

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), R Applegarth, T Crook, M Fairman and C McLean

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllrs Smerdon and Pannell and one member of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

060721.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Bellamy• County Cllr Thomas
060721.02	Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation <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 and requests for dispensation.</p>
060721.03	Open Forum <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>
060721.04	County & District Councillors' Reports <p>County Cllr Thomas sent a vaccination update (attached).</p> <p>District Cllrs Pannell and Smerdon submitted written reports (attached).</p>
060721.05	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 May 2021. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting</p>
060721.06	Finance and Governance <p>6.1 Payments for Approval</p> <p>The following payment was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bush's Tree and Garden Maintenance (cutting of village green) - £45• HMRC (PAYE Q1) - £160.60
060721.07	Planning <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>7.1.1 0262/21 – Higher Michelcombe Farm, Holne Erection of log drying shed (16 x 4.6m)</p> <p>Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p>7.1.2 0277/21 – Long Barn, Ingletts Farm, Michelcombe Conversion of barn to dwelling</p> <p>Members agreed not to comment.</p>

	<p>7.2 Decisions None</p> <p>7.3 Local Plan Modifications Consultation Cllr Crook agreed he would have a look at the document and would summarise his findings to members by email.</p>
060721.08	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>8.1 Members received information from DCC's PROW Officer regarding the status of Shuttaford confirming that it is not recorded as a public highway of any description. Members discussed the merits of registering it as a public bridleway. The PROW advised that it was a fairly involved process and not at the top of DCC's priority list. Cllr Crook agreed to look at the process of changing the definitive map before a decision was made whether to pursue this.</p> <p>8.2 It was noted that a site meeting is to be held on 3 August with DCC's Highways Officer, Nick Colton, to discuss the parking behind Bakers Park.</p> <p>8.3 It was noted that there is still local concern about Mill Leat and water undercutting the road. It was agreed to raised this with the Highways Officer at the site meeting on 3 August.</p> <p>8.4 Following a discussion within the parish regarding the unnecessary cutting of the verges and loss of wildflowers, it was agreed that the Council would be supportive of some areas being left uncut. It was further agreed that this should be added as a standing agenda item for future meetings so that it can be monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis.</p>
060721.09	<p>Venford Stakeholder Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Jefferson reported on a site meeting which he had attended on Friday 18 June at the reservoir to review and comment as necessary upon the future management of the area. This covered water quality, timings of extraction of timber felled, methodology of removal, removal of invasive species, biosecurity and access to the stands of timber etc.</p> <p>The first item discussed was the matter of stock proof fencing and what SWW intend to do about the historical iron fence (now more than 100 years old). This matter will be ongoing as, basically, it will all come down to budgets available versus livestock control. Until further notice we have no answer as to the solution. It was agreed that it should be suggested to SWW that they may wish to apply for Heritage Lottery funding to help fund this.</p> <p>The clearing of sections of timber was broached; below the dam will be first as there is a problem with safety, i.e. trees falling onto the water treatment works and an adjacent property. When the final decision is made then a calendar period will be published but the main view is to use the autumn time, i.e. no nesting birds and certain species will move away for winter.</p> <p>Above the dam will be on a similar time scale to protect birds but more timber is involved.</p> <p>To minimise ground damage during the removal of timber, horse usage is being looked at as the favourite option subject to budgets.</p> <p>No decision has been made as yet to the usage of felled timber; no money can be made but costs may be covered by sale of certain timber, otherwise it will be chipped etc on site. Truck removal of logs will be similar to that already seen in transit from/to Anton Coker's wood yard.</p> <p>Whatever happens, the management of the work is geared to minimal damage of land, removal of invasive species (especially those poisoning the soil and causing a drop in water quality), creation of a more enriched habitat with diversity but conserving important species; birds, bats and insects will all be advantaged by this work and continuous maintenance.</p> <p>The downside is short term with a bit of a mess whilst felling and removing timber but will recover far more quickly after autumn/winter depending on weather.</p>

	The meeting was useful, constructive and informative and I have no doubt that there will be a flow of information to keep the Parish Council up to speed.
060721.10	Playpark It was reported that Cllr Bellamy has tended to the gate to make sure it shuts properly. The wildflower area is establishing well. The litter bin outside the play area has not been emptied; the District Councillors agreed that they would follow this up. The bumpy surface of the field was discussed. It was suggested that rolling it may help. The Play Park Committee has agreed that it will meet quarterly in the future.
060721.11	Leats There were no issues reported. It was agreed to look at the pinch-points at the site meeting in August.
060721.12	Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda Members discussed a suggestion for '20 is plenty' road signs. It was agreed to raise this with the Highways Officer on 3 August.
060721.13	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
060721.14	Correspondence 14.1 Members received notification from Hastoe Housing advising that a 2 bedroomed property is becoming vacant in the next few weeks and that it will be advertised on Devon Homechoice from Wednesday 7 July. 14.2 Members received a note from former County Cllr Richard Hosking advising how much he had enjoyed representing the parish during his term as County Councillor and thanked everyone for their support.
060721.15	Date of Next Meeting The date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

New SHDC Chairman

The new SHDC Chairman for 2021/22 is Councillor Richard Foss, who represents the Allington and Strete Ward. Cllr Foss was elected at SHDC Annual Council on 20th May

A farmer near Start Point, Cllr Foss has been a Member of SHDC for 10 years, and he will be supported by Vice Chairman Cllr Lance Austen, who represents Ivybridge West.

Cllr Judy Pearce remains as Leader of the Council, supported by an Executive Committee of Cllrs Bastone, Baldry, Hopwood, Hawkins and new addition Cllr Tom Holway.

Recycling Service Update

The rollout of the new recycling service has been hampered by various problems which have meant the implementation in most of our South Brent Ward has been put back to later in the year. 70% of the District is now receiving this service but the contractor FCC needs more time to stabilise collections before converting the remaining 30%.

Following two meetings with Members (Overview and Scrutiny, and Full Council) FCC were put under pressure to immediately improve collections and clear the backlog. As a result of the measures implemented missed collections have reduced significantly and more importantly, FCC have been getting back the following day to a significant number of these. We will continue to monitor FCC's delivery daily. As we reduce the volume of missed collections we are now focussing on the more complex issues and have put additional measures in place to ensure that we (and FCC) resolve these as quickly as possible.

We have amended our website so that residents can check what recycling collection they are getting. This is to supplement the postcard that was delivered to residents as they received the temporary co-mingled collection. We are also sending a letter of apology from the Leader out to all impacted properties

The new service is already used by councils throughout the south west of England and the whole of Wales where it has proved to be hugely popular and produces high recycling rates. It allows us to collect materials that are of high quality, free from contamination, and therefore can be efficiently recycled into new products. We have no option but to move away from the bag service.

Residents still on the previous bag scheme will have received a letter explaining the situation, and also asking them not to put food waste into the brown bin but into the grey bin instead, as an interim measure until the new system starts here. This is because the contract to compost mixed food/garden waste has ended and the two items need to be handled separately now. Garden waste will be composted locally and food waste sent to the Anaerobic Digestion plant at Langage when the new system is running properly.

In our South Brent Ward the majority of properties are still on the bag recycling system, apart from most of Diptford parish which has the new system. Additionally, some rounds in other parishes have been put on the new scheme and are serviced by smaller vehicles designed to access narrow roads and entrances. The implementation of these narrow access rounds has been extremely haphazard and despite receiving boxes many residents have had collections missed for a couple of weeks. Guy and Peter are working hard to make sure this situation is improved.

FCC are under massive pressure to get the service running properly and to meet their contractual obligations. They have issued an apology to SHDC residents. SHDC Executive and Senior Leadership Team are meeting FCC Directors on a weekly basis to get the service to residents improved. One of the main problems is that the amount of cardboard the crews are picking up has majorly increased due to the shift to online shopping and home deliveries during the last year. This means the trucks have to tip more frequently than was envisaged when the service was designed. FCC are bringing in more vehicles and crews but a national shortage of HGV drivers is also not helping the situation.

Colleagues have been working closely with the FCC team to address all of our outstanding complaints and waste escalation emails. We have already seen a consistent reduction in contact into the customer service team in the last two weeks of 36%.

Finally, as we head towards the summer holidays, we have weekly meetings with FCC to ensure there is a robust plan in place for the street cleansing service to meet the expected influx of visitors to the South Hams.

We believe this service will boost the amount of waste we recycle as part of our efforts to combat climate change. In the meantime, please make full use of the recycling banks and centres across the district. We thank our residents for bearing with us at this time as the new service will be hugely beneficial to the environment in the long run.

<https://southhams.fccenvironment.co.uk/mycollections>

<https://southhams.fccenvironment.co.uk/misssedcollection>.

Test and Trace Isolation payments

With the increase in positive COVID tests locally, you may find residents who has needed to self-isolate or they have a child who cannot attend school and they are unable to work as they need to care for that child.

The Government has extended the £500 test and trace payment for people experiencing hardship until the end of September 2021.

All the information and the claim form are on our website, just pop Test and Trace into the search bar and it's all there – or alternatively follow this link <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/test-and-trace-payments>

Motorhome Policy in SHDC car parks

South Hams District Council have unanimously agreed to progress their amended 12-month pilot motorhome plans. The District Council have agreed to the pilot scheme that will allow self-contained motorhomes and campervans, with their own toilet facilities, to stay at five South Hams car parks. Following a comprehensive consultation with communities, which resulted in nearly 750 responses, the Executive adapted their original proposals, which resulted in new recommendations, before they agreed to the pilot scheme.

The Council are very clear that this scheme is only for self-contained motorhomes and campervans with their own on-board toilet facilities for a fee of £10 per night, overnight from 6 p.m. until 9 a.m. The pilot will allow overnight sleeping for a maximum two-night consecutive stay with no return within 48 hours.

The following five car parks in these towns across the District are included in the pilot scheme:

- **Ivybridge, Leonards Road Car Park**
- **Kingsbridge, Cattlemarket Car Park**
- **Modbury, Poundwell Meadow Overflow Car Park**
- **Totnes, Longmarsh Car Park**
- **Dartmouth, Park & Ride Car Park**

The aim of the scheme is to support and increase local tourism. There are ever-increasing numbers of motorhomes and campervan users opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in the South Hams, and this is anticipated to increase because of restrictions on overseas travel due to the pandemic.

Devon Community Resilience Forum

The next Devon Community Resilience Forum will be on 9 July. Please save the date. Sessions will run throughout the day and we will send the schedule and details of how to book on closer to the time.

Unfortunately, due to ongoing concern over large events, we have decided that once more this will be a virtual event. While we miss seeing you all and the networking that goes on at the face to face meetings we hope that the virtual event will once more make it easier to join sessions without needing to worry about travel.

We are still planning the session details but can say that there will be sessions on flood risk, prolonged dry weather, case studies, practical community emergency planning support, funding info and more.

Help ensure that everyone on your community emergency planning group can attend – circulate this email to your group and make sure everyone is signed up to our mailing list.

It is easy to sign up, just complete the simple form here -

https://my.sendinblue.com/users/subscribe/js_id/2q3d1/id/8

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Vaccination update

- The vaccination programme across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay continues to make progress with all adults now being offered the vaccine. To date over 1.5M doses have been given across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay with 679,000 people having received their second dose. The local NHS delivered the 'Grab a jab' weekend in late June enabling all adults to make walk-in appointments, plans are being developed to repeat this over the summer. There was also a walk-in clinic at the Devon County show last weekend and DCC Staff were offering lateral flow tests to show visitors.
- Proof of vaccination can now be demonstrated using the NHS COVID Pass service where you can view and share your COVID Pass for event trials and travel abroad.
- Following a central government public consultation, from October 2021 people working in CQC-registered care homes must have two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, unless they have a medical exemption. It will apply to all workers employed directly by the care home or care home provider, those employed by an agency, volunteers and those coming into care homes to do other work, for example healthcare workers, tradespeople, hairdressers and beauticians, and CQC inspectors. We are told that a further consultation will be launched on whether to extend this new requirement to other health and social care settings.

