
030320.17	<p>Annual Parish Meeting As previously agreed, this meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 7th April. It was agreed to invite an officer from SHDC to July's Parish Council meeting to explain the new recycling arrangements ahead of them being introduced in September.</p>
030320.18	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None</p>
030320.19	<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 None</p>

030320.20	Correspondence 20.1 Members received and noted correspondence from Ross Gray. This was discussed in the open forum.
030320.21	Date of Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 7th April at 7.00pm• Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 7th April at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman