

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7.30pm

### Present

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

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Thomas, District Cllr Smerdon, Ross Gray (Tree Warden) and two members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

070921.01	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>District Cllr Pannell</li></ul>
070921.02	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> <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>
070921.03	<b>Open Forum</b> <p>A member of the public commented on the planning application to be discussed at item 7 (0395/17 – Sky Garden, Holne). His main concerns were its prominence and size, its urban style, whether it is appropriate for this location, whether there is a need to demolish and rebuild and access issues for construction traffic. With regard to the application to remove and replant trees, there was concern about the lack of screening of the new building whilst new trees grow. In summary, he hoped that Holne Parish Council would object to the plans.</p> <p>A member of the public expressed concern that the laws of the countryside seemed to be slipping with regard to keeping hedges trimmed back off the roads, issues with gates etc and asked for the Parish Council's support to remind parishioners of their landowner responsibilities.</p> <p>A member of the public commented on recent incident of fly tipping which various people had reported to SHDC but which was still not collected 6 weeks later. The only way to deal with fly tipping is to clear it straight away. He also commented on the Mill Leat maintenance which he reported in March. The trees have been cleared but DCC have ignored the suggestions to temporarily deal with the undercutting problem which in the longer-term will save thousands of pounds. With regard to Bakers Park copse, he gave some historical information about its ownership and confirmed that it belonged to DCC.</p>
070921.04	<b>County &amp; District Councillors' Reports</b> <p>District Cllrs Pannell and Smerdon submitted written reports (attached).</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon referred to the fly tipping which was raised in the open forum which he has also reported a couple of times. Rubbish removal at SHDC in general is a problem at the moment but he will continue to pursue this. There was a lengthy discussion about the refuse collection in general</p>

	<p>and the ongoing problems which parishes, including Holne, are experiencing. It was also noted that collection of garden waste has also been temporarily suspended. The Chairman queried whether parishioners would be receiving a rebate on their council tax. SHDC are looking at the penalty clauses within the contractor's contract if service is not delivered.</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon advised that DNPA will be consulting on the byelaws. This will include a reduction of land which is available to camp.</p> <p>County Cllr Thomas gave a report (attached).</p>
<b>070921.05</b>	<p><b>Ratification of Minutes</b></p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 July 2021. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
<b>070921.06</b>	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Payments for Approval</b></p> <p>The following payment was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bush's Tree and Garden Maintenance (cutting of village green – June, July &amp; Aug) - £135</li> <li>• T Crook (Website SSL certificate renewal) - £83.91</li> </ul>
<b>070921.07</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>7.1 New applications/appeals</b></p> <p><b>7.1.1 0395/21 – Sky Garden, Holne</b></p> <p>Replacement dwelling, garage, outbuildings plus new swimming pool and landscaping</p> <p>Cllrs Bellamy and Malcolm attended a site meeting and discussed the plans with the applicant. A report had been circulated to members for their reference. The Tree Warden also provided some information and advice regarding the impact of the proposed development on the existing trees.</p> <p>After consideration and discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council is not against appropriate development but on this occasion, members could not support the development as there seems to be too many issues which have not been explained or evidenced in the application. The main concerns are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed building is very large and on a prominent site within the landscape and has a significant visual impact on the skyline. The Parish Council also questioned whether its design is in-keeping with Dartmoor.</li> <li>• The loss of agricultural land (40 acres) is a concern.</li> <li>• The site has been developed a number of times over the years and the Parish Council is concerned about the increase in the footprint since the <u>original</u> building was built on this site and whether it will comply with policy DMD24. (The Parish Council believes that there have been at least three additions since the original building was built).</li> <li>• The application talks about sustainability but there is no evidence or proof demonstrating that demolishing the existing building and rebuilding is more sustainable than retaining and enhancing the existing.</li> <li>• Water supply: It would appear that leat water is being used on a general basis at the moment. However, the applicant seems unaware of the function and purpose of the leat (Holne Town Gutter) which is referred to as a 'stream' in the application. The applicant does not have a right to draw water from the leat (thus creating a net loss) but rather is the caretaker of the water to pass on to the next landowner.</li> <li>• Bats: Whilst the applicant is aware of her ecological and legal position with regards to the bats, the Parish Council is concerned that the applicant may consider their movement and rehousing easier than it is in reality. The disturbance of bats,</li> </ul>

	<p>handling and movement is a serious matter and whilst licences have been applied for from Natural England, the Parish Council finds it difficult to accept the idea being as straight forward as presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting: The Planning Statement states: <i>"There will be a significant net decrease in light pollution from the proposed building in comparison with the present building which has numerous uncontrolled light sources"</i>. An enormous amount of glass is to be used in the proposed property; front of house and covered walkway with the possibility of excess light pollution, especially on the skyline. Whilst there will be an overhang of roof that will reduce outspill of light and no greater than legally allowed, the actual lumens is not specified in the application nor was known by the applicant when asked.</li> <li>• Demolition/access of trucks etc: The property is 100m from a metalled road. A certain proportion of the site cleared will have to be transported away by truck. This raises questions about damage to the roads/trackway/ specific points being close to Bakers Park and leat and the constant damage already in place. There is only one way in and out via Holne Bridge and the Parish Council is concerned about the volume of traffic movement with heavy vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>7.1.2 <b>21/0039 – Tree Preservation Order: Stoke Shallows, Holne</b> Members considered an application to carry out works to trees at Sky Garden which are protected by the above Tree Preservation Order. Having met with the applicant and discussed the proposal, the Tree Warden recommended that the application is supported. The Parish Council agreed to support this view.</p> <p>7.2 <b>Decisions</b> None</p>
070921.08	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b></p> <p>8.1 A report was circulated to members following a meeting with the Highways Officer, Nick Colton regarding the parking proposals behind Bakers Park. Cllr Crook advised that pragmatic solutions to the problem have been put forward for parking without damaging the leat. The proposals have been circulated on the Holybrook Exchange and responses have been positive. Cllr Crook offered to add dimensions to the plan and then circulate it to members for approval before forwarding to the Highways Officer.</p> <p>8.2 It was noted that the large tree on Shuttaford Track has been cleared. The Chairman advised that DCC's PROW officer has walked it but it is not his responsibility as it is not on the definitive map. Ross Gray advised that in the past, this track used to be known as Henry Old Road.</p> <p>8.3 Following the observation made in the open forum regarding the hedges, it was agreed to run an article in the Parish Link to remind parishioners of their responsibilities. Cllr Crook will also link this to the website.</p> <p>8.4 It was noted that the potholes on the road behind Bakers Park were particularly large now. Cllr Applegarth offered to take some photographs so they can be reported to Highways.</p>
070921.09	<p><b>Gate at Newbridge</b></p> <p>Members noted that the stones have been moved and that parked vehicles are now blocking access through the gate. It was not known who has moved these. The Chairman thought that the signage on the gate was not dominant enough and suggested that the Council approaches DNPA for stronger signage to prevent parking next to the gate.</p>
070921.10	<p><b>Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill</b></p> <p>Members agreed to support the climate and ecological emergency bill.</p>

070921.11	<p><b>Playpark</b> Cllr Bellamy reported that he had looked at the items highlighted on the Allianz Report and summarised them on an email for comment. A playpark meeting is scheduled for next Monday to discuss further. Cllr Fairman reported that he has made initial enquiries about alternative contractors to cut the field when the contract is renewed next season. It was agreed that Cllr Fairman would draft a job specification.</p>
070921.12	<p><b>Leats and Buddle Holes</b> 12.1 Cllr Applegarth reported that the leats have been running slowly but freely.  12.2 The Chairman advised that a resident had commented to her that the buddle hole clearance has been poorly done. Given the frequency of visits by the Lengthsman, it was agreed no further action would be taken.</p>
070921.13	<p><b>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</b> None</p>
070921.14	<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> The Chairman reported that the gate at the cattle grid needs repair/replacement. It was agreed to report this to Highways.</p>
070921.15	<p><b>Correspondence</b> 16.1 Members received an email querying the remedial works at Little Bewden following the installation of the lighting mast. The particular concern related to the type of grass seed used. After discussion, members agreed that they were happy with the remedial works following the installation of the mast and are unaware of any condition in the planning consent specifying the type of grass seed to be used. Further, members were confident that the grass and wild flowers will establish well over the next couple of years and therefore no further action is necessary.</p>
070921.16	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> The date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 5 October 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>

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Cllr B Owen  
Chairman

## County Council Report, September 2021

### Covid-19

The 'Bad' News – an Enhanced Response Area (ERA).

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, DCC received the news that Devon (along with Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly) was now designated an ERA due to high cases. This means that the government has prioritised the 'far' South West for additional support to reduce case rates. It doesn't mean another local lockdown, but it does mean that authorities across the south west have more flexibility to introduce additional public health measures if considered necessary, to those in other parts of the country.

The advice from County Hall is to

- Limit your social contacts to stop the virus spreading
- Meet others outside, because that's safer than meeting inside
- Continue to wear face coverings when indoors in public places
- Wash your hands properly and regularly
- Have the jab if you are an adult and haven't yet had it. Please have both doses as soon as you can. If you're aged 16 to 18, please take up the vaccination when offered to you
- Self-isolate if told to do so by NHS Test and Trace
- Self-isolate and arranging a PCR test if you show any symptoms of having the virus – the high temperature, new and continuous cough, or change of your usual sense of taste or smell

The good news:

- Uptake of the vaccine among 16/17-year-olds has been high
- A study led by the University of Oxford has found the risk of a blood clot or stroke is much higher with a Covid infection than following vaccination.
- More than 1.7m doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have been given in Devon
- Between 8 December and 22 August **917,236** first doses have been given while **809,425** second doses have been given; a total of **1,726,661** doses.
- People who have both vaccine doses or are under 18 don't have to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19.
- You can book an appointment online or by calling 119.

### Vaccination data for Devon

- 922,860 people in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 29 August, vaccination [data published](#) by NHS England and NHS Improvement shows, broken down as follows:

Age group	Number of 1st doses given	Number of 2nd doses given	Approx % of age group received at least one dose*	Approx % of age group received both doses
80+	76,640	75,077	95% or above for people aged 50 and over	90% or above for people aged 50 and over
75-79	58,458	57,973		
70-74	77,503	76,756		
65-69	72,131	71,179		
60-64	79,153	76,547		
55-59	85,663	83,420		
50-54	80,864	78,598		

This scheme, to improve mobile phone coverage in rural parts of Devon and Somerset, is being expanded. Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) has announced that its Mobile Boost Programme, which aims to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in “not-spot” areas, now includes a greater choice of equipment. It’s targeting small businesses and households in rural communities who currently have inadequate coverage or have access to only one provider and are currently struggling with connectivity. Businesses and households can apply for a voucher of up to £1,200 towards the cost of a mobile signal booster from a registered supplier. For a list of registered suppliers and an application form, visit [www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/the-cds-mobile-booster-voucher-scheme-guide/](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/the-cds-mobile-booster-voucher-scheme-guide/)

### Dartmoor National Park Authority

A consultation is about to begin on updating the Park’s byelaws. Headlines include a restriction on the number of dogs a person may walk, camping policy, drones and use of fires/bbqs.

## **District Council Report, September 2021**

### **Waste/Recycling Collection**

The situation continues to be challenging, the current difficulties faced by many Councils across the country around staffing levels, particularly drivers, continue to impact on FCCs ability to collect our waste and recycling. The brown bin service remains suspended.

We will give an oral update at the respective Parish Council Meetings once we have had a chance to evaluate the situation on Monday.

### **Covid Enhanced Response Area**

In response to high COVID rates, South West local authorities, including the South Hams, have been added to a list of areas receiving an enhanced response package.

Being designated as an enhanced response area will help with support measures for education settings and increased national communications support, clearly outlining the continued risks of COVID-19 and the need to take personal action, such as the wearing of face masks and social distancing. Additionally, prioritised access to Wastewater testing, sequencing, national contact tracing capacity and national support with messaging will also be supported.

The District Council will continue to be required to support this public health advice from Central Govt through its communications with residents and businesses. We have not been asked to carry out any additional tasks at this time.

### **Afghan refugees**

South Hams District Council is appealing to landlords to come forward now to help meet the acute need for homes for fleeing Afghan workers and local families. The unprecedented pressure on local housing has been well documented this summer. There is now a pressing need to find accommodation for people fleeing from Afghanistan as well as rising demands for housing for local people who have been asked to leave their homes through no fault of their own.

Cllr Hilary Bastone, South Hams District Council's Deputy Leader explains: "As a community, we want to do whatever we can to support the government and County Council in finding accommodation for formerly employed Afghan workers and their families. The lack of affordable private rented accommodation in the area also continues to mean many families face long periods of time in temporary housing situations whilst we struggle to secure them long-term homes. The problem is that we simply don't have enough properties to meet our local needs. That's why we are asking landlords in our local communities to come forward now and help us offer a solution.

"Under the Afghan resettlement scheme, we are looking to source a private-rental sector property to offer to an eligible family. The County Council will commission support to assist the family to integrate and settle into the area. Our understanding is that the scheme will be similar to the Syrian Resettlement scheme, which South Hams District Council already supports.

"We also continue to reach out to landlords to sign up to our SeaMoor lettings scheme, which offers a full property management service. We are hopeful that the community of South Hams will show their generosity and that we will receive offers of accommodation to help those relocating from Afghanistan and those local families who are also in need of homes."

Due to the importance of access to support, there are restrictions on where Afghan families can be rehoused. As a result, the Council is specifically looking for family-sized properties in Totnes to support a family fleeing from Afghanistan.

However, many local families are also desperately seeking homes where they can settle and bring up their children. If anyone has a property anywhere in the District that is available to rent please email [seamoor.lettings@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:seamoor.lettings@swdevon.gov.uk) to find out more about the landlord support available. Find out more about the options and support for landlords provided by SeaMoor Lettings: [www.southhams.gov.uk/SeaMoorLettings](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/SeaMoorLettings)

### **eCargo Bike Grant**

Earlier this week, SHDC contacted businesses across the South Hams and reached out to Parish Councils to share details of the Government's eCargo Bike Grant.

£400,000 has been made available by the Department for Transport in 2021/22 for the purchase of eCargo bikes, to support businesses switching to a sustainable transport solution.

- Funding covers up to 40% of the total cost of an eCargo bike, up to a maximum of £2,500 for two-wheel models and £4,500 for three-wheel models.
- You can apply for up to five eCargo bikes per organisation.
- Limited companies, sole traders, partnerships, charities and not-for-profit organisations are all eligible to apply. Public, community or third sector organisations are also eligible provided they are legally constituted and have the appropriate formal structure.

The deadline for applications is 14 December 2021.