

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Thursday 14 July 2022 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chairman), R Applegarth, J Bellamy and M Fairman

Also present

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

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

140722.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Crook• County Cllr Thomas• District Cllr Smerdon• Ross Gray (Tree Warden)
140722.03	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>
140722.04	Open Forum <p>No comments</p>
140722.05	County & District Councillors' Reports <p>District Councillors' report was submitted and circulated (attached).</p> <p>Cllr Pannell also reported that at a meeting of SHDC this afternoon, it was agreed to take the waste service back in-house from the start of October which will hopefully help to restore a better service.</p> <p>The Council's plans to build a supermarket in the centre of Ivybridge have now been scrapped.</p>
140722.06	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 May 2022. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
140722.07	Finance and Governance <p>7.1 Payments for Approval The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earthwrights - £865.20 – Playpark repairs• EDF - £225.30 - Lighting mast supply• S Hughes - £47.38 - printer (1/5 share)• HMRC - £165 - PAYE• G Partridge - £375 - grass cutting (playpark)

<p>140722.08</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>8.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>8.1.1 0233/22 – Proposed replacement porch at Langaford Cottage, Ridgely Cross to Langaford Bridge Cross, Buckfastleigh</p> <p>Members had no objections to this application.</p> <p>8.2 Decisions</p> <p>8.2.1 0185/22 – Use of building as Ancillary Residential Annex, Land at Wellpittton, Holne</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted a Certificate of Lawful Use</p> <p>8.3 Other matters:</p> <p>8.3.1 Review of the Parish Council’s planning policy</p> <p>Members discussed the way in which it considers planning applications. It was agreed that the Planning Committee would continue to visit planning applications (where possible) and make a recommendation to the Parish Council for approval.</p> <p>8.3.2 Management Plan for Mill Leat Woodlands, Holne</p> <p>Members received details of the management plan for Mill Leat Woodlands. It was noted that Ross Gray, Tree Warden, has examined the plans in detail and is satisfied that this is a good and progressive plan that should be supported. Damage from roe deer and grey squirrels seems to be the main threats to the project. He questioned whether the owner is sufficiently qualified/knowledgeable to be wholly responsible for monitoring. It was agreed to note Ross Gray’s observations but make no additional comments.</p>
<p>140722.09</p>	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>9.1 It was noted that the potholes on the main road behind Bakers Park have been filled. The earthworks team will not be available until at least September to complete the parking areas.</p> <p>9.2 Members discussed the condition of Watery Lane. It was noted that the clerk had emailed Bill Allen, DNPA Ranger, and a response is awaited. In the meantime, it was agreed to write to Buckfastleigh West Parish Council about a possible joint community clear-up.</p> <p>9.3 Other highways/footpaths issues:</p> <p>It was agreed to chase a response from Bill Allen regarding the Shanty’s footpath.</p> <p>It was also agreed to make representations to Devon County Council about their road closure signage which should include more information indicating exactly where the closure is thus preventing unnecessary diversions for some routes/properties which remain accessible.</p>
<p>140722.10</p>	<p>Playpark</p> <p>10.1 Members noted the minutes of a recent Playpark meeting. A request for a path or steps for easier access from swing side to slide side. It was agreed to consider this further when quotes have been sought.</p> <p>10.2 Members noted the matters which had arisen during the recent walkabout. It was agreed to ask the Playpark contractor to provide advice and a quote for trimming the willow structure. Cllr Bellamy agreed to paint the trip hazards with luminous paint and he would also speak to David Best about the wobbly boundary fence.</p> <p>10.3 Members received correspondence from the Playpark contractor regarding frequency of cuts and rising cost of fuel. He has asked the Parish Council to approve two additional cuts through the season to be used as and when required. Due to the rising cost of fuel, he also asked the Parish Council to approve an increase to the cost per cut from £75 to £85. Both of these</p>

	<p>requests were agreed. A concern was also raised by the contractor about the mole hills and the impact they are having on his equipment. Cllr Applegarth was happy for the contractor to text him a couple of days before he visited the site so that he could flatten the hills with his chain harrow prior to cutting.</p> <p>10.4 Members received correspondence from a parishioner seeking clarification on the use of herbicide in the playpark and asking about the removal of notices relating to the wildflower area. Members confirmed that no herbicides have been used in playpark and they were unaware of the removal of any notices.</p> <p>A discussion followed about the responsibility of playpark including how the different areas are managed. It was agreed that the Chairman would look at the constitution to see what is included.</p> <p>In the meantime, it was agreed that the Parish Council would organise a maintenance day.</p> <p>10.5 Play area defect report Members noted the defect report. Cllr Bellamy has sought quotes for new swing seats and it was agreed that he should order these. The splits in the wooden support legs would be monitored, as suggested.</p> <p>Cllr Bellamy will also chase Earthwrights and find out about their annual maintenance plan.</p>
140722.11	<p>Leats</p> <p>11.1 Members received and noted correspondence from the PCC regarding the churchyard leat. The PCC has advised that the pipework in the churchyard and Fairhaven was inspected in May and a report received from the contractors. The inspection found that there were no existing problems with the pipe in the churchyard but that there were significant issues with the pipework through Fairhaven. A copy of the report has been given to the owner of Fairhaven. The PCC will continue to take as much action as possible to prevent material entering the Fairhaven pipe and to minimise the risk from flooding should a blockage occur before any remedial action has been taken at Fairhaven.</p> <p>11.2 Cllr Applegarth reported that the leats are flowing well with the exception of a couple of blockages which he has relieved.</p>
140722.12	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>12.1 Cllr Crook sent a brief update regarding an email he had received asking for some information about the overgrown land to the north of Playcross. It is understood that the land is being managed by Fountain Forestry and a photograph of the sign has been sent to the family member enquiring about it.</p>
140722.13	<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>None</p>
140722.14	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>14.1 Correspondence was received regarding dogs running around the village off their leads and dog fouling in the centre of the village. It was agreed that the Chairman would post something on the Holybrook Exchange reminding dog owners to pick up after their dogs.</p> <p>14.2 Correspondence was received asking the Parish Council to enquire of South Hams District Council whether there is any intention to resume the rural community skip service. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the District Councillors.</p>

140722.15	Date of Next Meeting It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 6 September at 7.30pm.
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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

Parish report from your District Councillors

JULY 2022

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The first electric charging points will be commissioned the week commencing 13 June at Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth as part of the Deletti project. This will provide two electric charging bays for the public to use.

Powered by the renewable energy through a green tariff, the charge points are compatible with all makes of EVs and will fully charge a 50 kWh battery in two to four hours, providing a range of up to 200 miles depending on vehicle specification.

The rate of charge is dictated by the vehicle's inverter however these chargers can deliver enough electricity for up to 88 miles of travel in one hour. This means the points are ideal for both shorter stops, such as shopping trips, and regular charges by residents.

As these points are for public use, they are also available for visitors of Devon wishing to charge their electric vehicle.

The cost to fully charge a 50 kWh battery, providing a range of up to 200 miles, would be in the region of £17.50.

For ease of use, drivers will be able to pay via Scottish Power's app, which is free to download, or through a scannable QR code which will be displayed on the charge point.

Scottish Power do not charge a subscription fee or a minimum vend. Users may need to purchase a parking ticket as normal, please check at each site.

These charging points are part of the larger DELETTI programme, a £1.3 million project which is being largely funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Scottish Power intend to carry out civil works to install the charging point at Creek car park, Salcombe the week commencing the 14 June followed by Western Power Distribution connection works the week commencing 21 June followed by commissioning for use the week commencing 11 July. These dates may be subject to change.

Press releases and social media coverage regarding the EV charging points will be carried out.

Waste Update

SHDC Members grill FCC managers

A Special Full Council Meeting was called by Members on Wednesday 8th June to once again question FCC senior management on the continuing poor performance of the garden waste service. Members spent over two hours relaying their frustrations, and those of their residents on the erratic and haphazard reintroduction of the brown bin collections, despite repeated assurances in March from FCC that all was in place for the service to restart.

All Members of the Council were unanimous in their condemnation of FCCs poor service to our communities, and FCC Director of UK Operations Steve Longdon was left in no doubt that a major improvement in the service was long overdue.

FCC continue to struggle to recruit enough workers to fully staff the service, leading to the situation that some garden waste rounds cannot go out on their allotted collection day.

The black bin waste and the recycling collections are fully resourced and are operating as we would wish.

FCC are unable to carry out any recovery of the garden waste as recovery of black bins and recycling is being prioritised.

If a resident's bin is not collected on their scheduled day, we are advising residents to keep their brown bin out until 5pm the following day and if it isn't collected, then to take their bin in and present on their next collection day.

Officers continue to work closely with FCC to ensure as many collections are made as possible, but in order to ensure we can hold FCC to account contractually please encourage all residents to report their missed collection online.

We do not yet know when those areas which have not switched to the box recycling system will do so.

Council Tax Energy Rebate

Just over 9,000 households who live in Council Tax bands A to D and who paid by Direct Debit on 1 April have now been paid their £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate by South Hams District Council. Despite guidance issued to councils stating that payments should be made by the deadline of 30 September, South Hams District Council knew that their residents needed this extra help as soon as possible.

Staff worked rapidly to set up the systems to those already registered by direct debit, so they could be paid as early as possible. Whereas some councils nationwide have told their residents that they won't receive payment until as late as the September deadline. To date, the Council has issued just over 9,000 payments, which was paid to residents' bank accounts last week.

Those with different direct debit payment dates throughout April will receive similar payments soon. An application form is live on the Council's website, for those who do not pay by Direct Debit, and these will be processed from May.

Solar Panels on South Hams Leisure Centres

In a meeting on 7 April, the Council's Executive Committee heard about the steady progress being made by the organisation since the approval of its Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy in December 2020. The goals set in this strategy include reducing the Council's own carbon footprint to net-zero by 2030 and increasing biodiversity on its own land by 10% in 2025.

To back up the organisation-wide efforts to lower carbon emissions, the Executive Committee approved plans to loan Fusion Leisure £500,000 for the installation of solar panels at all four District Council leisure centres. A study on greenhouse gas emissions caused by Council activity was commissioned last year. It showed that the biggest proportion of the organisation's emissions relate to its activities from leased assets, franchising and outsourcing. That includes the four leisure centres.

The installation of the panels will reduce the carbon emissions of the centres by 131 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCOe), equivalent to the annual energy emissions of 38 homes. Predictably, the emissions study also found that the reduction in staff travel caused by the pandemic led to a big saving in CO2 released into the atmosphere; a saving of 234 tCOe was made, the equivalent of powering 66 homes for a year.

Plymouth Freeport Application Approved

I'm delighted to share the news that the Full Business Case for the Freeport has been approved by the Chancellor and that the tax sites at Sherford and Oceans Gate (Plymouth) will go live July 4.

This means that the opportunities for businesses to invest and create jobs can start in earnest, taking advantage of the benefits of the Freeport. Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and Devon County Council have worked with private sector organisations and landowners and created Plymouth and South Devon Freeport Limited, a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. It is currently being led by interim chair Adrian Bratt, general counsel at Princess Yachts. Cllr Bastone is a Director on the board of the company.

Work continues to secure the designation of the Langage site, which it is hoped will be in September.

Ukrainian Refugees

The total reported number of Ukrainian guests residing in South Hams under the Homes For Ukraine scheme is 120 over 51 properties (and the team are also supporting another 121 guests in West Devon).

The Support for our Ukrainian Guests is continuing in the form of essential financial support and assisting with the building blocks of sustainable living in the UK. This has also evolved into working with guests and hosts where relationships are breaking down, and planning for any moves from accommodation as required.

Locally we are experiencing a few placements begin to breakdown. One of the reasons we are seeing is when there is a single host who has taken on more than one adult, and feeling isolated and the “odd one out” in their own homes. This has been informative for our pre-arrival visits when we speak to the hosts about understanding the task they are taking on. We are also learning of husbands and fathers permitted to leave the Ukraine, so property moves due to increasing family sizes are required. These circumstances are being echoed through the country and many of the Team Devon discussions are centred around rematch placements and changes of address that will be required. The team are visiting potential hosts and starting to build a stock of properties that can be used when guests need to move.

Nationally members will be aware the UK government has announced another £1billion of military support to Ukraine on the 30 June.

Whilst completing home welcome visits to some guests in the area I observed the attached drawing that a British child has done for his Ukrainian friend and it was proudly displayed on the guest's wall. Whilst very simple in design it beautifully shows the support that guests are receiving in our area.

New Household Support Fund

Details are starting to emerge of the government's intentions on this. Last year the funding, which gets allocated to upper tier authorities, had very little guidance. This year the government have stated that 33% of the funding should be spent on supporting children, 33% on pensioners, with the remainder allocated based on local need.

While we are still awaiting final funding allocations, initial Team Devon discussions are proposing that DCC use the children's element as they did last year, to provide additional free school meals and the suggestion is that a one-off payment is made to those of pensionable age in receipt of Council tax support i.e. already in receipt of a benefit. Across Devon that equates to some 19,000 individuals and would result in a payment of around £85.

Additional Funding for the Council

We have been successful in a funding bid to DCC / Public Health on behalf of all Devon Districts for funding to support further outbreak management. District Councils will be continuing promotion of infection, prevention and control measures within workplace settings to limit outbreaks of infection and knock on effects of impacts on local communities. The Council will receive £55,000 and the funding is required to support public health activities directly related to the COVID-19 response, such as testing, non-financial support for self-isolation, support to particular groups (CEV (clinically extremely vulnerable) individuals, rough sleepers), communications and engagement, and compliance and enforcement.

To help guide applications, examples of the types of project the fund will consider supporting are:

- Digital skills and inclusion projects
 - Social inclusion and connectedness projects
 - Mental health interventions
 - Employability skills
 - Projects increasing community access to outside space
 - Inter-generational support projects
 - Befriending services
 - Innovative solutions to combating loneliness.
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