

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr T Crook (Chairman for this meeting), R Applegarth, J Bellamy, M Fairman & C McLean

Also present

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

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

060922.01	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Owen• District Cllr Smerdon• Ross Gray (Tree Warden)
060922.02	<p>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</p> <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>
060922.03	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>No comments.</p>
060922.04	<p>County & District Councillors' Reports</p> <p>District Councillors' report was submitted and circulated (attached).</p> <p>County Cllr Thomas reported that the Conservative leader of DCC, Cllr Hart, has unilaterally decided to suspend county locality payments in the face of the Council's budgetary difficulties. Cllr Thomas advised that he would like to make a contribution to a project in Holne, if and when the scheme is reinstated, having not contributed last year. Members were asked to think about a project which would benefit from funding.</p> <p>Cllr Thomas also advised that every year DCC invite suggestions from parishes about road markings and double yellow lines. The deadline is the end of this month if the Parish Council wishes to put forward any suggestions for Holne.</p>
060922.05	<p>Ratification of Minutes</p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2022. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
060922.06	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>7.1 Payments for Approval</p> <p>The following payments was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• J Bellamy - £95 - Swing seats

<p>060922.07</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>8.1 New applications/appeals None</p> <p>8.2 Decisions None</p>
<p>060922.08</p>	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>8.1 A working date is planned for 24 September for the joint community clear-up of Watery Lane with Buckfastleigh West Parish Council. This is being co-ordinated by Bill Allen. It was understood that a preparatory meeting was being arranged ahead of that date but members were unsure when this was taking place. Cllr Crook offered to contact Cllr Owen for more information.</p> <p>8.2 A response was received from Bill Allen on other matters previously raised with him:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gate/stile on the path from Langaford to Mill Leat - this path has been surveyed and the Assistant Ranger, Ethan, has made a start on repairs to the signage, gates and stiles. He will complete this work (fitting in with everything else on 'the list') over the next week or so. • The Shanty's / Greatcombe path has been surveyed and Bill needs to organise the works on this path. He asked whether there is anyone on the Parish Council or in the parish who would consider being trained/ticketed for strimmer/brushcutter use on our path network. DNPA can provide free training via DCC scheme, lend /issue trimmers, PPE, fuel and cord. <p>8.3 Members received a response from DCC Highways in response to the Parish Council's request for more information on 'road closed' signs to advise where exactly the road is closed. The Highways Officer responded advising that they follow the National Code of Practice and legislation known as Chapter 8 and there is no legal requirement for this information to be provided. However, he suggested that this is something which County Cllr Thomas could raise with the Highway Coordination Team.</p> <p>8.4 Other highways/footpath issues:</p> <p>It was noted that the cattle grid gate at Forestoke has almost fallen off its hinges and is impossible to open. It was agreed that the clerk would alert DCC Highways.</p> <p>It was noted that the large boulders at Newbridge which had been placed to prevent vehicles blocking the gate had been moved and they themselves were now preventing the gate from being opened. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Rob Steemson (DNPA).</p> <p>It was observed that the public footpath sign on the footpath from the Church to Church Park is buried in undergrowth. Cllrs Crook agreed that he would try and clear some of the vegetation. It was thought that it was likely that the finger post would need to be moved to make it more visible.</p> <p>Members were aware of a pothole on the Buckfastleigh road and agreed to report it on 'Report a pothole'.</p>
<p>060922.09</p>	<p>Playpark</p> <p>9.1 Members considered a proposal to install a small area of hardstanding (non-permanent plastic/rubber) in front of the basketball area. It was agreed that Cllr Fairman should obtain quotes for consideration at a future meeting.</p> <p>9.2 Members considered a proposal and quotation to build steps to right hand side of tunnel to improve access to the equipment. It was agreed that at least another quote should also be obtained. It was also identified as a project which could be funded through the County Councillor's locality budget when this reopens. Cllr Crook would contact the chair of Playpark to advise.</p>

	<p>9.3 It was noted that the wildlife area management plan was still to be completed and therefore hadn't yet come to the Parish Council for approval.</p> <p>Members noted email correspondence from a resident asking that the contractor does not mow the corners of the wildflower areas.</p> <p>9.4 Members received a quotation from Geoff Partridge to trim and reshape the willow structure. His quote also includes sorting out a broken branch on the boundary between the children's play area and the covered seat. A suggestion had also been made to the Council to approach the original creator of the structure who might be willing to prune and weave it. It was agreed to make this approach first before accepting another quote/offer of help. Cllr Applegarth offered to look at the broken branch.</p> <p>9.5 Cllr Fairman reported that the springs have broken on the gates where you enter the equipment area. Cllr Fairman offered to purchase new ones; this was agreed.</p>
060922.10	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Lighting Mast</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth raised the issue of rising fuel costs. He advised that the standing charge is currently £2 per day but no electricity is being used. Members acknowledged that other options need to be explored. Cllrs Applegarth agreed to explore the solar/battery option and Cllr Crook offered to make some enquiries about whether WPD could offer a timed connection and/or whether charitable tariffs are available. It was also agreed to wait to see if the government makes any relevant announcements about energy prices in the next month. It was also agreed that Mike and Gill Cunniam (Holne Books) should be informed of the issue and advised that the Parish Council will hopefully be able to discuss options next month and their attendance would be welcomed.</p>
060922.11	<p>Leats</p> <p>There were no issues reported.</p>
060922.12	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>None</p>
060922.13	<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>
060922.14	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>14.1 Members noted correspondence from Holne Church Charity seeking a volunteer from the Parish Council/community to become a Trustee. None of the members were unable to commit to this role at this time.</p> <p>14.2 Members received an invitation to attend the Sustainable South Hams Assembly on 8 October 2022, 10am-2pm. Cllr Crook offered to attend.</p> <p>14.3 Members received and noted from Anthony Mangnall, MP.</p>
060922.15	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 4 October 2022 at 7.30pm.</p>

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

Parish report from your District Councillors

SEPTEMBER 2022

Waste Update- SHDC moves towards taking back control

Officers working on the waste project team are making sure that the service is safe, legal and compliant when SHDC resumes full control from 3 October.

In parallel to this, work is ongoing to analyse the collection rounds data, to see if there are any small improvements that can be made in the short term, with an aim to deliver longer term improvements as soon as we can.

The Council will inherit the same problems as FCC on day one; the same rounds and the same staff shortages. While we will look to improve the service as soon as we can, there will still be challenges. It isn't just the waste collection service, it is also the trade waste, bulky / clinical waste collections and the recycling banks, along with the street scene services such as litter bins, street and toilet cleaning services.

SHDC wants to work with Towns and Parishes and other partners to resolve difficulties and will be contacting all councils to ask them to let us know of the recurring problems in their areas. There is a communications plan in place, so we can share the latest updates with residents as and when they happen. Local councils will receive an email inviting them to share their issues in the week beginning 5th September.

The decision to terminate the contract was taken mutually with FCC and followed continuing dissatisfaction by residents over the failure to restore the garden waste collection service to an acceptable level, and the halt to the roll out of the new recycling box scheme to parts of the district. The decision is likely to add significantly to the council's costs for this service

Plymouth freeport boundaries

Tax-break industrial sites could be set up anywhere in the South Hams or on Dartmoor as part of Plymouth's new freeport, it has emerged. The Government has set a vast boundary for the project which stretches from Devonport to Dartmouth, Salcombe to Okehampton, and incorporates all of the moor and the entire South Hams.

Ministers have revealed the extensive boundary for the freeport on a map, leading to concerns being raised from some environmentalists and critics of the freeport programme. It came as a surprise because it had been said that the freeport would involve just three Plymouth sites: at Oceansgate in Devonport, Sherford and Langage. But it has now been explained that these are what are termed "tax sites", where businesses can benefit from a range of tax benefits including paying less when buying land and avoiding National Insurance payments for newly employed workers. The three sites are also what is called "customs sites", where businesses don't have to pay tariffs on some goods they import.

There can only be three tax sites, and there must be at least one customs site, or "free zone", in any freeport. But the freeport company could seek to create more customs sites within the extensive outer boundary.

However, the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport stressed it is "categorically not the case" that the entire area on the map has been earmarked for development or has any special planning status. A spokesperson said: "The outer boundary does not confer any special planning or regulatory status."

The freeport explained that any new customs site would still need to fit within a "rigorous planning

process”, including the suitability of the area for any businesses, and existing local authority restrictions and prohibitions. In Dartmoor’s case this would mean it having to fit with it being within a national park and an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB).

Farming Crime Survey

Devon and Cornwall Police, in association with the University of Plymouth and the University of Winchester are conducting a survey of farmers and landowners to examine their experience of crime and policing. The work, which is funded by the Seale Hayne Educational Trust, will be used to inform and shape future approaches by Devon and Cornwall Police to engage with and police rural communities.

Government Funding for Electric Vehicles

The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS) is a voucher-based scheme that provides eligible applicants with support towards the upfront costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints. The WCS is open to businesses, charities and public sector organisations that meet the applicant and site eligibility criteria.

The grant covers up to 75% of the total costs of the purchase and installation of EV chargepoints (inclusive of VAT), capped at a maximum of:

- £350 per socket
- 40 sockets across all sites per applicant - for instance, if you would like to install them in 40 sites, you will have 1 socket available per site. For more information contact SHDC.

Sustainable South Hams

Sustainable South Hams is the primary network in the South Hams for sharing knowledge and inspiration with community groups on local climate and nature events and projects. It has received seed corn funding for 2022 from SHDC to facilitate this endeavour. In order to monitor and empower this initiative it is important that the parish-specific information on the new [SSH website](#) is accurate.

Please check your parish information on the “**Find a Group**’ section of the above website, featuring the parish map for South Hams.

Parishes on the map are colour coded to denote whether they have a **Climate or Nature group**. and whether they have **Declared and Emergency** or have a **Carbon Reduction Plan** or a **Nature Recovery Plan**. If you have any queries about this process please contact SSH at info@sussh.org

This SSH parish map with the information provided by your parishes will also be embedded in the [SHDC Climate and Biodiversity website](#).

Citizens' Advice needs volunteers

Citizens Advice South Hams is recruiting for volunteers; the organisation is anticipating that many more people will come forward asking for help during the difficult winter months ahead.

If you know anyone who might be interested, please share the [Citizens Advice South Hams website](#) with them.

