

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 7 July 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 (from 7.55pm), District Cllr Smerdon and District Cllr Pannell. There were eight members of the public present.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

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| 070720.01 | Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr J Barkas |
| 070720.02 | Open Forum <p>Ross Gray expressed concern about the state of the churchyard and had observed that all the wild flowers and ferns have been stumped off. The bark on the ancient yew tree has also been damaged by a strimmer. With regard to the encampment, he was very concerned about the devastation to wildlife.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has received an update from DNPA regarding the situation of the encampment at Venford. She reported that the road block had been successful but will now be lifted as it is affecting residents. She assured residents that DNPA is taking the situation very seriously. With regard to damage to the yew tree, it was agreed that this would be raised with SHDC.</p> |
| 070720.03 | County & District Councillors' Reports <p>District Cllr Pannell reported that the SHDC's financial position has been slightly relieved by support from the government. Anything over a 5% fall in expected income, the government will give back 75% of it. He advised that the Discretionary Grant scheme closes at the end of this week.</p> <p>A resident asked when SHDC intend to start the new refuse collections which will include collection of glass and plastics. Cllr Pannell advised that there has been a delay due to COVID and has been put back until February. He confirmed that SHDC has ordered the same lorries as used by TDC.</p> <p>County Cllr Richard Hosking advised that grants were still available including the broad reaching Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grant which is based on rateable value. Libraries will be reopening in July/August. Ivybridge is due to reopen on 27 July. There has been a significant increase in the e-book service with numbers of users increasing from 300 to 2300. Online booking and collection services are operating at most libraries. DCC has published its COVID Outbreak Management Plan in case there is a second wave. From 6 July, there will be a significant relaxation of restrictions for those shielding. The food box programme will be closing from 31 July. 2.2 million people used this service countrywide (3000 in Devon). There has been an increase in crimes in the county with above average levels reported. County Lines has seen an increase in local recruitment. With regard to the Rainbow of Living Light encampment he and officers have been doing all they can behind the scenes.</p> <p>There were various comments from members of the public regarding the encampment. There was concern expressed about the wildlife: DNPA need more bylaws and powers. A question was asked about what lessons can be learned? It is up to DNPA to look at operations and MPs should be lobbied to bring about legislative changes. Another resident believed that the group were not moved on quick enough but acknowledged the lack of legislation.</p> |

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| | <p>The Chairman informed residents that the situation was in hand as far as it could be but it would be great if Cllr Hosking could lobby MPs and take this forward on behalf of the parish.</p> |
| 070720.04 | <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>There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.</p> |
| 070720.05 | <p>Ratification of Minutes</p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 June 2020 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p> |
| 070720.06 | <p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Consultation on the draft model Code of Conduct</p> <p>There were no comments on the draft but it was agreed that it would be preferred for the Parish Council to adopt the same Code as South Hams District Council as is the case with the current Code of Conduct.</p> |
| 070720.07 | <p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals:</p> <p>None</p> <p>7.2 Decisions:</p> <p>None</p> |
| 070720.08 | <p>Footpaths through Mill Leat Farm</p> <p>Members received correspondence from the owners of Mill Leat Farm regarding the footpaths across their land. Members were advised that two footpaths have formed which fork from their boundary at the western stye, one moving uphill in the western field that is heavily overgrown and one along the tree line boundary between the higher western field and the lower western field (bordering Holy Brook). The owners intend to run their cattle in this higher western field and would therefore like to make use of as much pasture as possible in order for them to meet their grazing goals. The owners asked whether the council would consider that the footpath be assigned only to the one bordering the two fields along the tree line. They will fund appropriate fencing along this boundary to safeguard the public from the livestock.</p> <p>After a brief discussion, members agreed that they had no issues with the proposal. However, this would be a matter for the owners to formalise with Devon County Council and that they should contact them directly regarding this.</p> |
| 070720.09 | <p>Traffic Calming</p> <p>The issues of traffic calming measures around the cattle grid on the bend at the junction of Stoke Lane and Priddons Farm were discussed. Members were advised that a meeting with Nick Colton, DCC Highways, had been arranged by a parishioner, Gill Gray, as after the cattle grid, vehicles are accelerating up the hill and round a blind corner to Venford causing a danger to animals and children. The meeting has also been attended by Cllr Fairman (though the Parish Council had not been formally invited). She advised that there are currently no signs warning motorists of the bend/animals/children and that the meeting on 23 June was for the purpose of discussing ideas for traffic calming in this location. Gill Gray advised that Highways has agreed to install a slow sign and a sign to advise motorists of the bend and Stoke Lane junction. The Chairman expressed her disappointment that the Parish Council had not been invited to the meeting. This was acknowledged.</p> |

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| 070720.10 | Church House Inn It was thought that new tenants had been found but it appears that these have since left. This means that the pub does not have any tenants in place and remains closed. It was agreed to bring to the attention of the owner, as a matter of safety, that there is a piece of fascia board hanging off the porch. Also a horse box with a flat tyre, thought to belong to the owner, is obstructing a right of way. |
| 070720.11 | Adoption of the Telephone Kiosk Cllr Crook advised that despite the telephone kiosk being listed, it was still possible to adopt it for £1 should there be a desire to do so. It was agreed that no further action would be taken at this time. |
| 070720.12 | Playpark It was reported that playpark reopened on 4 July. The Committee is looking into the possibility of installing some adult play equipment. Some further research is still required and funding options need to be considered. Permission is also required from the Church as the landowners. |
| 070720.13 | Leats There were no new issues. Cllr Applegarth reported that the stones which had been pushed into the leat at Little Cross have now been removed. |
| 070720.14 | Highways and Footpaths It was noted that two trees have fallen down on the Shuttaford track and that it is badly overgrown. It was presumed that this would be the responsibility of the landowner and it was therefore agreed to contact Bill Allen, DNPA Ranger, to ask if he could make the necessary contact so that the issues can be addressed. It was also thought that the track is on the definitive map for vehicular access so this may make a difference in terms of management. |
| 070720.15 | Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None |
| 070720.16 | 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 |
| 070720.17 | Correspondence None |
| 070720.18 | Date of Next Meeting It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Zoom on Tuesday 1 September 2020 at 7.30pm. |

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman