

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 7.30pm

### Present

Cllrs T Crook (Chairman for this meeting), R Applegarth and M Fairman

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking, District Cllr Pannell and District Cllr Smerdon. There were no members of the public present.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Crook (Chairman for this meeting) at 7.30pm.

031120.01	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Owen</li><li>• Cllr Bellamy</li></ul>
031120.02	<b>Open Forum</b> <p>There were no comments.</p>
031120.03	<b>County &amp; District Councillors' Reports</b> <p>District Cllr Pannell and Smerdon's report is attached.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed about missed refuse collections. SHDC is aware of the problem but residents are encouraged to log any problems direct with SHDC.</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon also reported, as DNPA representative, that there was a meeting on Friday of the DNPA to decide the application for a large care home at Buckfast Abbey which was recommended for approval.</p> <p>There was also a discussion about motor homes parking at Venford car park. The Covid sign has not yet been replaced by the Ranger. Cllr Smerdon advised that he would email the Ranger and ask that it is replaced. Members also asked to be kept in the loop about plans for next spring and how DNPA intend to tackle the problems of overnight parking and visitors to the moor.</p> <p>County Cllr Hosking reported that the number of COVID cases in Devon has continued to grow. The total number of cases in Devon since the start of the pandemic is 5150. Six Covid related deaths were recorded w/c 23 October. He would like to know of any arrangements for self-help so that the County have an up to date record. A telephone number has been set up for those experiencing hardship in order to access emergency funding – 01803 861297.</p>
031120.04	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> <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>
031120.05	<b>Ratification of Minutes</b> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 October 2020. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the</p>

	<p>meeting after the following amendment:</p> <p>Item 10 - replace the words 'considers it to be safe' with 'could find no apparent signs of Ash Dieback disease'.</p>
<b>031120.06</b>	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p>6.1 Members approved the following payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Pearse (playpark hedgecutting) - £100</li> </ul> <p>6.2 Members reviewed the Parish Council's Register of Assets.</p> <p>Five years have now passed since the playpark equipment was funded by Biffa and Entrust which means that from May 2020, the ownership has transferred to the Parish Council. The clerk advised that the current insurance value of all play equipment is £43,301.41. It was agreed that this value would be mirrored on the assets register. It was also agreed that the locations of the three wooden benches listed on the register should be recorded. The benches are sited at Greendown, Bearwood and Playpark.</p> <p>6.3 Members noted the new pay scales for clerks to be implemented from 1 April 2020 (NALC National Salary Award 2020/21)</p>
<b>031120.07</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>7.1 <b>New applications/appeals:</b></p> <p>7.1.1 0475/20 - Petherings, Michelcombe Lane, Holne Erection of agricultural building</p> <p>Members agreed to support the application.</p> <p>7.1.2 0509/20 – Butts Leat, Main Road, Holne Single storey extensions and replacement of flat roof area with pitched roof</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllrs Crook and Bellamy would visit the site and circulate their recommendation by email for agreement.</p> <p>7.1.3 0463/20 – Higher Michelcombe Farm, Holne Replacement shower/toilet block including utility area and water storage tanks in the loft area</p> <p>Members queried whether a new drainage system was being installed. It was agreed to make further enquiries before commenting further.</p> <p>7.2 <b>Decisions:</b></p> <p>7.2.1 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 noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission.</p>
<b>031120.08</b>	<p><b>Playpark</b></p> <p>Cllr Bellamy advised that volunteers have helped clear-up playpark over two weekends. The leat has been widened and the willow had been cut back, rewound and shaped into a dome. Cllr Bellamy thanked Cllr Applegarth for removing the rubbish and asked if he could remove a new pile created by the clear-up.</p> <p>The Pumpkin Carving competition was very successful. The clerk was asked to write to Kevin and Suzy of the Tradesmans Arms to thank them for their generous contribution towards the prizes.</p>

<b>031120.09</b>	<b>Leats</b> It was reported that the leat which runs through playpark had become blocked further down causing flooding in the churchyard. The church is taking steps to try and unblock it. Cllrs Applegarth and Crook agreed to look at the Cumberstone leat.
<b>031120.10</b>	<b>Devon Air Ambulance Mast</b> Cllr Applegarth reported that the wayleave documents have now been signed by the landowner. A project manager has been appointed and work is due to start on 26 <sup>th</sup> November. A site meeting with Western Power Distribution will be arranged when Toby Russell, DAAT, returns from leave. There is a chance that lockdown may delay things however.
<b>031120.11</b>	<b>Councillor Advocate Scheme</b> Members received information about and an invitation to join this scheme to improve communication between local councillors, the police and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Applegarth offered to be the Parish Council's representative.
<b>031120.12</b>	<b>Highways and Footpaths</b> It was noted that the new road signs at Priddons have now been installed. Cllr Applegarth advised that he would replace the fence post opposite Hill Top.
<b>031120.13</b>	<b>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</b> None
<b>031120.14</b>	<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> It was thought that the Remembrance Service was still going ahead. Cllr Owen had agreed to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.
<b>031120.15</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> None
<b>031120.16</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Zoom on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 7.30pm.

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**Cllr B Owen**  
**Chairman**

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

### **COVID 19**

South Hams District Council is working in collaboration with The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to carry out COVID-secure spot checks on business premises where we are responsible for the enforcement of health and safety legislation. This includes businesses like shops, pubs and leisure centres that local communities use and are crucial to the local economy. The activity will check that our local businesses and respective duty holders are managing their COVID response and control measures in line with current government guidelines, and protecting staff and customers. We will use a variety of methods to conduct this activity from telephone calls to visits to premises. Since HSE started the spot check programme in May, they have found the majority of businesses are trying to get this right, but there are a few areas for improvement common across a number of businesses including cleaning regimes being insufficient, poor understanding of good hygiene practices, and ongoing management of control measures, such as social distancing. The approach to the checks is to be supportive to businesses and, where required, provide help by suggesting improvements. But, where businesses are not managing the risk, we will take action. This will range from the provision of advice and education with the last resort of formal action. If you needed further information, please contact [environmental.health@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@swdevon.gov.uk).

There has been a marked increase in regional lockdown announcements following the arrival of the second wave of COVID-19. Rates of infection in the South Hams are still low but numbers are increasing in the region and there have been well publicised local outbreaks in Cornwall and Exeter. 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. 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. 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. 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 issues.

### **Free school meals**

Devon County Council has advised families experiencing hardship without the provision of free school meals during the school holidays to apply to the District Council's Welfare Scheme. The County says that the £63million provided to local authorities by the Government in June has already been spent. The SHDC COVID-19 Welfare Support Fund can provide small emergency payments to help with basic essentials including: household essentials such as sanitary products or nappies or electricity key and gas card top ups, etc. to help people in financial difficulties. The fund is available if:

- They run their own business, and cannot currently trade, or their business has been drastically reduced because of the pandemic.
- Their employment situation has changed and their income now no longer covers needs.
- They have lost their job due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

- They have still not received expected government funding (i.e self-employed).

**Finance.** We have been awarded a further £100,000 funding by the Government towards our Covid costs. Leisure Centres are open across the district and we have been told we will receive some funding towards the costs incurred by the closure of our leisure centres and the restrictions on numbers using them. Up to now we have received nothing for this as ours are contracted out, whereas councils which run their own centres have been fully reimbursed. We don't yet know how much we will receive.

**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** were introduced from the week beginning **5<sup>th</sup> October** to prepare for the introduction of the new service. You may be aware that there have been **significant teething problems** with some of the rounds. It seems the brown bin and recycling bag collections are causing more problems than the grey bins. If a collection is missed the householder should report it via the South Hams Council website the following day. [www.southhams.gov.uk/report a missed collection](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/report-a-missed-collection) The contractors have three working days to remedy the situation. If this is not done please contact Peter or Guy.

**You can find your collection day here:** [www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday](http://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.

**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](http://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](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/ReduceFuelBills)

### **Help with insulation and energy efficiency**

SHDC has been awarded £336,750 from the Government's Green Homes Grant scheme for 2020/21. The money has to be spent by 31 March 2021. The capital grant must be used to raise the energy efficiency of low income and low Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated households, through insulation measures and low carbon heating, such as heat pumps. SHDC will also allocate £200,000 from the Council's approved Disabled Facilities Grant/Regulatory Reform Order 2020/21 capital budget, to support work to reduce fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions, with any underspend of this allocation being carried forward into 2021/22. It is also planned to allocate the sum of £20,000 from the Climate Change and Biodiversity Earmarked Reserve, to support delivery of the Green Homes Grant scheme, bidding for future funding, and work to improve the energy efficiency of the existing private sector housing stock, in line with the Council's emerging Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy. We will let you know more details when we have them.

### **Potential grants for on-street electric charging points**

There is funding potentially available from central government for 75% of the capital cost for on-street charging points from a £20m pot for 20/21. Many authorities have used a technology that allows lamp-posts to support EV charge points, especially in residential areas with no off-street parking. Devon County Council is working on a bid to support deployment of on-street chargepoints so would welcome any indications of interest which will help determine appropriate locations and, importantly, evidence of public demand. If there are any groups of residents interested please contact Cllr. John McKay ([Cllr.John.McKay@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.John.McKay@southhams.gov.uk)) or Alastair Mumford at Devon County Council([alastair.mumford@devon.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.mumford@devon.gov.uk)). However, the bid is predicated on DCC being supportive of on-street chargepoints and Alastair is awaiting a position paper from colleagues in Transport Planning which would enable the bid.