

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

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

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

061020.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">District Cllr Pannell
061020.02	Open Forum <p>There were no comments.</p>
061020.03	County & District Councillors' Reports <p>District Cllr Pannell and Smerdon's report is attached.</p> <p>County Cllr Hosking reported that there has been a sharp increase in Covid cases. 539 cases were confirmed in Devon to w/c 4 October (2241 cases since the start of the pandemic). The publication of the Local Outbreak Management Matrix is awaited. A reminder to everyone of Hands, Face and Space and the Rule of 6. He asked that the grit bins in the parish are checked. If any need topping up, they should be reported on the DCC website.</p>
061020.04	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>
061020.05	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 September 2020 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
061020.06	Finance and Governance <p>Members approved the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">HMRC (PAYE) - £167.80Western Power Distribution (electrical works associated with the Devon Air Ambulance lighting mast) - £4101.05 (paid out of grant received) <p>Cllr Applegarth advised that the wayleave paperwork has been sent to the landowner for signature. The electrical works will commence once this has been received.</p>
061020.07	Planning <p>7.1 New applications/appeals:</p> <p>7.1.1 0421/20 - Higher Michelcombe Farm, Holne Use of cabin as a dwelling with associated garden and parking</p>

	<p>Members agreed to make no comments.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions: None</p> <p>7.3 Enforcement Matters The Enforcement Officer advised that he was not aware of any hedgerow removal at Hunters Reach however hedgerow removal was not something that would normally require planning permission unless it is deemed an engineering operation. It may need a hedgerow removal notice but not if the hedgerow bounds a garden.</p> <p>An officer has visited Church House Inn and could not see any evidence of any works that would require permission. Regarding the alleged safety issues previously raised, it was agreed that the Parish Council had reported these to the relevant authorities and it should be left with them to investigate.</p> <p>Regarding the query at raised about the unit at Higher Michelcombe Farm, there is one unit which is used all year round for holiday lets but was not part of the recent permissions. It would be lawful, however, through the passage of time.</p> <p>7.4 Other Cllr Crook advised that the owner of Mill Leat Farm has invited him down to have a look at what he's doing at the farm. The invitation was welcomed.</p>
<p>061020.08</p>	<p>Venford Reservoir Members raised concerns about the lack of maintenance of the paths, fences, benches and gates. It was noted that South West Lakes Trust have repaired a section of the path. On another section, however, the fence has been damaged and people are climbing through it. After discussion, the clerk was asked to write to SWLT to remind them of their responsibility and duty of care to maintain the fence against people and stock. Cllr Fairman agreed to forward some photos to the clerk to accompany the letter.</p>
<p>061020.09</p>	<p>Camper Vans on the Moor It was noted that the recently erected DNPA signage prohibiting camper vans from overnight stays is being ignored. It was agreed to write to DNPA informing them of this. It was suggested that DNPA could employ someone to drive around and visit all locations at 9pm and advise any camper vans that camping overnight is prohibited.</p>
<p>061020.10</p>	<p>Playpark It was reported that Ross Gray has looked at the ash tree and considers it to be safe. It will be looked at again next year.</p> <p>It was also reported that now five years have passed, the play equipment, which was funded by Biffa and Entrust, formally became the property of the Parish Council in May 2020.</p> <p>A socially distanced tidy-up is planned for 18 October.</p> <p>The Committee feel that the inside hedge should be cut but only by a foot top and side. It was agreed to ask Paul Pearse to this.</p> <p>At the latest meeting, the Committee discussed the proposed wildflower area. A pumpkin carving competition has also been organized instead of the annual Halloween party. The Committee asked if some arisings could be moved to the far end of the field. Cllr Applegarth offered to do this provided he could access the field with his tractor.</p>

061020.11	<p>Leats</p> <p>It was noted that the Cumberstone leat has collapsed. It was suggested that Richard Gray is contacted as he could rebuild it. It was also suggested that an article is included in the next edition of the Parish Link reminding landowners of their responsibility for maintaining and clearing water courses running across their land.</p>
061020.12	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>It was noted that the Ranger, Bill Allen, has not yet had a chance to look at the overgrowth and fallen trees on the Shuttaford track which was raised at a previous meeting of the Parish Council.</p>
061020.13	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>Members received a response from Kevin Bishop advising that DNPA is due to meet with Anthony Mangnall MP later in the month and would keep the Parish Council informed. DNPA is also exploring whether they could establish a joint post with the police (and potentially, the Fire and Rescue Service) to assist with enforcement against anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>With the pub being shut, concerns were raised about the ongoing maintenance of the village green and the safety of the benches. It was agreed to write to the owner and ask him whether he has a long-term plan for maintenance of the green and what he intends to do about keeping the benches Covid safe. It was also noted that vehicles are being directed to park on the gravel area but shouldn't be as this is not a designated parking area.</p>
061020.14	<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>Members were informed that this year's Christmas tree has been donated to the parish. It was agreed that solar lights would be used to decorate the tree which would be erected, as usual, on the village green.</p> <p>Members queried whether there would be a Service of Remembrance this year. The Chairman agreed to contact the church.</p>
061020.15	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None</p>
061020.16	<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 3 November 2020 at 7.30pm.</p>

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

Parish Councils update from South Hams Cllrs Pannell & Smerdon OCTOBER 2020

COVID 19

There has been a marked increase in local lockdown announcements over the last week and it is apparent that a second wave of COVID-19 is now upon us. Rates of infection in the South Hams are still low but numbers are increasing in the region and there has been well publicised local outbreaks in Cornwall and Exeter. You can find the latest figures [here](#).

We are taking steps to prepare for a range of scenarios by updating our Business Continuity Plans and using lessons learnt from the first wave of the pandemic. These include making sure we have measures in place to minimise the disruption to services caused by as yet to be known impacts.

Whilst there are obvious comparisons with the first wave it would appear that lockdown measures may vary and hence the challenges we face may need a different response. It is clear that alongside national measures there will need to be a local response and therefore potentially a greater demand on, for example, our Environmental Health and Communications Teams.

We are working with the Police and Devon County regarding enforcement strategies and carrying out multi-agency exercises to refine our response to outbreaks in a number of different settings.

To date we have only dealt with sporadic cases but it is highly likely that an outbreak will occur and be linked to a premises in the Council area which we will have responsibility to investigate.

Track and Trace Hardship Payment Scheme

The Government has launched its Track and Trace Hardship Payment Scheme. This is when people who have been advised they need to isolate for 14 days and are unable to work are eligible for a £500 payment. This launched on the 28 September and the Council needs to have its scheme up and running by the 12 October (with backdating to the 28 September where required). This date is mandated by Central Government. Our work will include designing the application form and process, including how to get the money to the people who need it most. We are confident that we can deliver this in time.

Whilst the criteria is clear as to who is eligible for the scheme, there is an additional discretionary scheme which allows local authorities to make payments for people who are not in receipt of benefits, but are unable to work from home, if their employer is not able to pay them sick pay and self-isolation will cause them hardship. We are working with our colleagues in the other Devon authorities to ensure our scheme is joined up, robust and will help those that need it the most without creating a postcode lottery

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Finance. Officers have calculated that SHDC is facing a shortfall of £1.3million in its budget for the current year as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic – caused by extra expenditure on emergency measures and loss of income from sources such as car parks, leisure centres etc. Members approved a revised budget at the Full Council meeting on 24th September, taking money from some budgets and also from carefully calculated reserves, using money from a Budget underspend last year and deferring some maintenance projects.

Leisure Centres. At the same meeting Members agreed further financial support for SHDC Leisure partner Fusion. This will allow all the four leisure centres in Totnes, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge and Ivybridge to open fully, including swimming pools. This was a difficult decision, and we would encourage all residents who can to make use of these excellent facilities.

Planning. FOR THOSE NOT IN DNPA AREA.

New applications are being accepted. Less controversial plans are being decided, as in the past, by officer delegation, with local Ward Member consent. Development Management meetings have resumed by video conferencing.

DNP Planning Park Members recently visited Buckfast Abbey for a site visit prior to debating a major application in November. This is for a 250 resident Extra Care retirement home on the site of the former Axminster Carpets spinning mill.

Waste services. The introduction of the new recycling system with plastic boxes replacing bags has been delayed until March, because the crisis has halted construction of the specialised lorries needed, in Ireland, and the building of the new waste transfer station at Ivybridge. The new plastic recycling containers and leaflets will be going out to householders in January/February.

COLLECTION ROUND CHANGES are being introduced from the week beginning **5th October** to prepare for the introduction of the new service. Some areas will see no change, some a combination of day and time of collection. Everyone affected should have received a letter of notification by now.

You can find your collection day here www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday
SHDC is offering an officer to attend (virtual) Parish Council meetings to brief members on the proposed new collection system, how it will operate, and the changes it will bring.

Covid heroes. If you would like to thank someone for going above and beyond in the past few months, you can nominate them for a local Honour. The Leaders of South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council have been so moved by the extraordinary acts of kindness and support that they have seen in their communities, that they have created a special award scheme. The scheme would see residents, communities and businesses nominated to receive an award under specific categories. Everyone nominated will be recognised on a special web page, so send in your photos and images, showing what they did. The Councils will each hold an award ceremony to personally thank the award recipients. Please nominate online: www.southhams.gov.uk/covid-heroes You may also be interested to know that the National Honours this year are also recognising the great work that individuals have done through the pandemic, and a special category has been created for contribution to the response to the coronavirus crisis.

Nominate individuals for the National Honours Award - www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-honours-nomination-form

Regular meetings with Totnes Police. Totnes police are considering setting up a virtual meeting to involve parish councils and District and County Councillors and other interested parties, to be held monthly, to discuss matters of note or issues they may like to raise. They are very aware these days they no longer have the capacity to regularly attend parish council meetings (but can do so if you give them some notice or there is something you want to quiz Sgt. Perrin or one of his staff on).

Alcohol and Entertainment licensing policy. SHDC is inviting residents and businesses to have their say on the new Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Policy. An eight week consultation runs until Friday 16 October. The renewed policy will decide how the Council makes decisions on alcohol and entertainment licensing issues over the next five years. To read the new policy visit: www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/licensing
Comments can be made by emailing: licensing@southhams.gov.uk
or writing to: Licensing Department, South Hams District Council by 16th October.

The Planning White Paper calls for comments by the end of October. The Prime Minister says the planning system 'is a bar to development' and 'needs to be torn down and start again'. All land would fall into one of three zones - 1) Growth Area, suitable for building, where there will be automatic outline consent, 2) Renewal Area, where planning will have a 'lighter touch' on infill and replacement buildings, with greater density of development, and 3) Protected Area, where development is not seen as appropriate because of the harm to National Parks, AONBs, wildlife, and the risk from floods etc. This doesn't rule out all development. Section 106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL) would be replaced with a nationally set infrastructure charge. Development Management Policies would be set at national level, although there would be local input into traditional architectural styles etc. The process for delivering Local Plans would be streamlined.

Devon's householders have the chance to help the country become net-zero by joining Devon Climate Emergency's solar panel group buying scheme.

DCE's latest project is Solar Together and they are offering homeowners the chance to buy high quality solar PV more cheaply than by simply buying alone.

Led by Devon County Council, the scheme is partnered by 10 of Devons planning authorities, who are all members of DCEs Response Group.

If you are interested, the first step is to register with www.solartogether.co.uk

A helping hand for cold homes

Eligible residents, who are living without gas heating, are being offered the chance to benefit from free gas central heating from SHDC and WDBC

The Councils are targeting residents of households who are struggling to pay heating bills and living in a cold home with no gas supply. The project is part of the wider council target of reducing the areas carbon emissions by replacing old and inefficient heating systems.

South Dartmoor Community Energy will be able to give advice to households on energy suppliers and energy efficiency.

To find out more go to www.southhams.gov.uk/ReduceFuelBills