

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), R Applegarth (from 7.46pm), J Bellamy, T Crook and M Fairman

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking (from 7.49pm), District Cllr Smerdon & District Cllr Pannell

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

300321.01	Apologies for Absence None
300321.02	Open Forum There were no members of the public present.
300321.03	County & District Councillors' Reports A report from District Councillors Smerdon and Pannell is attached. Cllr Smerdon updated members on DNPA matters. He advised that everyone is preparing for increased visitors on the moor over Easter. The Park has discussed strengthening the bylaws but this has to be done in conjunction with DCC and is a lengthy process. DNPA has also been discussing wild camping and how this is defined. Cllr Smerdon mentioned that a recent episode of Countryfile featured the Glover review and National Park governance as a whole. There are discussions about all National Parks being centralised and, if this happens, there is concern that the local aspect will disappear. County Cllr Hosking reported as follows: He was aware of the blockage in the Holy Brook and the undercutting of the highway between Hawson Cross and Mill Leat. The Highways Engineers, Nick Colton, has been liaising with the flood risk management team and this is in hand. COVID cases are still coming down. Anyone over 50 who hasn't been vaccinated, should arrange a vaccination as soon as possible. With regard to the land behind Bakers Park, the Highways Engineer, Nick Colton, will arrange a site meeting as soon as he is able (after 12 April). The anniversary of the first national lockdown. Having just had the anniversary of the first national lockdown, Cllr Hosking thanked everyone in the community who have ensured that during the last 12 months residents have been looked after. The County Council and Police & Crime Commissioner elections are confirmed and will be taking place on 6 May.
300321.04	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. Cllr Owen declared an interest in item 7.1.2.
300321.05	Ratification of Minutes Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 March 2021. It was agreed

	unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting
300321.06	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Payments for Approval</p> <p>The following payment was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMRC (PAYE Q4) - £162
300321.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>7.1.1 0108/21 – Long Barn, Michelcombe</p> <p>Retrospective works to include installation of internal door, sub division of bathroom, internal plastering and timber partition, concrete floor, retention of chimney breast and sink in boot room</p> <p>It was agreed not to comment on this application.</p> <p>7.1.2 0103/21 – Butts Leat, Holne</p> <p>Erection of single storey extensions and replacement of a flat roof area with a pitched roof</p> <p><i>Having declared an interest, the Chairman left the meeting for this item. Cllr Crook took over as Chair for this item.</i></p> <p>Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions</p> <p>None</p>
300321.08	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Mast</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth reported that the mast has been installed. A concern has been raised about the way the bank has been cut. This has been reported to Kier and Western Power and can be repaired quite simply. EDF have now connected the electricity. The mast people will commission the mast but there is no signal at present. This is in the process of being resolved. Once it is commissioned, it should be up and running in the next few days. The cost of the electricity will be approximately £90 per quarter (business tariff).</p>
300321.09	<p>Land to the rear of Bakers Park</p> <p>A site meeting will be arranged with Highways Engineer, Nick Colton, when lockdown restrictions begin to ease after 12 April. The Chairman thanked Jodie Crook-Giles for laying the hedge.</p>
300321.10	<p>Telephone Box</p> <p>Cllr Crook reminded members of the discussion at the last meeting and the suggested use of the telephone box to focus the attention of people living in rural communities on climate change issues.</p> <p>Having given the matter some thought, he advised members that for the time being this was not something he wished to pursue but was maybe something which the Parish Council could revisit in the future.</p>
300321.11	<p>Playpark</p> <p>Cllr Bellamy reported that the exercise equipment has now been installed. The wildflower areas have been marked out.</p> <p>The clerk advised that a defect has been identified by SHDC but it was not clear from the report what the defect was. She would follow this up.</p>

300321.12	<p>Leats Cllr Applegarth advised that there were no issues.</p> <p>Members received a response from David Salmon regarding the ongoing maintenance of the leat at Holne Cott.</p>
300321.13	<p>Highways and Footpaths Members noted the response from Bill Allen regarding Shuttaford, Great Combe and Water Lane.</p> <p>The vegetation on Watery Lane and Great Combe did not get cut last year but are on the list again for this summer/autumn. He is aware of the surface condition of Watery Lane but it is difficult to work on or keep new material in place. He intends to look at this again with another Ranger and will advise the Parish Council if they come up with a solution.</p> <p>It was noted that Shuttaford is not a route which DNPA has ever maintained as it has no designation as a footpath, bridleway or byway. He is waiting for responses from DNPA's Recreation department and DCC's PROW Officer, Jonathan Rowlands. In the meantime, it was agreed to carry out a Land Registry Search to see if this provided any further information.</p>
300321.14	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>14.1 The Chairman advised that she had received an email from a resident commenting on the insensitive way the churchyard has been cut. It was agreed that she would forward the email to District Cllrs Smerdon and Pannell to follow up with SHDC.</p> <p>14.2 Cllr Fairman advised that he has had a lot of correspondence with SWW regarding the fallen tree and broken fence at Venford reservoir but was not getting very far. He would continue to pursue these matters with them.</p> <p>14.3 The clerk advised that the government is not extending the legislation enabling remote meetings beyond 6th May. Arrangements will therefore need to be made to resume face to face meetings in the village hall after this date.</p>
300321.15	<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>Cllr Applegarth commented that the vaccinations at St Boniface were seamless. It was agreed to write and thank PCT/GP surgeries (c/o Practice Manager - Ashburton/Buckfastleigh practices).</p>
300321.16	<p>Correspondence Members noted correspondence from Ross Gray to DCC (referred to in County Cllr Hosking's report at item 3) seeking action to remove a blockage in the Holy Brook and repair the consequential undercutting of the highway between Hawson Cross and Mill Leat. As the matter was in hand, no further action was required.</p>
300321.17	<p>Date of Next Meeting It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Zoom on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 7.30pm.</p>

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

PARISH COUNCILS UPDATE – 30 MARCH

Cllrs Peter Smerdon and Guy Pannell

Parish Councils report by SHDC Cllrs Pannell & Smerdon

March/April 2021

COVID

Coming out of lockdown SHDC will administer Re-start grants, which provide one off payments in April for businesses. Only business rated businesses are eligible and there is a two-tier system of payment. Grants of up to £6,000 will be paid to non-essential retail business premises, to help them reopen safely. Grants of up to £18,000 will be allocated to hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym business premises, which may open later under plans set out in the roadmap and will be more impacted by restrictions when they do reopen. In the latest round of business grants SHDC has received 3217 applications, with 2122 sent for payment. South Hams is not included in the areas eligible for the Govt's Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund.

SHDC has developed a plan to respond to the various phases of the roadmap to come out of lockdown, to support individual businesses, the wider tourism economy and ensure we provide a really positive experience for what we predict will be a significant influx of visitors. The plan will of course include our liaising with key partners, such as Devon and Cornwall Police, and include our key communication messages for each phase.

Councils are being urged to support businesses opening up out of lockdown by removing as much bureaucracy and red tape as possible, specifically supporting al fresco dining, takeaways and the freedom to use land for outdoor events and hold markets without obtaining additional planning permission.

SHDC continues to work with the Local Resilience Forum and the Health Protection Board to support the response to the pandemic. The vaccination centre at St. Boniface House, Ashburton, has worked well, with mass vaccination centres set up in Exeter and Plymouth, together with injections also being offered at some GP surgeries.

LEISURE CENTRES have a phased reopening planned. Open from 29 March for some school PE exercise sessions, from 12 April to the general public for lane swimming/family swims/ fitness centres, 17 May for indoor group exercises, from 21 May back to normal. More new health programmes on GP referral and to help those with cancer, Parkinsons, cardiac problems and dementia. Recovery programmes for those suffering from Long Covid, and youth activity nights.

INVESTMENT FOR RECOVERY

Members have approved an **investment of £598,000** to support economic recovery, the major towns and the visitor economy of the South Hams. The funding will support the national roadmap for the easing of lockdown at a local level, as detailed below:

- Keeping the streets clean - £130,000;
- Enhanced on street presence - £36,000;
- Supporting business and hospitality - £57,000;
- Improving the business environment in our key towns £275,000; and...

...Funding for Smaller Coastal Communities and Tourism Centres

Full Council decided on 25th March to approve a fund of £100,000 for improving the built / natural environment to deliver local economic improvements within our smaller coastal communities and tourism centres. Grants will have to be match funded by parish councils. Details will be provided in the next two weeks.



The additional recommendation was included as a result of the Council being awarded specific Welcome Back Funding from the Government. Similar to the Re-opening High Streets Safely grant, this funding is European funding (ERDF) and therefore has numerous strict criteria that must be satisfied before we can claim the funds. Once officers have a clear position, we will then design our scheme for bids from our communities to access this funding. It is anticipated having a scheme open by the end of April at the very latest.

Funds for local Climate Change

projects Council has decided that some of the money set aside for Climate Change and Biodiversity schemes should be allocated to members to be distributed to projects in their ward which meet the criteria. Each Member will have a £3,000 Locality Fund to award. At present this is a one-off allocation and does not recur annually as with other Locality Funding.

Call for Remote Meetings to continue



Council Leader Judy Pearce continues to press for the provision for council meetings to continue remotely beyond 6 May. This continues to be resisted by the Govt., as does the request for local authorities to be able to hold ‘hybrid’ meetings similar to Parliament, with some Members present in person and others remotely.

Elections



Work continues to gather pace, with a letter going out to the recently expanded Clinically Extremely Vulnerable cohort encouraging them to register for a postal vote. Risk assessments are being carried out on all our polling stations and count venues, looking at all aspects of safety to ensure COVID compliance. We will also be encouraging where possible the use of postal voting and media campaigns will begin shortly. Election restrictions on some political activity by local authorities starts on Wednesday 24th March.

New Super Recycler Service



Delivery of new containers is going smoothly and according to plan. Thousands of households are now officially on the new service and able to recycle more at the kerbside, including glass and mixed plastics. The crews have been able to train on the West Devon service and our team, who have been out all week monitoring the collections on the ground, are providing excellent feedback. The team has also been talking to residents and have so far had a lot of positive comments including many remarks on the efficiency of individual collections.

The new fleet of recycling vehicles and the depot at Ivybridge are all functioning as expected. The new recycling boxes and bags will be delivered to properties 1WEEK prior to the new service starting. The details of the new service and how to use it are on the leaflets delivered to each participating household, on SHDC website www.southhams.gov.uk and on the Councils Facebook and Twitter pages. The first couple of weeks of the new service have gone well, meaning that the roll-out remains on course. That means that commencement of the new service in most of the South Brent Ward is on track for mid April. Devon and the Devon Districts now have the second best recycling rates in England.

Council Tax Bills have gone out to most households. Much of the information which used to be included is now available on the SHDC website instead.

Freeport The Chancellor announced in the Budget that Plymouth has been selected for as the location for one of the Freeports being set up around the country. South Hams has been involved in the bid, with industrial/commercial land it owns at Langage and Sherford earmarked. But this has yet to be approved by full council. It is said that Freeport status could attract 9,000 extra jobs to the

Plymouth area. The timescale for a full business case is around 6-7 months.

A38 Litter

Many people have observed that there has been a marked increase in the amount of litter along the verges of the A38. Our contractors FCC are responsible for clearing this. In the past Highways England would close lanes for grass and shrub cutting, which allowed FCC staff to pick litter at the same time. HE now have a robotic arm to do the cutting, and they have adopted a rolling roadblock technique, which moves too fast for effective litter picking. High level talks are taking place to resolve this, and the following has so far been agreed:

Lay-bys

- Schedule agreed for fortnightly litter picking of Lay-bys.
- Localities have identified a number of fly-tips behind the lay-bys. We will be investigating next week to see if there is any evidence to enable prosecution and then arranging collection.
- Discussion to take place with Devon County Council regarding their policy of providing no litter bins in lay-bys.

Areas that require some form of highways closure

- Agreed that deep clean of the whole 16 km stretch is required every 6 months.
- There is an outstanding issue to be resolved with the responsibility for litter clearance of the central reservation.