

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 1 September 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 were three members of the public present.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

<b>010920.01</b>	<b>Resignation and Apologies for Absence</b> 1.1 Members received the resignation of Cllr Ross. The Chairman acknowledged her years of service as a Parish Councillor and thanked her for her contributions particularly in relation to the affordable housing development at Little Bewden and Playpark.  1.2 Apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• District Cllr Pannell</li></ul>
<b>010920.02</b>	<b>Open Forum</b> Ross Gray commented on item 8. He expressed how upset he was about recent events on the moor, including the number of people on the moor and the number of people coming into the village. He urged the Parish Council to write to MPs about the lack of support from government to protect the moor. DNPA is under-staffed and under-resourced. Dartmoor National Park is a national asset and should be supported as such. Special designation and protection does not mean anything if DNPA have no powers of enforcement. He also reported that vehicles parking on ground behind Bakers Park is causing a lot of damage.  A parishioner informed members that she is interested to hear the discussion about Church House Inn and the follow-up on the Rainbow camp and the issue of illegal camping. She believes that it is important to make a differentiation between those camping and causing damage and those who quietly camp on Dartmoor that we don't even know about.
<b>010920.03</b>	<b>County &amp; District Councillors' Reports</b> District Cllr Pannell and Smerdon's report is attached. Cllr Smerdon confirmed that the new arrangements for refuse collection is likely to go ahead in March.  County Cllr Richard Hosking advised that DCC COVID updates have been circulated. Local Management Plans are now in place and DCC is watching the statistics very carefully. One or two spikes have been identified but on the whole new incidents are relatively low. Schools are reopening and plans are in place to ensure social distancing is maintained. Additional transport has also been arranged to help with this.
<b>010920.04</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> 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.  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.

	There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.
<b>010920.05</b>	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes</b></p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 July 2020 and agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
<b>010920.06</b>	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p>Members approved the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Crook - website domain and hosting - £133.12</li> <li>• Birbeck Landscapes - 6 x cuts (playpark) - £300</li> <li>• S Hughes - Zoom subscription (1 month), stamps, paper, ink - £39.32</li> <li>• Propest Solutions - removal of wasps nest in Playpark - £66</li> <li>• Direct Debit – Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection Licence) - £40</li> </ul>
<b>010920.07</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>7.1 New applications/appeals:</b></p> <p>7.1.1 0395/20 &amp; 0396/20 – Village Farm, Holne Re-roofing, insertion of roof windows and alterations to the entrance of domestic storage building</p> <p>Members agreed to support the application.</p> <p><b>7.2 Decisions:</b></p> <p>7.2.1 0242/20 – Land adjacent to Little Bewden, Holne Installation of single 10m column with two LED lights for Devon Air Ambulance to use at night</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission.</p> <p><b>7.3 Enforcement Matters</b></p> <p>It was noted that two matters have been brought to the attention of DNPA's Enforcement Officer which are currently being enforced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A query has been raised about the number of camping pitches and shepherds huts at Higher Michelcombe Farm.</li> <li>- A concern has been raised about alleged internal works in Church House Inn which is a listed building</li> </ul>
<b>010920.08</b>	<p><b>Illegal Gathering, Camping and Litter on Moor</b></p> <p>Members discussed the impact of the Rainbow Family encampment along with the general issue of camping and litter on the moor. Members agreed that they were very pleased that the Parish Council was included in discussions about how the issue of the Rainbow Family encampment was being addressed by DNPA. However, it was observed that DNPA could have reacted more quickly in the first instance though it is appreciated that legislation is outdated. The Parish Council agreed that it would support DNPA pushing hard for legislation to be changed to enable DNPA to have more powers and therefore more options if this was to occur again.</p> <p>A joint approach from Parish Councils to lobby DNPA and MPs was also suggested to, for example, provide better control over the camping. Members of the public suggested that there should be more education about the sensitivity of ecology, that DNPA should use social media more and that there should be better signage and explanations. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should ask DNPA whether the Parish Council can offer any tools or levers to help them achieve what they need. At that point, the Parish Council could co-ordinate with other Parish Councils to help achieve those tools and levers.</p> <p>District Cllr Smerdon advised that the DNPA Forum would be a good place to discuss these issues. The</p>

	<p>actions at Bellever to prohibit camping have worked very well and is still being marshalled. He advised that DNPA members can also be contacted for support if nothing is being done. Cllr Applegarth considered that members of the public or the Parish Council should not have to provide evidence once a matter, such as overnight camping, has been reported. Cllr Smerdon also suggested that it would be useful for DNPA to have a register of pop-up caravan/camping sites.</p>
<b>010920.09</b>	<p><b>Traffic Calming</b> Members received and approved proposed signage at Priddons junction. It was also agreed to request 40mph roundels on the road.</p>
<b>010920.10</b>	<p><b>Church House Inn</b> It was noted that health and safety concerns have been raised during the summer recess period and are being investigated. It was felt that the Parish Council has a duty of care to those staying there. An email from the owner was also received and noted.</p>
<b>010920.11</b>	<p><b>Devon Air Ambulance Night Landing Mast</b> Cllr Applegarth updated members on the night landing mast project. Now that planning permission has been granted, there are three more phases. The total cost of the project is around £10,000. DAAT has obtained a grant of £7 000 and the community, through Holne Books, has raised a further £3 000 Cllr Applegarth advised that he has signed the grant offer with terms and conditions on behalf of the Parish Council and this is now with the landowner to also sign. Western Power will need to be paid for the electrical work and a date agreed for installation.</p>
<b>010920.12</b>	<p><b>Playpark</b> The clerk advised that she has spoken to the contractor about the strimmer damage and he will ensure that he strims away from the posts in future. It was also noted that the wasps nest has been removed.</p> <p>Cllr Bellamy advised that he has finished the bug hotel.</p> <p>Ross Gray has advised that he has looked at the ash tree and it looks to be free of die-back. He will look at it again next year.</p> <p>A grant application has been submitted to the Postcode Lottery towards some adult play equipment. A response should be received in November.</p>
<b>010920.13</b>	<p><b>Leats</b> There were no new issues requiring attention.</p>
<b>010920.14</b>	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b> Cllr Crook advised that he has taken down some of the overhanging branches and bound them together to make a fence on the eastern side to prevent parking on the narrow section. The clerk advised that, as advised by the Highways Officer, boulders could be used, as long as they are set back off the highway.</p> <p>It was suggested that the application for funding from Cllr Hosking's locality budget (previously submitted for the boulders at Newbridge) could be transferred in order to obtain some traffic calming equipment to use generally in the parish where needed.</p> <p>It was noted that further to the enquiry about the footpaths at Mill Leat, there appears to be no obvious route at the moment.</p>
<b>010920.15</b>	<p><b>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</b> A question was raised about when face to face Parish Council meeting might resume. The clerk informed members that the current advice from NALC is that meetings should continue to be held remotely. It was further noted that the Village Hall is currently closed. District Cllr Smerdon advised</p>

	<p>that SHDC was likely to continue to meet remotely until May 2021.</p> <p>It was noted that SHDC has been made aware of the damage to the yew tree and assurances have been given that this will not recur.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to enquire about the hedge removal on Michelcombe Lane at Hunters Reach.</p>
<b>010920.16</b>	<p><b>Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>010920.17</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>010920.18</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Zoom on Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 7.30pm.</p>

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**Clr B Owen**  
**Chairman**

## Parish Councils update from South Hams Cllrs. Pannell & Smerdon September 2020

- **SHDC** More meetings are now being held remotely using video conferencing. The Climate Emergency Working Group held a public session last week with contributions from organisations which had responded to the consultation.
- **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 .We are holding budget meetings to decide how to fund this shortfall, possibly by taking money from some budgets and also from our reserves.
- **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.
- **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. SHDC is offering an officer to attend (virtual) Parish Council meetings to brief members on how it will operate.
- **Leisure Centres** have reopened in various ways. Ivybridge outdoor pool is open.
- **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 create 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 and the Lord Lieutenant of Devon will be notified of their achievements You can nominate someone under one of the following categories. Can you please do this online via the special form: Community Leadership - example - someone who took on a really big role in leading a response within your area. Star volunteer – example - someone who was out every day dog - walking, collecting prescriptions. Key worker - example - a key worker who went above and beyond their duty.  
Organisation - example - community group or business that went above and beyond.  
Innovative wellbeing scheme - example - a scheme that addressed isolation during lockdown.  
Keeping spirits up - example - someone who did things to keep people’s spirits up. Young Community hero - a child, or adult, under 21 who went above and beyond. Please nominate online: [www.southhams.gov.uk/covid-heroes](http://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](http://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).

- **Parking permits consultation.** SHDC has launched a public consultation on the permit system for the council's car parks. There is concern that the number of spaces taken up by permit holders in town centres is leaving few short term spaces for shoppers and visitors. Under the proposals a 24-hour permit for Leonard's Road, Ivybridge, would rise from £140 to £192 a year. People can have their say by going online to: [www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/parking](http://www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/parking)
- **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. The Policy will also be used by local residents and businesses preparing licensing applications and making comments on licence applications. The consultation is open for all local communities and businesses to comment and all comments received will be considered once the consultation has closed. The Policy will then be published, detailing how the Council intends to operate and promote licensing in the area, and ensuring there is the right balance between encouraging local culture and protecting residents from unreasonable disturbances. To read the new policy visit: [www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/licensing). Comments can be made by emailing: [licensing@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southhams.gov.uk) or writing to: Licensing Department, South Hams District Council.