

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), R Applegarth, J Bellamy, T Crook, M Fairman and E Ross

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking, District Cllr Smerdon and District Cllr Pannell. There was one member of the public present (from 8.10pm).

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

160620.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr J Barkas
160620.02	Open Forum <p>A member of the public joined the meeting at 8.10pm. The Chairman invited her to speak at that point:</p> <p>She spoke about her feelings for the Black Lives Matter movement and asked for the Parish Council's endorsement of its actions and beliefs. Whilst acknowledging the importance of the issues being addressed by this movement members did not consider that the Parish Council was the appropriate forum for this issue to be discussed.</p> <p>She also shared Hannah Best's concern about habitat and biodiversity in the churchyard. She advised that she had spoken to SHDC contractors about how the churchyard was being strimmed and had asked them to consider alternative methods of management. The Chairman advised that this is something that she should pursue with the PCC.</p> <p>She also asked for clarification about some of the details relating to the planning application to install the Devon Air Ambulance lighting column. Cllr Applegarth confirmed that it will not be necessary to widen any gates; that they intend to tap into Little Bewden's electrical feed and there will be minimal disturbance to hedge banks.</p>
160620.03	County & District Councillors' Reports <p>District Councillor Pannell and Smerdon's report is attached.</p> <p>DNPA Report - District Cllr Smerdon: Launched on 30th March, DNPA Coronavirus Community Support Grant Fund has so far distributed £12,315 of grant funding to 27 initiatives across Dartmoor. Local communities across the country have joined the national effort to manage the impact of the pandemic. Several new community initiatives, focused on supporting those on Dartmoor who are most vulnerable, have been mobilised. All these groups have had a need for immediate up-front funding to enable them to make a difference to the moors local communities during these unprecedented times. Through the CCSG fund, DNPA has rapidly provided grants of up to £500 to 27 community initiatives across Dartmoor.</p> <p>The Authority has continued working during the Covid 19 emergency, with most staff continuing to work from home. Planning functions have continued throughout. The situation is currently under review with some staff now being able to carry out site visits and inspections. A full Development Management meeting was held online two weeks ago, and a full online Authority Meeting is scheduled for this Friday.</p>

	<p>The Ranger team have been increasingly busy over the last few weeks as the general population has emerged from weeks of lockdown looking for some fresh air. Many people have not taken kindly to Rangers pointing out to them that their activities are not just anti-social but illegal too. Kevin Bishop says he has never seen the Park as busy as it has been since the lockdown restrictions were lifted on 13 May. The long spell of dry weather also meant the Moor was tinder dry and there was a huge fire risk. Fortunately, the recent change to cooler showery weather has had the dual effect of reducing both the number of visitors and the risk of fire.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about public toilets and it was observed that it is important that these are kept open. Cllr Smerdon confirmed that public toilets are now open.</p> <p>County Cllr Richard Hosking reported on the easing of lockdown. There will be a phased reopening of libraries from 6 July; bus services are also being restored. Wearing a mask on public transport will be obligatory. DCC has been awarded a grant of £338,000 from the COVID Active Travel Fund. Whilst this first tranche will be used to improve cycling and footpaths in Exeter and the larger towns, smaller parishes are coming forward with ideas to improve cycling in around their areas in advance of the second tranche of funding being allocated.</p> <p>£28.8m has been received from the government from the Pothole and Challenge Fund. This will enable DCC to address resurfacing and drainage issue. Some works which were originally in the schedule have not been completed due to the pandemic. This has meant that other unscheduled work has been completed instead.</p> <p>Temporary street café licences are being introduced to help businesses reopen. Cafes can now use pavements within the 28 day notice period. Recycling centres have now extended their opening.</p> <p>Cllr Hosking thanked all community volunteers. A meeting of the full council is being held virtually in July. DCC is continuing with the procurement exercise for the final 10% of broadband roll out in early 2021. DCC is a beacon authority for testing track and trace. All healthcare staff will be tested to see who has had COVID-19.</p> <p>Zoos and shops are also reopening and other businesses are in the pipeline to reopen in July.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the remnants of an old metal signpost opposite Higher Butts still hasn't been removed. The clerk advised she would follow this up with the Highways Engineer and would copy Cllr Hosking in.</p>
<p>160620.04</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</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>It was noted that the planning application to be discussed at item 7.1.1 had been submitted by the Parish Council but no members have a disclosable pecuniary interest.</p>
<p>160620.05</p>	<p>Ratification of Minutes</p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 May 2020 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
<p>160620.06</p>	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheque 846 – HMRC (PAYE Q1) - £157.80 • Cheque 847 – Lee Accounting (SW) Ltd (internal audit) - £108 • Cheque 848 – DALC Annual membership fee - £68.89

	<p>6.2 Audit 2019-20</p> <p>6.2.1 Members received and noted the year end bank reconciliation.</p> <p>6.2.2 Members agreed that this Council is exempt from a limited assurance review under s9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and authorised the Chairman and RFO to sign the Certificate of Exemption.</p> <p>6.2.3 Members completed, authorised the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 1 of the Annual Return (Annual Governance Statement 2019/20).</p> <p>6.2.4 Members received, approved and authorised the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 2 of the Annual Return (Accounting Statements 2019/20).</p>
160620.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals:</p> <p>7.1.1. 0242/20 – Installation of single 10m column with two LED lights for Devon Air Ambulance to use at night at Field adjacent to Little Bewden, Holne</p> <p>This application is submitted and supported by Holne Parish Council.</p> <p>7.1.2 0249/20 – Insertion of roof windows and alterations to the entrance of farm building at Village Farm, Holne</p> <p>Members had no objections to this application.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions:</p> <p>7.2.1 0170/20, 0171/20. 0172, 20, 0173/ 20 – Replacement of 5 bar gate with temporary close boarded screen at Long Barn, Michelcombe</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission.</p>
160620.08	<p>Churchyard Maintenance</p> <p>It was noted that the churchyard has been strimmed and therefore no further action was necessary. It was agreed to monitor the situation. A question was asked about whether any consideration had been given to management of the churchyard by Moor Meadows. The Chairman advised that she had written to the PCC but had heard nothing more.</p>
160620.09	<p>Church House Inn</p> <p>It was noted that the tenants have left. Members discussed the ongoing maintenance of the green and the leat. Cllr Applegarth offered to maintain these areas until new tenants are found.</p> <p>Cllr Fairman also offered to strim around the bench at Bearwood.</p> <p>It was observed that a piece of fascia board is hanging off the front porch though it was understood to have been like that for some time.</p>
160620.10	<p>Visitors to the Moor</p> <p>Members received some observations by Cllr Fairman circulated in advance of the meeting relating to the number of visitors to the Moor since the easing of lockdown. Issues relate to the volume of visitors, parking problems, camping, barbeques and verbal and physical abuse of DNPA Rangers. It was noted that the relevant authorities were aware of the issues and members agreed to support any process which protects the moor.</p>
160620.11	<p>Adoption of Telephone Kiosk</p> <p>Cllr Bellamy reported that Hannah Best did not think that it was a good idea to adopt the kiosk for the purposes of creating an information hub as she did not think it would be used. Other options for this are being explored including a space on the village hall or a sign on the inside of the church gates. The PCC will discuss the suggestion at their next meeting.</p>

	<p>Cllr Crook explained that should the Parish Council wish to adopt the kiosk for some other purpose, the process of adoption is straight forward and there are no deadlines. It was noted, however, that the kiosk is listed and therefore the Council will need to establish whether or not permission would be required to convert it. Once this has been established, the Council might consider seeking suggestions from parishioners for possible uses.</p>
160620.12	<p>Playpark Cllr Bellamy reported that Holne Books have offered some financial support towards the purchase of some adult play equipment should Playpark decide to proceed with this.</p>
160620.13	<p>Leats It was noted that four or five stones have been pushed into the leat at Little Cross. There is also piece of work blocking the leat in Church Park. Cllr's Bellamy and Applegarth offered to look at both of these.</p>
160620.14	<p>Highways and Footpaths It was reported that two trees have fallen across the path by the river. It was agreed that the clerk should contact the National Trust as the landowners and ask that they clear them from the path.</p>
160620.15	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None</p>
160620.16	<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>
160620.17	<p>Correspondence None</p>
160620.18	<p>Date of Next Meeting It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Zoom on Tuesday 7 July at 7.30pm.</p>

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

Parish Councils update from South Hams Cllrs Pannell & Smerdon - June 2020

- **SHDC.** Council remains in emergency mode, with urgent decisions being taken by senior officers in consultation with the Leader. Some meetings are being held remotely using video conferencing. SHDC has so far held two Full Council Meetings and a joint meeting of the members of Overview and Scrutiny and Development Management. There is a meeting of the Executive on Thursday this week. The new Chief Executive has taken up his post. Andy Bates comes to us from the Local Government Association, where he was Principal Adviser for the South West.
- **Finance.** There are significant financial implications from the emergency for SHDC – both loss of income and emergency expenditure. This is anticipated to total in the region of £6million, on an annual budget of £9.4million. The council is facing a shortfall in income from Business Rates and Council Tax, car parking, leisure centres, ferry takings etc. and has to spend out on emergency measures such as administering the various grant funds and community support etc. We do not know whether the Government will recompense local authorities in full. So far we have received £900,000 and there has been no indication of what else might be allocated. South Hams has combined with the local authorities from across Devon to lobby MPs and the Government for additional funding to help bridge this shortfall. The council may have to make some very difficult choices and is currently drawing up contingency plans. Officers believe the council will remain solvent, but discretionary spending may have to be severely curtailed and capital projects deferred. Some other local authorities across the country may find themselves insolvent.
- **Waste services.** Household recycling centres opened again in May – but only for private cars and for materials which present a hazard if they remain in homes, although this is gradually being relaxed. Refuse collections continue as normal at present. The introduction of the new recycling system with plastic boxes replacing bags has been delayed until February, because the crisis has halted construction of the specialised lorries needed, in Ireland, and the building of the new waste transfer station at Ivybridge.
- **Public areas.** Public toilets have reopened, first at the beaches and now in the towns, but it is not clear whether there are sufficient cleaning resources to reopen those in more rural areas. Children’s play areas remain closed Parks and open spaces should be kept open for exercise, so long as people respect distancing. Tennis courts have been allowed to reopen. The beach car parks at Bigbury, Slapton and North Sands, Salcombe, have reopened following the relaxation of the rules on trips out for exercise.
- **Discretionary grants** for businesses which haven’t previously qualified for funding became available from 1st June . SHDC will have £2.4million to administer for businesses in shared spaces, bed and breakfasts, charities etc. Details of how to apply to this scheme are on the SHDC website. Payments are starting to be made this week.
- **Other funding available**, which we have already reported on, includes: **Council tax reduction** for those on low incomes. **Business Support Grants:** There have been 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. Small business grants of £10,000 are available for businesses with a Rateable Value of less than £15,000. This also applies to Village Halls, Recreation Associations etc. SHDC has paid out £39.35million in Government grants to 3,431 businesses in the South Hams – 85% of those eligible and 98% of all those who applied.
- **Help for self-employed and small businesses** is available from the Government. Go to the Gov.uk website for details.
- **Emergency Welfare Fund** has been set up together with Devon County Council to help people such as those waiting to receive Universal Credit and the self-employed.
- **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) are 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 depends on the number of applications in each area.

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

- **Covid 19 related Helpline for South Hams** 01803 861297
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/>