

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Thomas, District Cllr Smerdon and District Cllr Pannell

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

021121.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Applegarth• Ross Gray (Tree Warden)
021121.02	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>
021121.03	Open Forum <p>There were no comments.</p>
021121.04	County Councillor, District Councillors' and DNPA Reports <p>District Cllrs Pannell and Smerdon submitted a written report (attached).</p> <p>County Cllr Thomas submitted a written report (attached).</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon submitted a written report as DNPA representative (attached).</p>
021121.05	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 October 2021. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
021121.06	Finance and Governance <p>6.1 Payments for Approval</p> <p>The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holne Community Shop & Tearoom - replacement defibrillator pads - £45.99• Bush's Trees and Garden Maintenance - £90
021121.07	Planning <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>7.1.1 0539/21 – Priddons Farm, Holne</p> <p>Extension to existing manure storage building to include additional manure storage area, straw storage area and covered yard for livestock</p>

	<p>Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions None</p>
021121.08	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>8.1 Members received a response from DCC's Highways Officer, Nick Colton, about matters previously raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking behind Bakers Park The works have been booked in and Cllr Crook's plans have been attached to the works order. As soon as Nick becomes aware of a start date, he will advise the clerk so that a member can be present. • Hilltop - tarmac lip to divert water down the road Unfortunately, the team who will be carrying out the work to improve the parking behind Bakers Park will only have an excavator and pick up so can't carry out any repairs requiring hot material. He will see if something can be done at a later date. • Roundels/slow signs at Priddons The 40mph roundels are only approved by the Department for Transport at the existing locations and there will be no approval given for additional ones (confirmed by person who designed the entire limit). At the moment slow markings wouldn't be approved without a proven accident history and hazard. Guidance is still that slows should only be used in association with an upright warning sign. <p>8.2 Members received an invitation to attend the Highways Parish and Town Council Conferences on 24 & 25 November (on Zoom). Cllr Crook made a note of the dates and would attend if he was able.</p> <p>8.3 It was noted that the path from Hilltop to Holne Woods is heavily eroded. It was acknowledged that this is a result of the leat adjacent to the highway breaching and the surface material being washed out in heavy rain. It was agreed to write to DNPA Ranger, Bill Allen, to see if anything can be done to improve the surface.</p>
021121.09	<p>Playpark</p> <p>9.1 Cllr Bellamy reported that both he and Fleur Powell have emailed Earthwrights concerning the items requiring their attention but no response has yet been received. The Halloween pumpkin carving competition was well received with 30 entries. The Playpark Committee funded the prizes and there was no charge for use of the village hall.</p> <p>9.2 Members received the draft job specification for the play park grass cutting prepared by Cllr Fairman. The job specification was agreed with a couple of minor amendments. Cllr Fairman advised that he would update the document ready for the clerk to send out to potential contractors.</p>
021121.10	<p>Leats</p> <p>The Chairman advised that she has noticed that the grid on the pipe going down across through the churchyard has been removed which helps significantly with the flow of the water. A discussion followed about the size of the pipe and it was concluded that the church should repipe it with proper culvert piping. There was further general discussion about other leat matters in the parish which have previously been raised and will be kept under review.</p>
021121.11	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>At the last meeting, it was agreed to write to landowners with land in the centre of the village to make initial enquiries as to whether any land might be available to provide additional parking. Four landowners were identified and letters will be sent.</p>

	The clerk advised that having contacted Hastoe Housing requesting that the Parish Council would like to be involved in verifying local connection of future applicants as per the Local Lettings Policy, Hastoe has confirmed that they will liaise with both Holne and Buckfastleigh West Parish Councils. Hastoe will forward a document relating to Data Protection to both councils to consult.
021121.12	Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting The Chairman confirmed that she will lay the poppy wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Service of Remembrance.
021121.13	Correspondence No items.
021121.14	Date of Next Meeting The date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 7 December 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

District Councillors' Parish Report, November 2021

Covid 19 rates rising again

Cases of the virus are rising again across our local area, and we would ask all residents to take care. Booster doses have become available, and we would urge all those eligible to take these up, and any residents still not vaccinated for the first or second time to seriously consider doing so.

Waste 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. **Please continue to register missed collections through the system online or by phone, as this will assist in holding our contractors to account.**

The brown bin service remains suspended and In the light of FCC's ongoing staffing issues the Executive has taken the decision that it will not resume until the Spring. Sustainable South Brent is happy to accept garden waste at their composting centre at The Marsh on Sunday mornings. It can also be taken to Devon County Council recycling centres.

Several SHDC councillors have been on a tour of Chelson Meadow Materials Recovery Facility (MURF) at Plymouth, where residents' co-mingled (mixed together) recycling is taken to be sorted and recycled. This gave a wider insight and understanding of these materials' journey from the kerbside, the sorting process and showed the high quality materials that our residents are involved in producing. We can reassure residents that everything is properly and efficiently recycled, and the sorted and baled waste is sold on for further reprocessing. None goes to landfill.

Budget/Spending review

Multi-Year Spending Review

For Local Government there will be an average real-terms increase of 3% in core spending Power. (However core spending power includes Council Tax and New Homes Bonus funding so we will need to see the detail of this with the Finance Settlement announced later). £4.8billion of grant funding will be available to local government over the next three years, the equivalent of £1.6billion a year

Council Tax

The Government will set out full details of the council tax referendum principles within the draft Finance Settlement before Christmas. Today's statement states that the referendum threshold is likely to remain at 2% per year throughout the 3 years of the Spending Review (presumably for Districts this would include the allowance to go up to £5 per year but this will need to be confirmed.)

Business Rates

The Chancellor's speech highlighted that the Government does not intend to abolish business rates, though the review states that the Government will launch a consultation on an Online Sales Tax (OST) to consider the benefits and drawbacks of an OST. There will be a further freeze of the business rates multiplier in 2022-23 (the pence in the £ that is applied to business rates bills). This was due to increase by 3.1% in line with September Consumer Price Index (CPI). The small business multiplier will remain at 49.9p in 2022-23. There will be a 50% business rates discount for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure businesses for 2022-23 up to a maximum of £110,000. After the next revaluation in 2023, business rates revaluations will take place every three years.

Business Rates loophole

There is no announcement about closing the business rates loophole for second homeowners who let out their property for at least 140 days.

On-going COVID pressures

No new funding has been announced for any additional pressures from COVID in local government.

New funding to help local businesses and communities to grow stronger

South Hams District Council are offering cash grants to local businesses to help them to bring ideas to life that will boost the local economy or community wellbeing. The new scheme, called the Community Recovery Grant, opens on 1 November 2021 and could be worth up to £30,000 to businesses in the District. It's for businesses of

all sizes in the South Hams and West Devon and has been secured by the Council via the government's COVID recovery fund. The funding will give a boost to the local economy and community by kick-starting a chain of positive business activity. Through the scheme, a business can bid for a grant to cover or part-cover the costs of setting up a new business initiative that will have a positive impact on others in the community or other local businesses. For example, a business may want to set up a collaboration with another local business or may have plans for an event that will involve the wider community. It essentially takes the 'shop local' concept and applies it to business. Just as the local high street benefits when people shop in their local town, SHDC wants our local businesses to look to see where they can work together to support each other and spend money within the local business community. We'll give businesses the money to overcome any financial barriers to doing this and make your ideas happen.

For example, a local drinks producer links up with a local artisan bottle producer to create a limited edition range and collaborates with a local artist for a series of new labels. Or a business could apply for a grant to help them to link up with local food and entertainment suppliers to stage a festival for local people, which results in a community wellbeing benefit.

Business owners are invited to submit their ideas and plans to the Council, outlining what they want to do and how they will either work with other local businesses or engage with their local community. Applications that deliver greater benefits from the funding requested will be more likely to be approved. More details and an application form can be found at: www.southhams.gov.uk/community-recovery-grant

Applications will close on 30 November 2021. It is anticipated that the majority of grants to be awarded will be valued between £2,000 and £10,000. However grants up to £30,000 will be considered for exceptional and innovative schemes that can show a wide range of benefits for the local economy and community.

S106 Update

Officers have agreed to provide Members and Town and Parish Councils with an update of the s106 contributions for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (OSSR) and Affordable Housing currently held by the council. Funds are also detailed in the individual section 106 agreements for the planning application and should be available to view on line.

The tables for affordable housing contributions detail what has been collected so far, the date received and when this will need to be spent by. Also included in the section 106 document is the timescale for when off-site contributions need to be committed or spent and that the money can be spent anywhere in the South Hams. However, officers and members are trying to direct these sums to be utilised in the areas where development has occurred in the first instance.

If Parish Councillors have any queries please contact:

- Alex Rehaag or Cassandra Harrison for Affordable Housing queries
- Alexis Huggins for OSSR queries

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Buckingham Palace has announced a weekend of celebrations on 2 – 5 June 2022 across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world to mark the Platinum Jubilee. The Platinum Jubilee celebrates the Queen's historic reign and 70 years of service.

[Platinum Jubilee Homepage](#)

Activities are being planned by communities, individuals and organisations and we are therefore asking Members if you are aware of any planned activities in your area and to ask for your help in encouraging activities to be planned.

The Platinum Jubilee is a great way to bring our communities together and get involved in the celebrations! We will be offering support by coordinating the events across our region and promoting activities via advertising and through our social media platforms. We will be sending information out to our communities and asking them to tell us what events they are planning and explaining how they can get involved. This will help us to identify what plans are in place and where we can offer support. Event organisers can tell us about their events by filling in a

short survey.

Mobile Boost Scheme

Connecting Devon and Somerset has announced the expansion of its Mobile Boost Programme, which aims to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in “not-spot” areas.

Businesses and households can apply for a voucher of up to £1,200 towards the cost of one of a number of mobile signal booster options from a registered supplier.

The value of the voucher will be dependent on the type of technology most suitable for the premises. Suppliers will be able to advise on the most appropriate option. Businesses and residents will be required to make a contribution to cover the cost of installation. Information on the scheme has been passed on to residents and TAPs via an e-bulletin and social media. For more information and to apply visit [Connecting Devon and Somerset - Mobile Boost Scheme](#)

Coronavirus Vaccination Programme

Vaccination data for Devon

- 1,827,549 doses have been given between 8 December 2020 and 24 October 2021, vaccination data published by NHS England and NHS Improvement shows. **NHS figures are using updated (2020) ONS population statistics, which means some percentages have changed from earlier weeks:**

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+	79,242	78,463	95% or above for people aged 50 and over	90% or above for people aged 40 and over
75-79	60,994	60,564		
70-74	76,846	76,213		
65-69	72,555	71,654		
60-64	79,987	77,646		
55-59	86,153	84,300		
50-54	80,482	78,637		
45-49	65,288	63,138	91.1%	
40-44	60,526	57,741	96.4%	
35-39	60,801	56,791	92.0%	86.0%
30-34	60,558	54,874	89.1%	80.7%
25-29	55,508	48,745	81.9%	72.0%
18-24	83,865	71,627	83.6%	71.4%
All under 18	21,637	2,207	9.5%	1.0%
Total (% 16+)	944,442	883,107	93.8%	87.7%

Highways – 20mph zones:

At October's full Council, a motion was moved as follows:

In response to the growing demand for safer vehicle speeds in town and village centres and along residential roads, this Council will now consider further applications for 20mph pilot schemes that can be implemented in parallel with the Newton Abbot pilot scheme to ensure a more timely response to supporting Active Travel measures that need reduced vehicular speeds to be implemented and effective.

Unfortunately, it was defeated and the Newton Abbott pilot scheme, which as been discussed for over 2 years and is yet to start, remains something of a stumbling block.

Instead, *Elected Members are invited to make representations for communities that they would wish to see considered for 20 mph speed limits pending any change in County Policy.*

I would urge the Parish Council to continue to suggest such any areas and I will attempt to lobby on your behalf.

Supporting Devon Residents into homes of their own

At October's full Council, a notion of motion (which I support) was sent to be discussed by Cabinet as follows:

Devon County Council calls on the Government to:

1. End the tax dodge loop-hole of second home owners switching from Council Tax to Business Rates and then claiming 'small business' exemption, so they pay nothing at all.
2. To re-extend the notice period given to tenants to 6 months
3. Maintain the Local Housing Allowances at Covid-levels (plus cost-of living increases) to support families into homes

and that the County Council will:

1. Work with Devon's District, City and Borough councils to establish a 'housing taskforce' working across the county to tackle the flight to Air BnB and holiday rentals
2. Support the provision of urgently needed rented housing on County owned land

This will come back to the next full Council meeting with a Cabinet recommendation.

DNPA Report - Cllr Smerdon

DARTMOOR CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

This week (30 October) marks the 70th anniversary of Dartmoor being designated a National Park. Dartmoor was one of the original band of 4 National Parks to be designated in England and Wales – the Peak District, Lake District and Snowdonia were the other three. They may, at times, benefit from a higher profile but Dartmoor is and will always be a special place for many.

Over the last 70 years the National Park has achieved much including, in no particular order:

- An end to firing of artillery shells and reductions in the amount of live fire training – enabling people to enjoy the national park. Indeed, we are now restoring peatland areas damaged by artillery shells
- The pioneering, ground-breaking Dartmoor Commons Act which created a right of access on foot and horseback to the Dartmoor Commons and established the Commoners' Council to manage the welfare of livestock on the commons.
- We have helped prevent inappropriate development (for example, the reservoir proposed for the Swincombe Valley) and facilitate development that is good for Dartmoor, for example the new development at Chagford
- Dartmoor helped pioneer management agreements between the Authority and landowners and farmers – still spoken about fondly by many in the farming community and effectively ensuring the continued management of important habitats and the enabling farmers to do this work.

For many the most important value of the National Park is its ability to shape the lives of those who live, work and visit Dartmoor. Perhaps best summarised in the words of a young person who participated in the Naturally Healthy Dartmoor project who said something along the lines of: “when I am at home my problems bounce back at me off of the walls; when I am on the moor they fly away”.

Whilst we are celebrating 70 years as a National Park we are also looking forward for the next 70 years. The last 18 months might have been really challenging but we have achieved so much:

A multi-million pound investment in the Dartmoor headwaters project – helping to fund peatland restoration, nature enhancement, water management and putting money into the local economy

- A Green Recovery Challenge Fund grant that will support new engagement rangers and trainee posts
- Generation Green – a joint programme with the YHA and others to connect young people with nature
- We are in the final stages of Local Plan preparation with encouraging comments from the Inspector
- Have an ambitious new Management or Partnership Plan for the National Park
- Are working on a new Heritage project for Lottery funding
- Have secured the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme and our Visitor centres continue to draw plaudits for the quality of advice and welcome provided.

STAFF CHANGES

The Authority is going through a period of considerable change and increased pressure on many staff. We are saying goodbye to lots of valued colleagues who have contributed so much to our achievements, some taking retirement while others are moving on to new opportunities. We hope that all of these colleagues will be able to look back and reflect on their part in sustaining Dartmoor as a living landscape for millions to enjoy. We are also saying hello to lots of new colleagues and need to take time to make them welcome – they will help take the Authority forward.

BYELAWS CONSULTATION

The consultation process on a proposed review of DNP Byelaws closes on 1st November. To date there have been over 2000 responses, these will be considered by Officers and Members over the next few weeks.