

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking (from 8.11pm), District Cllr Pannell and District Cllr Smerdon (from 8.05pm). There was one member of the public present from 8.10pm.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

011220.01	Resignation and Apologies for Absence 1.1 Members received and noted the resignation of Cllr Barkus and thanked her for her contribution as a Parish Councillor. 1.2 There were no apologies.
011220.02	Open Forum There were no comments. The Open Forum was reopened by the Chairman at 8.10pm to allow a parishioner to speak (limited only to matters on the agenda). Concern was expressed about the DAAT mast.
011220.03	County & District Councillors' Reports District Cllr Pannell and Smerdon's report is attached. Cllr Pannell wished to highlight the Local Restrictions Support Grant which could be available to the village hall and shop. County Cllr Hosking's report is attached. He added that he was pleased to support the play park with £450 to purchase some outdoor adult gym equipment. He has also granted £230 to the Parish Council to purchase equipment to ease the parking in the parish. (This sum had originally been granted for the boulders at Newbridge which was not eligible for funding from this budget).
011220.04	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation 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.
011220.05	Ratification of Minutes Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 November 2020. It was noted that Cllr Bellamy was not present at that meeting and that Cllr Fairman had reported on playpark matters. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

011220.06	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Payments for approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (wreath) - £23 <p>6.2 Budget and Precept 2021/22</p> <p>Members received a first draft of the budget for 2021/22. It was agreed that this would be discussed further and agreed in January's meeting.</p>
011220.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals:</p> <p>7.1.1 0561/20 - Stoodley, Holne Replacement of existing poor quality C20 windows with painted hardwood slimline double glazed casement windows</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllrs Crook and Bellamy would look at this in more depth and report their recommendations to members by email for agreement.</p> <p>7.1.2 0541/20 – Long Barn, Michelcombe Insertion of two conservation rooflights and alterations to the internal partitions</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllrs Crook and Bellamy would look at this in more depth and report their recommendations to members by email for agreement.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions:</p> <p>None</p>
011220.08	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Mast</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth reported that the project had been paused because of a complaint received by a parishioner. Cllr Applegarth also advised that during the consultation stage, Hastoe had not been consulted about a 3ft section of their hedge which will be impacted by the project. Having now spoken to Hastoe, they are very happy to support the project and a wayleave agreement with WPD is being organised. Once this has been signed, the project will continue.</p>
011220.09	<p>New Waste/Recycling Contract</p> <p>Members discussed the new waste/recycling contract with the District Councillors following problems of missed collections in the parish. They were informed that the rounds had changed to even out workloads across the district but as a result crews were unfamiliar with their areas and properties were being missed. SHDC is aware of the issues and is trying to remedy the situation. Last week, the problem was compounded when one of the team has also tested positive for COVID resulting in a whole team of 20 having to self-isolate. It is thought that the problems are being addressed by SHDC and should improve but the Parish Council may want to make its own representations to the relevant SHDC members and officers. Cllrs Pannell and Smerdon also advised that they have tabled three questions to Full Council regarding the issues.</p>
011220.10	<p>Fly Tipping</p> <p>It was noted that there have been three recent incidents of fly tipping in the parish. The first, at Langaford, had been collected promptly by SHDC. It was believed that information within the rubbish could lead to an identification and prosecution. Two further incidents had been reported at Hembury and Gallant Le Bower. Cllr Smerdon advised that if there are any further incidents, these can be reported direct to SHDC or through him.</p>
011220.11	<p>Parking on the top road</p> <p>It was noted that the Parish Council has received a grant of £230 from County Cllr Hosking's locality budget which could be used to help resolve the parking on the top road behind Bakers Park.</p>

	Members considered that stones/boulders might be the best solution. Cllrs Crook and Applegarth agreed to look into where these could be purchased and/or whether parishioners would be able to donate anything from their land.
011220.12	Venford Reservoir Members received a response from South West Lakes Trust advising that they have a management agreement with South West Water to manage Public Access, Conservation and Recreation across the reservoirs in the South West. South West Water are therefore responsible for outer reservoir perimeter fencing although SWLT do, where possible and within reason, carry out minor or temporary repairs on SWW's behalf. The permissive path is SWLT responsibility to manage and maintain and their West Dartmoor Countryside Warden carries out monthly inspections of the reservoir and every 12 months a full Public Safety Inspections is carried out which checks all the site infrastructure. The clerk confirmed that a photograph of the broken fence boundary has been sent to SWLT and had been forwarded to the relevant person. Cllr Fairman advised that he would continue to pursue the matter with South West Water.
011220.13	Christmas Tree The tree will be erected on 12 December by volunteers in the parish. It was agreed that Cllr Bellamy would purchase some new lights. Members thanked all those who were involved in arranging this.
011220.14	Casual Vacancies It was noted that the Parish Council has two vacancies. Members should speak to parishioners about the vacancies and encourage applications.
0121220.15	Playpark Cllr Bellamy reported that Playpark met on 10 November. Fleur Powell has met with Earthwrights regarding issues over the repairs/warranty/paperwork etc. There is also still a concern about the damage to the sleeves caused by the strimmer. The 'maintenance day' took place and went very smoothly. There are plans for a wildflower area in spring. An application for a grant for adult gym equipment had been unsuccessful. However, funding has been generated through other sources including Hastoe (£250), County Cllr Hosking (£450) and the rest will be generously donated by Holne Books. The Committee is looking for more members. The AGM will be held on 8 March.
011220.16	Leats Cllr Applegarth reported that there is less chance the leats will become blocked now that the autumn leaves have fallen. There was a brief discussion about the leat running through the churchyard which was recently blocked. The church had organised for these to be unblocked. Cllr Owen advised that she has cleared the section along playpark. There is a breach on the bank of the Church Park leat and she suggested that the risings from the sump could be used to build it up. It was noted that there is a mesh across the leat going into the church. The easiest way to clear it is to pull the mesh out. The flow had been completely blocked but hopefully is flowing now.
011220.17	Highways and Footpaths Members raised ongoing concerns about the condition of Watery Lane and Shuttaford Track.
011220.18	Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None
011220.19	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.
011220.20	Correspondence None

011220.21

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Zoom on Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 7.30pm.

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

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

COVID 19

The second set of national restrictions ends on 1st December. Our area has seen an increase in cases of COVID 19, but the latest information appears to show a levelling off of this trend. The encouraging news with regard to several vaccines becoming available, at first to the most vulnerable and then more generally, is very welcome. The whole of Devon has been placed in the Tier 2 level of restrictions. This brings some good news with the reopening, in a COVID compliant way, of a range of businesses including non-essential retail, hairdressers and gyms. The news isn't as positive for the Hospitality Sector who will be able to open but will be subject to a range of restrictions for what is traditionally their most lucrative time of the year. There are similar restrictions on the general public in terms of who they can mix with. It is understood that the arrangements will be reviewed on a two-weekly basis but how and what that may mean for the District is not clear. SHDC's two most immediate priorities are to continue to process applications for business grants and to support our towns as many more retail outlets reopen post lockdown. Whilst attention at SHDC remains firmly focussed on providing support to businesses, individuals and the wider community, conversations are now beginning around the logistics of delivering a national vaccination programme. It is early stages and nothing is confirmed but residents can be assured that the Council is exploring what it can do to support the programme and we will continue to update everyone as matters become clearer.

LOCAL RESTRICTIONS SUPPORT GRANT (LRSG)

Businesses that were open as usual, but were then required to close between 5 November and 2 December 2020 may be eligible for this support. Further details are available for qualifying businesses on SHDC website.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT (ARG)

The ARG provides local councils with grant funding to support closed businesses that do not directly pay business rates, as well as businesses that do not have to close but which are impacted. In addition, larger grants can be given than those made through LRSG. The policy will be based on business need. District Councils across Devon are aligning distribution methods, a key proposal is to fund wider business support measures as part of the total budget, as well as business specific grants. This Grant is evidence based and so a period of time is needed between lockdown start and scheme commencement to allow evidence gathering. **Village and Community Halls may be eligible for this payment of between £500 and £2,100 a month. Go to the SHDC website for details and an application form:**www.southhams.gov.uk/ARG

COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICERS APPOINTED

A key part of our activity will be to support local business to comply with COVID secure requirements and to enable them to trade safely and help encourage the public back into the high street. SHDC and WDBC have appointed five COVID Compliance Officers (THREE IN South Hams) for a six-month period. These posts are Government funded. Their role is to support our Environmental Health Specialists dealing with business compliance of COVID regs. This will include proactive visits, visible high street presence and dealing with complaints from the public and other businesses. They will always help businesses to comply where possible, but can take enforcement action where necessary. Please send any enquiries regarding COVID regs compliance to this mailbox EnvironmentalHealth@swdevon.gov.uk

The enforcement responsibility for COVID regulations falls to a number of Agencies. Broadly speaking the Police devon-cornwall.police.uk will deal with issues regarding people and domestic property (gatherings, house parties, second homes, etc) and our Council will deal with issues at business premises. The HSE will enforce at larger manufacturing premises and building sites. 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.

COLLECTION ROUND CHANGES-UPDATE

You may be aware that there have been **significant teething problems** with some of the rounds. We (Peter and Guy) have been working with our SHDC staff and FCC our contractors to help get the service back to the normal good standard. Additional crews and vehicles put into service last week have brought the number of missed collections down significantly.

- Those collections which appear to have been repeatedly missed are now being checked on a daily basis. The additional resources will remain in place until the new service is embedded next spring.
- The second lockdown resulted in recycling banks filling quicker than normal, as was the case last time. Additional measures have been brought in to relieve this pressure.
- 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
- The contractors have three working days to remedy the situation. If this is not done please contact Peter or Guy.
 - SHDC continues to monitor the waste contract through constant examination of a range of data. These issues are taken up with the contractor on a daily basis and SHDC has worked hard to ensure the customer has remained the focus.
 - **Some staff at the Ivybridge depot are having to self isolate. This means there may be some impact on collections of recycling sacks etc. If this happens please take the sacks back in to await the next collection. It may not be possible to report this on the SHDC website. If essential take material to the Devon CC recycling centre.**

LEISURE CENTRES

These reopen on Wednesday 2nd December, with revised hours. Check on whether it is necessary to book in advance.

THE WINTER SUPPORT FUND

The Government has made available a Winter Support Fund to support households in extreme hardship. This has been created in particular to address the gap filled by Free School Meals in term time leading to the significant issue of Holiday Hunger. For Devon, the following actions have been agreed

- A £15pw supermarket voucher will be offered for all pupils eligible for Free School Meals to cover the Christmas holidays. This can be redeemed in six supermarkets (Asda, Tesco, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Waitrose, and M&S) and each supermarket will provide a help desk. There will also be some funds/vouchers available via Social Services and SHDC for anyone who is vulnerable and may not be covered.
- DCC is also developing a series of food networks to draw together organisations including foodbanks, community kitchens, holiday clubs, local business, wider charities and schools. Grant funding will be offered for programmes as appropriate. That means, looking ahead there will be a wider range of solutions for applicants to the hardship funds, and also more involvement of local businesses.

Devon Community Foundation will lead on this work and help SHDC to understand what the needs and opportunities are in our area. They will also keep us informed about what organisations have signed up and what programmes are being supported.

SPENDING REVIEW

The 2020 Spending Review was announced on 25 November. It outlines the Government's spending plans for 2021/22 by setting budgets for each central government department. This year's Spending Review provides more certainty for councils next year, but the long-term outlook remains unclear. Public finances will undoubtedly be under huge strain in the years ahead but investment in our local

public services is critical to our national recovery next year and beyond.

GREEN HOMES GRANTS

SHDC is offering Green Home Grants worth up to £10,000. The grants can be used to install either an air source heat pump heating system or solid/single wall external insulation. To be eligible:

- Your property must be rated E or below on your Home Energy Performance Certificate, **and**
- You or someone in your household must receive a means tested benefit **or** you must have a net household income of less than £30,000 a year.

Installations will be subject to a technical survey as not every property will be suitable. The funding is limited. You can register your interest at eco@swdevon.gov.uk, confirming what measure you would be interested in.

DEVON CARBON PLAN UPDATE

On 7 December the 25 organisations who make up the Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) partnership, will be launching a consultation on their Interim Carbon Plan.

The Interim Devon Carbon Plan will be updated to a final plan after the Citizens' Assembly which has been postponed due to Covid-19.

**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD HOSKING
HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL – 1st December 2020**

1. We emerge from Lockdown at 1-minute past midnight on the morning of Wednesday 2nd December into Tier 2 restrictions. I have forwarded details of the change in restrictions to each Parish. There will be a review on 16th December, and we are all hoping that this will result in Devon moving into Tier 1.
2. There have been 614 cases confirmed in Devon in the week to 29th November bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the County to 8,158. There are also 12 deaths confirmed in the week to 20th November.
3. The Government has now made funding available for families facing hardship over the Christmas break. This will be co-ordinated by Neil.Hawke@southwestdevon.gov.uk
An online application form can be found on the South Hams Website
<https://southhams.gov.uk/help>
and the helpline telephone number is (01803) 861297.
4. This additional funding has freed up money Devon County Council had allocated for this purpose, and we are able to offer grants of £300 to £700 for Parish Councils and voluntary bodies to help those obliged to self-isolate or quarantine and guidance including how to apply is provided on the Devon County website at
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/>
5. The Chancellor has announced further measures to protect jobs and help the self-employed in the Winter Economy Plan. This includes extension of the Furlough scheme, potentially until March 2021, and other grants and reliefs. A new grant is available for businesses who are not subject to Non-Domestic Rating who have suffered significant financial impact or have been closed between £500 and £934.
6. Guidance on how to obtain help is available for Parishioners through;
 - a) the Citizens Advice Bureau 0344 411 1444
and soft touch signposting for businesses through;
 - b) the Heart of the Southwest Local Enterprise Partnership 03456 047047
7. Pleased to have been able to support your Play Park refurbishment with a grant of £450 from my Locality Budget, and to divert the £230 funding from New Bridge to local improvements in Holne.