

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 7.30pm

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### Present

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

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking, District Cllr Pannell, District Cllr Smerdon, Ross Gray (Tree Warden) and Karen Gilbert (Clerk to Buckfastleigh West Parish Council)

**The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.**

020221.01	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> None
020221.02	<b>Open Forum</b> Ross Gray expressed interest in item 9. He has advised that he had looked at the Venford Water Treatment Works Woodland Management Plan (item 10) and following a meeting with the Forestry Consultant who has drafted the plan, he has drafted a report which he summarised. He advised that he would forward a copy after the meeting. He is satisfied that extensive investigation has taken place and suggested that the Parish Council responds as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. It offers positive support to the Objects of the Management</li><li>2. It calls for mitigation measures in particular in respect of any disturbance to bird species</li><li>3. It would urge the use of horse logging contractors to minimise ground disturbance and soil compaction. These also offer much quieter operations than motorised heavy machinery.</li><li>4. Local horse loggers should be approached when seeking contractors. The same applies for other local contractors.</li><li>5. It strongly urges the necessity for ongoing maintenance and wardening.</li><li>6. It suggests that South West Water and South West Lakes Trust make a joint application, with support from DNPA and the Parish Council, for Heritage Lottery funds to completely refurbish the historic railings around both properties.</li></ol> <p>The Chairman thanked Ross for his summary which would be discussed at item 10.</p>
020221.03	<b>County &amp; District Councillors' Reports</b> A report from District Councillors Smerdon and Pannell is attached.  Cllr Pannell was glad to say that the number of COVID cases is reducing in South Hams. He also advised that the SHDC website has been updated making it easier to apply for grants.  Cllr Smerdon reported that the extension to Glendinning Quarry has been approved. Only one application is listed for consideration at the Development Management Committee on Friday with a recommendation for approval.  Cllr Smerdon also gave a DNPA report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DNP CEO Dr Kevin Bishop and Chair Pamela Woods had a positive online meeting with Plymouth MP Luke Pollard (Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial statement on the Landscapes Review (Glover) – delayed and now expected this month. We still think the Statement will signal an intent to establish a National Landscapes Service as a new statutory body – it seems that this will be the key component of the Government's response to the Landscapes Review. A full response/consultation paper is due later in 2021.</li> <li>National Park Grant for 2021/22 – no news other than indication that they are seeking to finalise in next few weeks (which would be helpful as new financial year is only 8 weeks away)</li> <li>Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme – Defra officials are still working on the detail but due to 'launch' in April with two 'workstreams': first focused on environmental outcomes and preparing farmers for the new Environmental Land Management schemes; the second focused on access improvements. We are trying to ensure that the funding is flexible and that workstream B includes visitor management and not just creation of new access.</li> <li>The Environment Bill (which will establish the new Office for Environmental Protection and a requirement for statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategies) is delayed. It looks like Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) will be at a county level – we have been advancing the case for them to be at a National Park level (or guidance that the National Park should be a specific element within a LNRS).</li> <li>A specific request for additional resource to assist with visitor management during the 2021 season has been 'dismissed' by officials.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Smerdon was asked if he could follow up with DNPA matters raised with Bill Allen relating paths at Shuttaford, Watery Lane and Great Combe as no response had yet been received.</p> <p>County Cllr Hosking reported as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ivybridge Library has been reopened with a Choose and Collect service.</li> <li>Vaccination roll-out is proceeding very well. Will have to wait and see whether the vaccinations already received will provide immunity to the new vaccine.</li> <li>DCC budget is £587.5m – will require a 4.99% increase if approved.</li> </ol>
<b>020221.04</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b></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>
<b>020221.05</b>	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes</b></p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 January 2021. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting</p>
<b>020221.06</b>	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Payments for Approval</b></p> <p>There were no payments requiring approval.</p>
<b>020221.07</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>7.1 New applications/appeals</b></p> <p>None</p>

	<p><b>7.2 Decisions:</b></p> <p>7.2.1 0561/20 – Stoodley, Holne Replacement of existing poor quality C20 windows with painted hardwood slimline double glazed casement windows</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission.</p>
<b>020221.08</b>	<p><b>Devon Air Ambulance Mast</b></p> <p>Cllr Applegarth advised that DAAT were happy to proceed with the installation of the mast and were satisfied that they had tried to respond to a resident's queries as best they could. WPD has received the wayleave from Hastoe and it is hoped that a date will now be set for the works to commence.</p>
<b>020221.09</b>	<p><b>Land to the rear of Bakers Park</b></p> <p>Members continued discussion regarding the maintenance of this land and the possible solutions to ease parking in this area.</p> <p>Cllr Hosking advised that the trees had been surveyed in 2019 by DCC and the result of that was that there was one tree which needed monitoring but no further action was required. There are also four ash trees which will need to be monitored to see if they are developing ash die back. Ross Gray suggested that these are looked at again in June.</p> <p>It was agreed that the road has deteriorated dramatically with the weather, traffic, parking and trees and a concerted effort is required to manage both sides of the road.</p> <p>Cllr Hosking agreed that he would continue to pursue the matter with Highways and seek the advice of the Highways Officer as to how the Parish Council should proceed. The Parish Council therefore agreed to defer any further discussion until this advice was received.</p>
<b>020221.10</b>	<p><b>Venford Water Treatment Works Woodland Management Plan</b></p> <p>Members received a copy of the draft Venford Water Treatment Works Woodland Management Plan and were invited to comment.</p> <p>It was agreed to respond to the plan as Ross Gray suggested in the open forum.</p>
<b>020221.11</b>	<p><b>Playpark</b></p> <p>Cllr Bellamy reported that the two new pieces of exercise equipment are being installed on 8 March. Four bird boxes and one dormouse box will also be installed. The mole problem still needs to be resolved and it was agreed that Cllr Applegarth would contact Mick the Mole.</p>
<b>020221.12</b>	<p><b>Leats</b></p> <p>Members were advised that Mike Cunniam has decided to 'retire' from maintaining the leat opposite Hilltop which he had done voluntarily over a number of years. It was agreed to write and thank him. It was also agreed to write to David Salmon, whose land this leat runs through, to advise him of the change of arrangement and to remind him of his riparian responsibilities.</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth reported that he is keeping an eye on the leats in the parish and monitoring the choke points. The leat by George's field was blocked again but this has now been cleared. All seem to be flowing well.</p>
<b>020221.13</b>	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b></p> <p>It had already been agreed at item 3 that Cllr Smerdon would pursue the issues previously raised relating to Shuttaford, Watery Lane and the bridlepath at Great Combe. It was also suggested by the Chairman that Buckfastleigh West Parish Council may also pursue the issue with Watery Lane as it is on the parish boundary.</p>

	<p>It was reported that potholes seem to be reappearing at Bakers Park. Members were reminded that potholes can be reported to DCC online on its 'report a pothole' page.</p>
<b>020221.14</b>	<p><b>Future Meetings</b></p> <p>14.1 Members received and noted advice from DALC regarding meetings after 6 May (as it stands, government have no current plans to extend the regulations permitting councils to meet remotely). Members agreed that the Council should see how this issue progresses over the coming weeks.</p> <p>14.2 Members approved the proposed meeting dates for the remainder of 2021.</p>
<b>020221.15</b>	<p><b>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>020221.16</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>Cllr Crook asked if an item could be included on the next agenda to discuss whether the telephone box could be part of a pilot programme involving the development of a kit suitable for display in telephone boxes to increase climate awareness.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded members that there are still two vacancies on the Parish Council.</p>
<b>020221.17</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>020221.18</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 2 March 2021 at 7.30pm.</p>

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

## **PARISH COUNCILS UPDATE – EARLY FEBRUARY**

### **District Cllr Pannell and Smerdon**

#### **COVID**

January saw a significant increase in the number of cases locally – up by 800% in some areas. The rate has now begun falling and South Hams remains well below the national average for the number of cases. Please follow the guidance re masks and distancing and stay at home if at all possible. SHDC has switched back from Recovery to Response mode, with staff continuing to work from home wherever possible. Some services may see a reduction in response times as staff are switched to more pressing work.

SHDC continues to work with the Local Resilience Forum and the Health Protection Board to support the response to the pandemic. The vaccination roll-out seems to be going well with the centre at St. Boniface House, Ashburton, in full operation, and new mass vaccination centres being set up in Exeter and Plymouth, together with injections also being offered at some GP surgeries. SHDC has offered support for the vaccination roll-out if needed.

#### **BUSINESS GRANTS**

The Government has announced a further round of grant support for the hospitality and leisure sector, as well as a top-up to the ARG grant fund.

A quick reminder on what grants apply now we are in lockdown three:

- The national lockdown grant is called: LRSG Closed (Addendum).
- The discretionary grant for businesses that aren't mandated to close but are impacted is called: Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG).
- Hospitality grants on top of the LRSG Closed (Addendum) grant, which is good news for those businesses.
- The amount that businesses get paid is linked to their RV rating.
- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

Inquiries to the SHDC website [Coronavirus: Information for Businesses - South Hams District Council](#)

SHDC can't issue the money until we have a) been told the rules, and b) actually have the money to give, but thereafter we will do so swiftly.

For the LRSG in South Hams, we've paid out £1.995million from an allocation of £3.967 million – roughly 50%. For the ARG in South Hams, we've paid out about £68,644 out of £1.74million – so 4%



**COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICERS** Our Covid Compliance Officers and Environmental Health Specialists were busy over the Christmas and New Year period ensuring that hospitality premises and shops had Covid-secure measures in place. Council Officers carried out 133 visits across South Hams and West Devon between 24 December 2020 and 3 January 2021 and dealt with 10 complaints regarding non-compliance. As we have now

in a period of national lockdown, the officers are busy continuing to provide advice and support to those premises allowed to stay open and responding to complaints where premises are open in contravention of the new regulations. They are continuing to liaise closely with Police colleagues by sharing intelligence and enforcement approaches.

## **CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE PERSONS**

People who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) are receiving correspondence from central Government advising them to shield until at least 21 February 2021.

In November, South Hams District Council sent a letter advising people of the local hotlines and how we may help support them.



Anyone who joined the CEV list after 11 November 2020 should now have received a copy of that letter, with the local details. The Government has requested SHDC contacts people who received support from us in November, and staff have made these calls. We will receive any requests for support made by the CEV group daily via the Government database and make contact within seven days unless indicated it is more urgent. Community Pharmacies continue to help with medication. If you have anyone who you have concerns about, whether they are CEV or vulnerable for another reason, such as age or frailty, please contact [community@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:community@swdevon.gov.uk) and we will make contact.

## **HARDSHIP HELP**



In the third lockdown, South Hams Council are very mindful of people in our communities who are struggling to make ends meet. The Council has funding available to assist with rent, council tax and homeless prevention. There is specific help for parents who cannot afford the additional costs associated with their children accessing the internet for online lessons. Anyone struggling with the cost of the extra data needed for remote learning can apply for support. This help is accessed via the schools, not the council. People just need to approach their school(s) who can assist them. Citizens Advice has also been awarded funding to make one-off payments to people struggling with their energy costs.