

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 4 October 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) and District Cllr Pannell

The meeting was opened by Cllr Crook at 7.30pm.

041022.01	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Owen• County Cllr Thomas• District Cllr Pannell
041022.02	<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>
041022.03	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>No comments.</p>
041022.04	<p>County & District Councillors' Reports</p> <p>District Councillors' report was submitted and circulated (attached).</p> <p>County Cllr Thomas's report was submitted and circulated (attached).</p> <p>District Cllr Smerdon was unable to attend the meeting but sent a brief update from DNPA advising that on Friday 14 October, Authority Members will devote most of the day to discussions on the byelaw review. We now have a new Environment Minister, Ranil Jayawardina, and a new Duke of Cornwall, Prince William. Both have the potential to exert a great deal of influence over Dartmoor.</p>
041022.05	<p>Ratification of Minutes</p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 September 2022. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
041022.06	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>7.1 Payments for Approval</p> <p>The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HMRC (PAYE) - £165• EDF (Devon Air Ambulance Mast 10 June - 7 Sept) - £219• M Fairman (Gate springs) - £14.76

<p>041022.07</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>7.1.1 0383/22 - Hunters Reach, Michelcombe Lane, Holne Alterations at first floor level, with additional glazing and installation of dormer with balcony over existing entrance porch</p> <p>Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p>7.1.2 0381/22 - Langaford Cottage, Buckfastleigh Replacement of conservatory with garden room and replacement of flat-roofed utility area with small lean-to utility</p> <p>Members agreed to support this application.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions</p> <p>None</p>
<p>041022.08</p>	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>8.1 Report on joint community clear-up of Watery Lane with Buckfastleigh West Parish Council & Bill Allen</p> <p>There was a great turn out for the volunteer task to clear the side and height vegetation, including several larger ones with the chainsaw. Bill has met with John French to get a quote for carrying out some digger work to realign the water coarse to one side and to create a raised 'causeway' for users to walk / ride on. This is likely to be a mixture of the existing 'causeway' (just under half of the width of the whole track) with a cross section slope where by material is dug from the water channel and graded on the other side, so the rideable / walkable portion would be approximately half of the width along the entire length. Clearly, when there is more flow following heavy rain this may vary and some material may wash or re settle in parts. Bill is keen to utilise the available material on site rather than bringing in material. John is also about to carry out drainage improvement works to his track / top drive which will significantly reduce the amount of water getting on to the road and entering the top of watery lane. Due to DNPA procurement procedures, further quotations from other contractors will also be sort as authorisation from DNPA for funding. He will keep the Parish Council posted as things progress.</p> <p>8.2 To report any new highways/footpath issues and update on matters previously reported</p> <p>8.2.1 The clerk advised that the Highways Officer continues to chase the contractor Agent about clearing the area at Bakers Park but as the verge cutting season has been extended until late November there has been a knock-on effect on the ploughing requests as it is the same team how undertakes this. He has been assured that it will be completed and will continue to chase.</p> <p>8.2.2 The cattle grid gate has been reported and is with the Network Response Team to assess for making safe initially. If anything more is required, they will let the Highways Officer know.</p> <p>8.2.3 The clerk advised that she had corresponded with Rob Steemson about the rocks at Newbridge. He has advised that these were moved last year; there have not been any concerns from local horse riders as the gate can still open enough for their access. Any concerns about the cattle grid access should be directed to Highways.</p> <p>8.2.4 There was a further discussion about the obscured public footpath sign at the end of Church Path. It was agreed to ask Bill Allen for his view on whether the sign should be repositioned.</p>

<p>041022.09</p>	<p>Playpark</p> <p>9.1 Maintenance matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree action for the pruning/weaving of the willow structure It was agreed to accept the quotation from Ross at Abundant Gardens for £160 to trim and reshape the willow structure. • Chain on the basketball net is too small and the ball won't go through Cllr Crook offered to have a look. • Maintenance day - 19 November This was noted. • Molehills and badger holes - still an issue? Members were content that molehills and badger holes are not impacting the main area although it was noted that the wildflower area was being affected. • Stinging nettles - suggested that these need strimming back Members agreed that these will die back naturally. It was agreed that some members would try and attend the maintenance day. <p>9.2 Wildflower area management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal to put up wooden information boards to explain purpose of 'no mow' area After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council has no objections to this in principle. It was agreed that further clarification is required about what is expected from the Parish Council. <p>9.3 New proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball pad Members received a quotation of approximately £920 + VAT and after discussion it was agreed that it was too expensive. • Proposal to plant trees for shade After discussion, it was agreed that the Playpark Committee should be asked to produce a more long-term plan for management of the land which should encapsulate everything. It was agreed that there is already shade in playpark and there needs to be a balance so that everyone wishing to use playpark is able to do so, including community events. <p>9.4 Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pumpkin carving - 29 October • Christmas event - 3 December <p>These were noted.</p>
<p>041022.10</p>	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Lighting Mast</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth reported that he is in the process of obtaining information about a solar battery option. In the meantime, it was agreed to accept Mike and Gill Cunniam's offer to pay for the electricity next quarter. This will give time to explore whether the solar battery option will provide a more sustainable long-term solution.</p>
<p>041022.11</p>	<p>Leats</p> <p>There were no issues reported.</p>
<p>041022.12</p>	<p>Venford Reservoir</p> <p>Cllr Fairman circulated some photographs showing the poor condition of the fencing and footpaths. He reported that a meeting has been arranged on 18 October which he will be attending in order to raise these ongoing concerns about maintenance and management of the reservoir.</p>

041022.13	Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None
041022.14	Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting None
041022.15	Correspondence None
041022.16	Date of Next Meeting It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 1 November 2022 at 7.30pm.

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Clr B Owen
Chairman

County Councillor's Report – October

County launches its carbon plan

The Devon Carbon Plan is the roadmap for how Devon will reach net-zero emissions by 2050, at the latest. It has been built on detailed, ongoing assessments of Devon's greenhouse gas emissions. Its publication follows a summer which was the joint hottest on record, where the impact of human-induced climate change has never been more apparent. The Plan's launch marks the beginning of a new phase of action – it is crucial that everyone in Devon now works to implement the Plan.

Broadly speaking, emissions in Devon can be divided into five key sectors: economy and resources; energy supply; food, land and sea; transport; and the built environment. The Devon Carbon Plan outlines actions for how each of these sectors can reach net-zero emissions by 2050, and how people at every level can contribute – including individuals, communities, organisations and local policy makers.

You can find it at www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/view-devon-carbon-plan/

U-turn on Councillor locality budgets

Cllr Hart has decided to bring back our £8000 annual locality budgets after much negative feedback. Members successfully argued the importance of the budget as a funding source for small scale parish council projects. Please consider how a payment could help your parish.

Public Health Nursing launches online support and guidance for young people and parents

Life can be difficult enough sometimes, and for children and young people, those day-to-day interactions with others, your attitude about yourself, your relationships with people at home, at school or work, can be especially overwhelming.

It's also a challenge for parents and carers seeing changes in their child's behaviour or personality and not really knowing what's going on or the best way to support them.

We have launched the latest in a trio of websites dedicated to providing help and advice for young people, and parents, from pre-natal right through to teenage years.

- **Health for under 5s** (www.healthforunder5s.co.uk/devon/) – pre-natal up to children aged five, was launched earlier this year.
- **Health for Kids** (www.healthforkids.co.uk/devon/) – the primary school years – includes games, videos, and quizzes. It's split into four 'worlds': healthy bodies, healthy minds, health issues and getting help. It's aimed more at the parents and carers.
- **Health for Teens** (www.healthforteens.co.uk/devon/) – the secondary school years – is for young people and their parents and carers and tackles the issues many teens go through as their bodies change, and they become more self-aware, while also still working out who they are.

The sites welcome any additions from residents. If you have any content, articles or local events you would like to submit for consideration please email: health.publichealthnursinghealthwebsites-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Parish report from your District Councillors

OCTOBER 2022

WASTE - SHDC to charge for brown bin collections

South Hams Council has agreed that residents will have to pay £49 a year for brown bin collections from next March. The current service will finish at the end of October and collections will be suspended over the winter. The vote was 22 in favour, seven against. Residents who don't take up the subscription service will be able to retain their bins. Those who don't yet have recycling boxes should be on the system by next June.

The Council has been looking at every option to ensure that the core waste and recycling collection service can remain as smooth as possible when it comes back in-house on 3 October. The Council will inherit increased operating costs and must contend with inflation in the price of fuel and wages, as well the need for additional resources. Introducing a charge for the garden waste collections – a discretionary service, not a statutory one – will ease the overall cost pressures on the Council.

As well as easing financial pressures, ceasing the service from 31 October will also ease pressure on the core waste and recycling collections, helping to keep those as stable as possible in the early months of the transition. The Council will ensure that all households will get their brown bins emptied on or around their last scheduled collection day before the service is ceased.

For many years the Council had been able to provide the garden waste service without charging a subscription fee but doing so from spring 2023 will bring them in line with most other districts in Devon, who already charge for garden waste collections. Plymouth City Council recently took the decision to end their garden waste collections early this year to ease their own budget pressures.

Cllr Keith Baldry, South Hams Executive Member for the Environment, said: “We know that nobody will want to pay a subscription fee for the service, but the inescapable truth is that rising costs have forced our hand. Ultimately, we must protect our core statutory services. Ceasing the collections over the winter will help us do that as we transition to an in-house waste collection service. Compared to what private companies charge for collections, that fee represents good value for money. The subscription fees will purely cover the cost of the service and there will be no profit made. We will provide residents with information in due course on how they can sign up and subscribe for the service.”

Residents can also expect to receive a letter explaining the changes in the coming days.

During the debate, residents were encouraged to compost their garden waste. People can find out more on home composting possibilities here: <https://www.recycledevon.org/in-the-garden/how-to-compost>

For those who decide to not sign up for the service, they can take their garden waste to all three recycling centres in the South Hams. Full details, including opening hours, are available online here:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/centre/>

Keep up to date on the latest here: <https://southhams.gov.uk/recyclingwaste>

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

The Council has resolved: to write to the Prime Minister to make sure she realises the serious impact the Cost of Living crisis is having on residents of not only the South Hams but the United Kingdom; work closely with HM Government to deliver South Hams share of the £500m Household Support Fund on a timely basis and to continue to develop and support Better Lives for All to identify and help those most in need or at greatest risk of hardship to ensure they are fully aware of the help and assistance that is available and to ensure they receive that assistance.

COVID -19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF)

A total of £1.68million was made available by Government to SHDC to support businesses that have been affected by COVID-19, but have been ineligible for other business rates support.

Councils were responsible for developing and implementing a scheme based on local need, however we were unable to award relief to ratepayers who were entitled to Extended Retail Discount (covering Retail, Hospitality and Leisure), the Nursery Discount or the Airport and Ground Operations Support Scheme. Relief can also not be given to unoccupied properties.

The Council has awarded rate relief totalling £1.61million to 509 business properties following a meeting of the Council's rate relief panel on 23 September. The amount of relief awarded is equivalent to 26% of the 2021/22 business rates liability, based on rateable value. We have primarily been able to support businesses in the manufacturing, wholesale and supply chain sectors. Ratepayers benefiting from relief will shortly receive a new bill with a covering letter explaining the terms of the award of the relief. As the relief must be applied to the 2021/22 business rates liability, most businesses will find that their account for 2021/2022 will go into credit. This will be transferred to the 2022/23 financial year thus reducing the amount of business rates payable. Should a ratepayer request that any credit be refunded, a refund will be raised.