

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 1 February 2022 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Pannell, County Cllr Thomas and one member of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

010222.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District Cllr Smerdon• Ross Gray (Tree Warden)
010222.02	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>
010222.03	Open Forum <p>There were no comments.</p>
010222.04	County Councillor, District Councillors' and DNPA Reports <p>District Cllrs Smerdon and Pannell submitted a written report (attached).</p> <p>Disitrcct Cllr Smerdon also submitted a written report as DNPA representative (attached).</p> <p>County Cllr Thomas reported:</p> <p>Covid – if you have had Covid in December, now is the time to be boosted. Walk-in centres are open in Newton Abbot, Torquay and Plymouth.</p> <p>DCC's Strategic Plan is available to view on DCC's website. The six priorities are: Respond to the climate emergency; Be ambitious for children and young people; Support sustainable economic recovery; Tackle poverty and inequality; and Improve health and wellbeing.</p> <p>DCC will be deciding its budget later this month. Cllr Thomas will update the Council next month.</p> <p>The Newton Abbot 20mph zone consultation has failed. A fund of £100,000 will be set aside to help enable other parishes to put 20mph zones in place.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas, as a DNPA member, offered his support on planning matters. He also advised that if there is a highways issue arises from a planning application, then Highways should be informed as it might not be a planning consideration. The issue of taking water from or diverting a leat was cited as an example as the DNPA has advised that this is not a planning consideration. Cllr Thomas offered to find out from DCC.</p>

	<p>Cllr Crook raised the issue of ownership of the land at the rear of Bakers Park and the management of the trees, some of which are ash, in that area. Cllr Thomas offered to look into whether the trees were being managed to ensure their safety.</p>
010222.05	<p>Ratification of Minutes Members approved and signed the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 4 January 2022.</p>
010222.06	<p>Finance and Governance 6.1 Payments for Approval The following payment was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF (Electricity for DAA mast) - £118.62
010222.07	<p>Planning 7.1 New applications/appeals 7.1.1 0018/22 – Hunters Reach, Michelcombe Lane, Holne Raised patio area and replacement fenestration Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions 7.2.1 0671/21 & 0672/21 – Langaford, Holne Alterations to ancillary building Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional planning permission and listed building consent.</p>
010222.08	<p>Highways and Footpaths 8.1 Members noted correspondence advising of emergency repairs to Holne Bridge and New Bridge from 21-25 February.</p> <p>8.2 With regard to the surface of the footpath from Hilltop to Holne Woods which had been raised with DNPA Ranger Bill Allen, and the suggestion that digging out a drainage channel might alleviate the problem, Bill has advised that following a suggestion about a drainage channel, he has spoken to the landowner and they intend to meet on site to discuss this and a couple of other issues on the path with a view to jointly doing some improvement works.</p> <p>8.3 Cllr Crook reported that a fence at the top of Michelcombe Lane (past Greatcombe) has collapsed. It was agreed to inform DNPA Ranger, Bill Allen.</p>
010222.09	<p>Playpark 9.1 Cllr Bellamy advised that he no longer wishes to continue on the Playpark Committee although he will continue to be involved with playpark and report directly to the Parish Council. He advised that three other members are standing down from the Committee and it is unlikely to continue after the AGM. There is still, however, sufficient interest in the community to run events. He advised that the sump has been cleared and water is currently running quite freely under the bridge. This will still need to be dug out at some point, however, when the weather improves. A meeting with Earthwrights has been arranged on Thursday 3rd February to discuss the problems with the equipment and the guarantee. With regard to the Wicksteed equipment, it was agreed that Cllr Bellamy will liaise with them to order the parts needed to repair the small piece of equipment (approximately £800). Removing the old and fitting the new parts will then need to be organised.</p> <p>9.2 Members received an email from a parishioner regarding the moles in playpark. It was noted that there are a significant number at the moment. After a lengthy discussion, members agreed to take advice from SHDC's Locality Officer regarding safety of the playpark and</p>

	<p>DNPA's Ecology officer for advice on how best to humanely control them. In the meantime, Cllr Applegarth will chain harrow and roll the field.</p> <p>9.3 Cllr Fairman has offered to empty the waste bin at playpark as SHDC do not appear to be regularly emptying it without being prompted.</p>
010222.10	<p>Leats</p> <p>Cllr Crook advised that a Whats App group has been set up consisting of parishioners willing to help with leat monitoring and clearance. They have looked at the big hole under road behind Bakers Park. The leat running through the churchyard and the threat of flooding is still a concern and was discussed at length. Alternative methods of improving the situation were discussed though ultimately the responsibility for improvements lies with the church.</p>
010222.11	<p>Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to hold this meeting on 24 May, format to be agreed at a later date.</p>
010222.12	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>None</p>
010222.13	<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>The Chairman asked members to think about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and how the parish might commemorate this. It was agreed that once the pub has reopened, it may be easier to organise a community event.</p>
010222.14	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>14.1 Members received an invitation to attend National Park Forum on 17 February, 2-4pm to consider DNPA's response to the Landscapes Review.</p> <p>14.2 An email was received regarding the ongoing issue of parking in the centre of the village. It was noted that the Parish Council had written to four landowners with land in the centre of the village asking whether they would be prepared to enter a discussion about the provision of land to help ease the parking problem. Only one response was received; they advised that they would be prepared to help for one off occasions and events but not on an ongoing basis. Whilst acknowledging the issue, members were unable to think of any alternative solutions.</p>
010222.15	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.</p>

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

District Council Parish report February 2022

Second home tax benefit loophole removed

Following prolonged campaigning by this Council and others the Government has announced it's planning to remove a loophole that offers tax breaks to second home owners who make use of it to claim their properties are being used as holiday lets. As it stands, people who own second homes in England can avoid paying council tax and access small business rates relief by simply declaring an intention to let the property out to holidaymakers.



The change will see second homeowners forced to pay council tax if they cannot show they are genuinely renting out their properties on a commercial basis. This new measure will apply to second home owners who let their properties for less than 70 days a year. Those who let their homes above the threshold will still pay nothing. It is reckoned that second home owners in the South Hams who have registered for business rates (meaning in effect they pay nothing) have received £20million in Covid grants.

Council tax

Discussions around the 2022/23 SHDC budget are taking place, with Members receiving briefings from Lisa Buckle, our Finance Officer. As usual, a selection of proposals came forward which will be voted on at the Full Council Budget meeting on 10th February. The proposals include a recommendation to increase Council Tax by £5 a year for Band D properties – equivalent to 10p a week. The Government has factored in this increase – the maximum allowed without a referendum – into funding presumptions for the coming year.. A LibDem recommendation that £322,000 extra be allocated to the Climate Change Action Plan will also be debated and is likely to receive approval.

Refuse/recycling

An all party working group has been set up to consider the way forward, looking at a number of alternatives. Performance by the contractors is slowly improving but we can't yet say when the switch to recycling boxes will resume. The budget proposals going to the Executive next week include a £200,000 commitment to invest in community composting.

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

In December, the government announced a one-off grant payment for hospitality and leisure businesses including restaurants and pubs. It is worth up to £6,000 and is designed to help those who have struggled in what should have been the most profitable time of the year. We are administering the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant; the Council has now directly contacted local businesses by email, which, based on previous grant applications, might be eligible for this financial help.



The Council is urging local hospitality and leisure businesses that meet the criteria to check their email and junk mail folders and follow the instructions to claim the government grant. Contact the council via their website - <https://southhams.gov.uk/businesscovid19> - if you think your business is eligible.

The deadline for grant applications from businesses has been extended from 28 February to 18 March. All business grant payments have to be made by 31 March.

Community Funding News

Devon Funding News is a great place to go to see what new grant funding schemes are available to our communities. It can be found online at devon.gov.uk/community-funding



The website is updated regularly and some of the new schemes added in January include:

- Up to £5,000 for the repair or improvement of community buildings [Screwfix Foundation](#)
- Up to £10,000 for community groups and artists planning activities focusing on art, creativity and culture in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee Just a couple of the schemes that may be of interest to our communities.

Role of AONBs could be expanded



Plans to safeguard England's protected landscapes for future generations and to boost nature recovery have been set out by Environment Secretary George Eustice.

Proposals to strengthen England's protected landscapes were announced on Saturday 15th January 2022 when the Government published their response to the *Landscapes Review* of National Parks and AONBs.

Strengthened AONBs are central to the response that seeks to strengthen purposes, powers and resources for AONBs.

The proposals, which are subject to consultation, are set out in the Government's response to Julian Glover's independent Landscapes Review (known as the 'Glover Review') which looked at whether the protections for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are still fit for purpose.

The Government's response sets out ambitious changes to increase access to nature and ensure protected landscapes can deliver more for climate, nature, people and place for the next 70 years and beyond, as we build back greener from the pandemic and level up all parts of the country.

The 12-week consultation also asks for views on proposals to drive nature recovery within our landscapes and support for the communities that live and work within them, such as the design and delivery of new agri-environment schemes and an ambitious management plan for each area,

AONBs are to receive a 15% uplift in funding. Sadly this does not apply to National Parks.

Town and Parish Council Guide to Net-Zero



Some Parish and Town Councils have reached out to us over the past year looking for advice on tackling the Climate Emergency. Over the past few months we have been working on pulling together some resources and tips on what Town and Parish Councils can do.

The guide isn't intended to be prescriptive but rather offer to some help or inspiration to Town and Parish Councils looking tackle to the Climate Emergency. The guide is web based and intended for all audiences, whether they have yet to declare a Climate Emergency or simply looking for action ideas or tools and resources to help them along the way. The guide is published on our Climate Change website.

DNPA report (February) – Cllr Smerdon

Government publishes its proposals for a National Landscapes Strategy

The Government's response is both a statement of what they will do/intend to do and a consultation on proposals that require changes to primary legislation.

The key changes include:

- Strengthened AONBs – this is a key theme in the response. AONBs have received a 15% increase in funding for 2021/22, they are to be 'renamed' as 'National Landscapes' (though this phrase is also used to refer to AONBs and National Parks together).
- National Landscapes Partnership – non-statutory partnership involving National Parks England, National Association of AONBs, Natural England and others. Focusing on generating additional income through green finance and championing national landscapes.
- Amended purposes for National Parks – a focus on nature recovery and access for all. The duty to have regard to socio-economic well-being of our local communities will not become a purpose.
- A National Landscapes Strategy and outcome framework.
- Consultation on new powers of enforcement for National Parks – powers to potentially issue fixed penalty notices, make Public Space Protection Orders. This is welcomed as the Government response does recognise the challenges of visitor management – the Landscapes Review did not.
- Planning reform – commitment to 'consider the special role of protected landscapes' in the reform of the planning system and strengthened role for AONBs
- Local governance – consultation on independent chairs for NPAs, performance standards, reduced board size and improved diversity with 'merit-based' appointments/nominations
- General power of competency for NPAs, strengthened Management Plans and clearer role for other public bodies
- Sustainable financing – a focus on green finance and commercial sponsorship which is described as a missed opportunity.

If you wind the clock back 12 months we were facing an uncertain future – The Secretary of State was keen on merging all National Park Authorities and AONBs into a single central National Landscapes Service. Given this context the Government's response is positive – we are to remain as independent authorities and retain the full range of services/roles that we currently perform (i.e. planning remains with the Authority) and the Secretary of State is really positive about FiPL.

Farming in Protected Landscapes

The Government's Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL) has now been running for six months. Each protected landscape in England has received a ring-fenced financial allocation of money. The majority of this money is to be spent on grants to farmers, landowners and other eligible applicants. The financial allocation for 2021/22 has to be spent within the financial year. There are four categories of intended outcomes, Climate, Nature, People and Place.

An assessment panel has been set up to consider applications. At the end of December 35 applications have been submitted, of these 27 have been approved, 6 deferred and 2 refused.

Introduction of Body-Worn Cameras

At the Authority meeting on Friday 4th Feb Members will be asked to consider approving the introduction of body-worn cameras for use by Authority staff, principally the Ranger Team, for a trial period of time. (max 2 years)

This proposal has been introduced following the problems encountered with members of the public over the last two years, particularly during the lockdown of 2020 when Dartmoor was used as an out of doors playground by people desperate to escape the confines of their houses. The primary aim of the proposed pilot is to assess whether body worn cameras will help address incidents of verbal and physical abuse, and a secondary aim is to assess their usefulness in situations where we need to enforce existing laws through legal action.

Community Protection Notices

Also at the Authority meeting Members will be considering a recommendation that DNP staff will work in partnership with our constituent Local Authorities (Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon) to better tackle anti-social behaviour within the National Park. The suggestion is that DNP Rangers could support their powers to issue Community Protection Notices through the gathering of information and evidence. The CPN process already exists across Dartmoor and is operated by the Councils.

Byelaws Review

Consideration of the 3000+ responses submitted to the review is ongoing, and how we proceed will be decided over the next few months.