

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), J Bellamy, T Crook, M Fairman and C McLean (after item 5)

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Hosking & District Cllr Smerdon

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

040521.01	Election of Chairman It was proposed by Cllr Bellamy, seconded by Cllr Fairman and unanimously agreed that Cllr Owen is re-elected as Chairman.
040521.02	Election of Vice Chairman It was proposed by Cllr Bellamy, seconded by Cllr Owen and unanimously agreed that Cllr Crook is re-elected as Vice Chairman.
040521.03	Declarations of Acceptance of Office These will be signed at the next face to face meeting.
040521.04	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Applegarth• District Cllr Pannell
040521.05	Co-option Members received and accepted an application from Calum McLean to join the Parish Council as a co-opted member. Calum immediately joined the meeting.
040521.06	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 and requests for dispensation.
040521.07	Open Forum There were no members of the public present.
040521.08	County & District Councillors' Reports County Cllr Hosking submitted a written report (attached). District Cllrs Pannell and Smerdon submitted written reports (attached).
040521.09	Ratification of Minutes Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30 March 2021. It was agreed

	<p>unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting</p>
040521.10	<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>10.1 Planning It was agreed that Cllrs Crook and Bellamy would look at the planning applications when received and make recommendations to the Parish Council for its consideration.</p> <p>10.2 Finance It was agreed that a Finance Committee is not required. Members were happy for the clerk to continue to prepare the budget and any other financial documents for approval by all members of the Council.</p> <p>10.3 Playpark It was agreed that Cllrs Bellamy and Fairman would represent the Parish Council on Holne Playpark.</p> <p>10.4 Village Hall Committee It was agreed that Cllr Bellamy would represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>10.5 Snow Warden It was agreed to ask Paul Arrowsmith to continue as the Parish Snow Warden.</p> <p>10.6 Tree Warden It was agreed that Ross Gray would continue as Tree Warden.</p> <p>10.7 Leats Liaison It was agreed that Cllr Applegarth would act as the Leats Liaison Officer.</p> <p>10.8 Website It was agreed that Cllr Crook would look after the Parish Council page of the village website.</p> <p>10.9 Defibrillator It was agreed to ask Paul Arrowsmith whether the shop is still checking the defibrillator.</p> <p>10.10 Footpaths It was agreed that all members would take responsibility for the paths by walking them and reporting any matters which need action.</p>
040521.11	<p>Review of Parish Council Governance Documents</p> <p>11.1 Standing Orders Members reviewed the Council's Standing Orders. There were no changes.</p> <p>11.2 Financial Regulations Members reviewed the Council's Financial Regulations. There were no changes.</p> <p>11.3 General and Financial Risk Assessment Members reviewed the Council's General and Financial Risk Assessment. It was agreed to make reference to the switch from cheque to online payments and to the fact that the air ambulance lighting mast is insured.</p> <p>11.4 Statement of Internal Control Members reviewed the Statement of Internal Control. There were no changes.</p>

	<p>11.5 Fixed Assets Register Members reviewed the Fixed Assets Register. It was agreed to add the air ambulance lighting mast (value £3319) and the adult play equipment (value £1557).</p> <p>11.6 Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy Members reviewed the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy. There were no changes.</p>
040521.12	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>12.1 Payments for Approval The following payment was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DALC Annual Membership Fee - £66.65 • Lee Accounting (SW) Ltd - £108 • Came & Company (Insurance) - £398.19 • MAT Electrics (Installation of night landing site) - £8533.43 • EDF (Electricity - night landing site) - £179.69 <p>12.2 Audit 2020/21</p> <p>12.2.1 Members received and noted the year end bank reconciliation.</p> <p>12.2.2 To receive and note the internal auditor's report to agree that this Council is confident that the internal audit arrangements provided by Lee Accounting (South West) Ltd provides excellent reassurance for the public that the financial systems are robust and fit for purpose and to continue with their appointment as the Internal Auditor to the Parish Council.</p> <p>12.2.3 Members agreed that this Council is exempt from a limited assurance review under s9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and authorised the Chairman and RFO to sign the Certificate of Exemption.</p> <p>12.2.4 Members completed, authorised the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 1 of the Annual Return (Annual Governance Statement 2020/21).</p> <p>12.2.5 Members received, approved and authorised the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 2 of the Annual Return (Accounting Statements 2020/2021).</p>
040521.13	<p>Planning</p> <p>13.1 New applications/appeals None</p> <p>13.2 Decisions None</p>
040521.14	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Mast Cllr Fairman reported that Hastoe Housing has an annual grant for small projects that will benefit the community. A successful application has been made for a small grit bin to be sited at Little Bewden to ensure ambulances can access the night landing site during the winter months.</p>
040521.15	<p>Playpark Cllr Bellamy reported that the grass has been cut and Cllr Fairman has marked out the wildflower area. The new adult exercise equipment is proving to be popular. The sump needs to be emptied and the arisings are being redistributed.</p>
040521.16	<p>Leats There were no issues reported.</p>

040521.17	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>It was noted that a response from DCC's PROW Officer had not yet been received regarding the Shuttaford track and this would be followed up.</p>
040521.18	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>18.1 It was noted that the rubbish bin in the porch of the Church House Inn needs emptying and the lights are permanently switched on. It was agreed to write to the owner.</p> <p>18.2 There is ongoing concern about the road closure and lack of progress on the Holy Brook. Cllr Hosking agreed to follow this up with Highways.</p> <p>18.3 It has been noted that there is a lack of signage at Holne Moor car parks such as No Camping, No Fires, No Barbecues, Leave no litter, Keep dogs under control etc. Members were advised that DNPA had a meeting on 30 April about the possible influx of motorhomes. Cllr Smerdon offered to speak with DNPA about updating the signage.</p> <p>18.4 The clerk advised that she has asked Nick Colton about the roundels and the deteriorating highway between Wooton Cottage and Stoney Cross and is awaiting a response.</p> <p>18.5 The roll out of the recycling service has been put back until late May.</p>
040521.19	<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>19.1 It was noted that Nick Colton has been on compassionate leave and that a meeting at Bakers Park was still to be arranged. Cllr Hosking offered to follow this up.</p> <p>19.2 Concern about the ongoing maintenance of the churchyard was raised. Cllr Smerdon agreed to follow this up with SHDC.</p> <p>19.3 Bush Trees and Garden Maintenance has agreed to cut the grass on the green during the summer whilst the pub remains closed. It was agreed that he should submit a quote to cut the grass every couple of weeks.</p>
040521.20	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None</p>
040521.21	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that June's meeting will be replaced by a walkabout of the village on 8 June. Everyone to meet outside the Village Hall at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL
SOUTH BRENT AND YEALMPTON DIVISION
ANNUAL REPORT – 4th May 2021
HOLNE ANNUAL PARISH AND ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

1. VIRTUAL MEETINGS

2020/21 will be remembered as the time of Coronavirus. The virus has prematurely ended many lives, disrupted the economy and our ways of life.

May I congratulate you all on your acceptance of and adaptation to the new circumstances and technology that has made Virtual Meetings a part of Council and everyday life.

2. PRINCE PHILIP, THE DUKE OF ENDINBURGH

I note with sadness the recent death of HRH the Prince Philip at the age of 99, and thoughts are with HRH the Queen & the Royal Family. The Duke's lasting legacy for the South West will be the Ten Tours expedition, part of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards challenge.

3. CORONAVIRUS

The Team Devon Local Outbreak Management Board has met throughout the last year to monitor, help to fund, provide guidance and intervene where necessary in the fight against Coronavirus, including overseeing the setting up of the Nightingale Hospital.

The UK development, procurement and delivery of vaccines has been a success story. As I write, over two thirds of the adult population in Devon have received at least their first vaccination, and the 40 and over age range are now invited to book their first jab.

The number of cases has fallen and the latest available data to the week ended 28th April show just 117 cases in Devon, AND for the first time, since the second spike, no deaths in the week ending 4th May.

The availability of testing is increasing with the objective of identifying (if possible), those who carry the virus without symptoms.

We are all looking forward to taking the 4 steps to freedom as they progress through the early summer.

The Government responded to the crisis with financial support for the economy, and in Devon we endeavoured to make funds available where needed to avoid hardship.

There is an ongoing need for vigilance as the holiday season makes a slightly cool debut this bank holiday weekend. Good to enjoy the atmosphere of a favourite pub on Friday, however it looked more like an Everest Base Camp than a place of entertainment.

4. THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

One of the truly heartening stories of Coronavirus is the spontaneous creation of support networks by volunteers throughout the Division and Devon. Many congratulations and thanks to you all. You have made such a difference to the lives of so many people shielding, isolating and struggling.

5. BUDGET

The approximate budget headlines this year are;

- a) Devon County Council have presented another balanced budget for the 2021/22 financial year.
- b) The overall expenditure is £578.5 million, an increase of 6.6%.
- c) Within the budget there are increases of;
 - (i) £12 million for mainly increased demand for Education Health and Care plans in Children's Services;
 - (ii) £22 million for Adult Care & Health Services; and
 - (iii) 7.5% for Corporate Services;
- d) There remains a deficit of some £50 million on our balance sheet for the overspend on the High Needs Block over the last 2 years. We await Government instruction on how this is to be financed;
- e) We have increased the DCC element of the Council Tax precept by the maximum permitted 4.99%.

6. SOCIAL CARE

With the ambition of improving the integration of services we are taking the Babcock contract for children's services in house from 2022.

Devon is promoting an Early Help strategy in an attempt to tackle issues at source and wrap help around families to reduce the demand for Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) at a later stage. The increased number of EHCPs has put significant pressure on our budget for the last two years.

7. INFRASTRUCTURE

a) BROADBAND

Connecting Devon & Somerset has recently awarded a new contract to Airband to complete fibre to the premises connections for the 90 to 95% sector of properties that do not as yet have Superfast Broadband in the period 2021 to 2024. Maps showing planned connections across the Division are due to be published soon.

For those business premises not included in the Airband stage of the rollout do have a look at the Government Gigabit voucher scheme which can be helpful particularly for groups of premises.

b) MOBILE

Businesses in Not Spots please see the Connecting Devon and Somerset initiative; <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/the-cds-mobile-booster-voucher-scheme-guide/> which plans to benefit 1,250 premises with a voucher for a mobile signal booster.

c) RAILWAY

In the South Brent & Yealmpton Division we have made an application for a feasibility study to reinstate an active station in South Brent.

As part of the national Restore your Railway Scheme a daily railway service has been promised for the Okehampton to Exeter line.

d) ROADS

Devon County Council had a budget of £102m for roads in the last financial year, more than has ever been spent before.

In the Division we have benefited from Safer Road Funding for improvements to the A3121 from Hollowcombe Cross, past Ermington to Wrangaton. This will include two new roundabouts at the junction of the A379/A3121 and the B3196/A3121 at Kitterford Cross.

8. THE INTERIM DEVON CARBON PLAN

A report on the responses to an extensive consultation are now being compiled, and we are expecting this to be published in the summer of 2021. Devon County Council remain committed to achieving net zero carbon status.

Within the County Council we continue to reduce our Carbon Footprint. As part of our strategy the conversion of streetlighting to LED should be completed in about 18 months.

9. THE ECONOMY

Devon County Council have purchased the former Flybe Training Academy and are turning it into a high-tech Future Skills Centre specialising in digital, engineering, construction and clean growth. The Centre will cater for learners of all ages, skills, and qualifications and prepare them for the economy of the future.

At County Hall we are developing online support for business start-ups, the self-employed, innovation and growth.

10. EDUCATION

This has been a challenging year for schools and we congratulate teachers who have delivered lessons online and parents who have found themselves adapting to a second career in front of a virtual blackboard. We hope their endeavour and the catch-up programme now unfolding will ensure that our children's education will not suffer.

The gradual drift to Academy status continues in Devon schools, and we remain committed to ensuring that maintained schools receive the very best support we can offer. Per pupil funding has now increased to £4,000 per primary school pupil and £5,000 per secondary school pupil. Whilst we have moved up the

rankings slightly in terms of average funding we are still towards the lower end of the table. Lobbying will continue to ensure that the full costs of rurality are taken into account.

AND LOCALLY

11. BAKERS PARK

Nick Colton has had to take some compassionate leave and I am sure he will be happy to attend a site meeting with the County Councillor following the elections on 6th May.

12. COUNTY COUNCIL AND POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

A reminder that the above elections take place from 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. on Thursday 6th May.

Special provisions will be in place at polling booths to ensure social distancing including sanitising gel for use before and after voting. Voters are requested to wear masks and to take their own pencil with them this year. Masks and pencils will be available for those who forget.

Parish Councils report by SHDC Cllrs Pannell & Smerdon

May 2021

COVID

SHDC continues to administer Re-start grants, which provide one off payments for businesses. If SHDC can allocated all its Additional Restrictions Grant by the end of June it will qualify for further Government funding of £891,000. This means that SHDC can be more generous with its funding in terms of making discretionary grants to those who have so far not qualified for funding. First payments of Re-start grants will be made on Tuesday 4th May. As of last week there had been 1,086 applications for this grant with 87 already authorised for payment.

The Government has extended the deadline for the LRS (Local Restrictions Support Grant) and the CBLP (Closed Business Lockdown Payment Schemes) from last Friday until Friday 14th May. This gives businesses extra time to submit supporting evidence for these earlier grants.

The vaccination centre at Follaton House, Totnes, seems to be working well.

LEISURE CENTRES are open to the general public for lane swimming/family swims/ fitness centres, and from 17 May for indoor group exercise. 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.

Remote Meetings

The case against the Government's decision not to extend the provision for council meetings to continue remotely has been lost in the High Court. Because the air conditioning at Follaton House fails to meet Covid safety standards SHDC has arranged for the Council's Annual Meeting on 20th May to be held in person at the Tavistock HQ of West Devon Council. Hybrid meetings similar to Parliament, with some Members present in person and others remotely, continue to be banned.

Elections

We've needed to risk assess all the polling stations, introduce more staff to support cleaning and social distancing and re-arrange the verification and count to accommodate a reduced number of staff whilst maintaining the integrity and transparency of the election.

New Super Recycler Service

Delivery of new containers is going smoothly. The team has however decided to have a one week pause in rolling out the programme. Unfortunately this means that much of South Brent Ward won't now be getting the new service until the **end of May**.

The new recycling boxes and bags will be delivered to properties 1 WEEK prior to the new service starting.

Motorhomes

The Executive has agreed to consult the public on the possible relaxation of council car park regulations so campervans can park overnight. The fee would be £10 or £15 a night, depending on location. The nearest to us would be Leonards Road Ivybridge. There would be safeguards over hygiene and safety etc.

The link to the consultation page can be found at <https://www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/>

Comments can be made in writing to parking@swdevon.gov.uk

Planning and enforcement

There is to be a review of the work of Planning and Enforcement departments. This will focus on how to improve performance, quality, communication and Customer and Member satisfaction.

Parish Councils – Annual Report 2021
District Councillors Pannell and Smerdon

Of course the past year has been dominated by Covid. It has impacted deeply on the council in two ways: Firstly by transforming the way we work - almost everyone has been working from home to reduce exposure to the virus. We have had to suspend some services which brought us into direct contact with the public, including site visits for planning. SHDC also supported community efforts in caring for the vulnerable etc. Secondly considerable staff time had to be switched to administering and paying out Govt. grants to businesses impacted by the lockdowns:

From March 2020 to March 2021 SHDC paid out £42,425,000 to 3,691 businesses through the Government Mandatory Grants, with a further £2,309,000 to 317 businesses through a Local Discretionary Scheme (Govt funded). From November onwards during the recent lockdown period SHDC has paid out £18,234,527 through the payment of 9,233 Mandatory Grants, and a further 971 grants totalling £1,221,115 through the Local Discretionary scheme

The total paid up to this April since March 2020 is £64,189,642, and officers are still processing and paying Lockdown Grants. Now a new scheme has started of Recovery Grants for businesses opening up again after the latest lockdown, particularly those in the hospitality sector etc.

One contentious issue is the payment of grants to second home owners who have registered their properties for Business Rates. While paying out nothing in Council Tax, and benefiting from Small Business Rate relief those in the South Hams have received well over £10m in grants, even if they have suffered little or no financial loss. This Business Rate loophole is something the Council has been lobbying the Govt. hard on and we have recently heard that the Govt. intends to tighten the regulations so that these homes have to be run as proper businesses and be available for hire over a longer period in the year.

One of the longer-lasting impacts of Covid may be that more staff work flexibly, from home more often, thus reducing the demand on office space at Follaton House. Will we look for an alternative in the long run? We don't know – it also depends on the possibility of the Govt. wanting Devon to adopt a Unitary Authority model, either covering all of the county or in two or three areas. It is quite likely that Torbay may be included in any reorganisation.

Another issue SHDC has been grappling with is Climate Change and Biodiversity. The Council has now set aside more than £500,000 for work on this and continues to look at schemes which will further this work. Each Councillor has been allocated a fund of £3,000 to award in grants which fit the objectives.