

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr B Owen (Chairman), T Crook, M Fairman and C McLean

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Thomas, District Cllr Smerdon, Ross Gray (Tree Warden) and three members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

040423.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Applegarth• District Cllr Pannell
040423.02	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>
040423.03	Open Forum <p>No items</p>
040423.04	County & District Councillors' Reports <p>District Councillors' report was circulated to members (copy attached).</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon introduced Lister Bass who is standing in the upcoming District Council elections as a Conservative candidate.</p> <p>Cllr Smerdon also circulated a DNPA report (copy attached).</p> <p>County Cllr Thomas' report was circulated to members (copy attached). He also assured members that the work at Bakers Park will still be going ahead but he was unable to give a date for the works as it is in the hands of the contractors.</p>
040423.05	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 March 2023. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
040423.06	Finance and Governance <p>6.1 The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDF (Electricity for DAAT Mast) - £193.20• HMRC (PAYE) - £177• DPD (Import taxes for defibrillator cabinet) - £57.80

040423.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals None</p> <p>7.2 Decisions</p> <p>7.2.1 0039/23 – Glebe House, Holne Proposed re-thatching of existing roof including repairs to fascias and soffits</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional Listed Building Consent.</p>
040423.08	<p>Playpark</p> <p>There was a very successful Easter Egg hunt at the weekend with an estimated profit of £150. The AGM is coming up. The fencing around the children’s play area still needs to be discussed and agreed on. The clerk advised that the Council is now in receipt of £470 from County Cllr Thomas’s locality budget to help towards the cost of these repairs.</p>
040423.09	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Lighting Mast</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth was not present at the meeting so further discussion was deferred until next month.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mike and Gill Cunniam for all they are doing to support it and for looking into how future energy bills can be paid.</p>
040423.10	<p>Gritting Route</p> <p>Having previously noted that the gritter lorry had experienced difficulties over the winter period with accessing the centre of the village due to parked cars, members discussed a suggestion to erect a wooden sign politely asking people not to park on the leat side of the road near the pub. A similar sign has been put up at Gallant Le Bower. This was agreed and the Chairman offered to speak to a parishioner about making an appropriate sign.</p> <p>It was also agreed to suggest to DCC that they have the option of two gritting routes in case one of them is inaccessible. The alternative route would be to come past the Village Hall, past Little Bewden and up to the junction at Bearwood. This was a route that the gritter lorry followed in previous years.</p>
040423.11	<p>Leats</p> <p>It was noted that a reminder has been circulated on the Holybrook Exchange and will be published in the May edition of the Parish Link reminding landowners of their riparian rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>The leats seem to running well at the moment.</p>
040423.12	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>It was noted that the pothole at Bakers Park has been repaired and a temporary repair has been carried out on Carriage Drive. The Chairman reminded members to keep reporting them online: https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/</p> <p>It was confirmed by Bill Allen at the last meeting that the repair on the Shanty footpath is going to be done.</p> <p>Lister Bass outlined his role as Road Warden in Rattery. It was agreed to discuss the scheme at the next meeting.</p>
040423.13	<p>Clerk’s or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>None</p>

040423.14	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
040423.15	Correspondence None
040423.16	Meeting Dates The Annual Meeting of the Council (following the Parish Elections) will be held on Tuesday 23 May 2023 at 7.30pm.

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Cllr B Owen
Chairman

County Councillor's Report - April 2023

Devolution deal for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay moves a step closer

A new deal that will transfer money and powers into the hands of local Leaders across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, has moved a step closer with the backing of the Government's Levelling Up Minister, Dehenna Davison. Outline approval has been given for a Devon-wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities, such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.

The deal wouldn't require a change to the established democratic structures across the area, or the need for an elected Mayor. Instead, new powers would be devolved to a partnership of existing local councils who would deliver on a joint programme working alongside a wide range of other local stakeholders. Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a final business case to present to Government for approval later in the year.

Any final deal would require local consent with the full agreement of all the constituent councils as well as Parliamentary approval.

Every penny of the extra £9.4m will be spent making our roads more resilient

Every penny of the extra £9.4 million for Devon, announced in the Chancellor's budget recently, will be spent on improving our roads and making them more resilient. Most of it will go towards the Local Area Capital Programmes, which will reflect local priorities identified through our elected members and Neighbourhood Highway Officers.

Using inspections and survey data, the remaining funding will be directed to preventative works to stop potholes forming in the first place. Prolonged spells of very wet weather and freezing road temperatures this winter have been hugely detrimental to the condition of our 8,000 mile road network. To tackle it, over the past few months, we doubled the number of pothole teams, introduced weekend working and extended working hours across the network. That resulted in up to 2,200 potholes being repaired each week.

District Councillors' Report – April 2023

Council Tax

South Hams District Council has agreed a rise in the council's element of the Council Tax of £5 a year for a Band D property. This equates to just under 2.8%, 10p a week, and is slightly less than the maximum 2.9% allowed by the Government. A Band D property in South Hams will pay [£185.42pa](#).

Devon County Council's increase is the maximum 4.99%, a rise of £77.67 a year for a Band D property - [£1,634.13pa](#),

Devon and Cornwall Police increase by 6%, a rise of [£15](#) to [£261.56pa](#)

Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue increase by 5.45% rise of £5 - [£96.79pa](#)

Average Parish Council Precept 3.5% to [£80pa](#) (varies according to Parish)

- Council agreed to charge double Council Tax on second homes, joining several other Local Authorities across the country who have agreed to implement this rise. This is dependent on legislation being passed by the Government to allow it to happen. If enacted it will make a useful addition to Council income, as there are over 4000 second homes in the South Hams.
- Council voted for toilets in Council ownership to return to having free admission. There will be discussions on supporting town and parish councils which have taken on responsibility for their toilets

Hydrogen Power Hub to be sited in South Hams

Energy infrastructure provider Carlton Power, who developed the Langage gas fired power station and the nearby Langage Solar Farm, have announced they have secured Government support to build and run a hydrogen production facility at Langage Industrial Estate near Ivybridge. The site has important connections to the National Grid for both gas and high voltage electricity.

This plant will be the first of its kind in Devon and Cornwall and will form part of the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport, which secured Government backing in 2022.

Under the scheme, Langage will provide local companies, such as transport fleets and heavy construction machinery with easy access to hydrogen fuel. In addition, the site will support the further growth of renewable electricity generation in the South West by producing and storing hydrogen at times when renewable output is high, but electricity demand is low.

In addition, the Council is in negotiation with defence contractor Babcock who are interested in a potential large site next to the A38 at Deep Lane, part of the Sherford development.

Babcock want to use the site for service and storage of equipment as part of their contract for maintenance of Royal Navy non-nuclear vessels

These two sites if they go ahead should provide stable, high quality employment for workers in our area.

Voter ID

There may be residents without access to the internet or a computer who require extra support applying for Voter ID. Residents can call the election team to make an appointment to help complete their application.

Call the team to make an appointment

to help complete your application

for Voter ID online or at the SHDC election office.

Tel: **01803 861434**

We will need your National Insurance number and date of birth.

Key Dates for Residents

- Register to vote by 11:59pm on **Monday 17 April**
- Apply for postal vote by 5pm on **Tuesday 18 April**
- Apply for Voter Authority Certificate by **Tuesday 25 April**
- VOTING DAY **4th MAY**

Garden Waste Update

The new South Hams garden waste collection service first collections took place within two weeks of 6 March. New collection rounds have been set up, serving more than 11,000 residents, who are charged £49 a year. After four days staff had visited 4,700 subscribed properties and only had 22 missed collections reported by the public, which for the first week of a new service is a fantastic achievement. We are encouraging residents to check their garden waste collection day as it may be on a different day to their refuse and recycling by visiting www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday.

SHDC is on target for the predicted 25% take up rate, we anticipate that this will increase once the growing season begins.

The Government's long awaited Environment Bill is due to be published shortly. It's expected it will contain changes to regulations affecting waste and recycling collections by Councils. SHDC Officers are waiting to see what the implications of these proposed changes are before making further plans to change and upgrade the waste and recycling service we currently provide.

UK Emergency Alert Service launched – test taking place on 23 April 2023

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system is now live. The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding. The Emergency Alerts system will allow the government to get urgent messages quickly to nearly 90 percent of mobile phones in a defined area. A UK-wide alerts test will take place in the early evening of 23 April, which will see people receive a test message on their mobile phones. Your mobile phone or tablet may:

- Make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent.
- Vibrate
- Read out the alert.

The sound and vibration will last for about ten seconds.

It is important to note:

- Alerts will only ever come from the government or emergency services, and they will issue a warning, the details of the area impacted, and instructions about how best to respond.
- Emergency Alerts will be used very rarely – only being sent where there is an immediate risk to people's lives – so people may not receive an alert for months, or even years.
- Initial use will focus on the most serious severe weather-related incidents, including severe flooding in England.
- Alerts are secure, free to receive, and one-way. They do not reveal anyone's location or collect personal data.
- If you don't have a mobile phone and in the event of an emergency, you will be informed via other channels such as TV and radio.

For more information visit: www.gov.uk/alerts

Raising Awareness around the Cost of Living

As part of our Cost of Living action plan, SHDC Communications team has been supplying local newspapers with articles on the cost of living, for both South Hams and West Devon. SHDC will continue to raise awareness around these issues, and the support available.

Wild About Devon Grants

Grants of up to £500 are available for Devon community wildlife projects. The [Wild About Devon](#) grant scheme is [open for new applications](#), having been extended following from a successful first round.

The aim of this grant scheme is to provide an easy way for community groups to access small amounts of funding to start a wildlife group or carry out activities that promote wildlife. Funds can be used for advice, equipment and other resources.

The Big Help Out

The Big Help Out is encouraging us all to roll up our sleeves and volunteer in the local area on Monday 8 May to celebrate the King's Coronation.

This is a great opportunity to reflect on the legacy of His Majesty's service and showcase the impact of volunteering within communities.

Residents can visit the [Big Help Out website](#) to find out how they can lend a hand within the South Hams this May. This event is a great way to get involved in the local community and meet like-minded people!

There is something for everyone to get involved in from lending a hand to improve a village green to helping the Ramblers keep our public footpaths in action. It is also a great way to promote volunteering opportunities. Organisations can register with [The Big Help Out](#) to be matched with willing local volunteers.

New Local Electric Charging Points

Scottish Power have recently commissioned some further electric charging points within our car parks. Electric Charging Points are now available at the following car parks:

- Glanvilles Mill car park, Ivybridge (Highways England)
- Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth
- Creek car park, Salcombe
- Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury
- Pavilions car park, Totnes
- Victoria Street car park, Totnes
- Quay car park, Kingsbridge

Awaiting installation/commissioning are:

- Fore Street car park, Kingsbridge
- Park & Ride car park, Dartmouth

Further works are required to paint the EV bays and this will be carried out in due course. In the meantime, all these sites are available for use by the public.

DNPA Report – April 2023

Princetown Visitor Centre

Following intensive pressure from our local MPs meeting with the Environment Secretary regarding the financial pressure all National Parks find themselves under in the current financial climate, an agreement has been secured whereby all National Parks will receive a one-off grant of £400,000 for this financial year. Whilst very welcome it is important to note that this is only a stop-gap measure.

One immediate welcome benefit will be that the Princetown Visitor Centre will remain open for all this year. The Authority remains in discussion with the Duchy of Cornwall as to how best to manage the Centre in the future, as it is housed in the old Dutchy Hotel in Princetown which requires substantial long term maintenance.

Renewal of Agri-Environment Schemes

There has been much concern amongst Dartmoor Commoners and others over Natural England's proposals around renewal of grazing agreements on the commons, particularly where this also involves SSSIs. In order to secure new agreements graziers have been asked to substantially reduce livestock numbers, particularly overwintering sheep, with obvious implications for the viability of their businesses.

Whilst not directly involved in these renewals, DNP has been contacted by concerned commoners and following various discussions with interested parties is:-

- calling for a 12 month extension to current Higher Level Stewardship agreements;
- proposing an independent review of the situation regarding agri-environment agreements, future of farming, food and fibre production and delivery of public benefits to inform an agreed action plan
- convening a meeting on 4 April 2023 of all key stakeholders to seek clarity on the current situation; and,
- will work with local MPs to seek their support.

MPs Sir Geoffrey Cox,(Tavistock) Sir Gary Streeter(West Devon) and Anthony Mangnall (Totnes), whose constituencies all include large parts of Dartmoor are also calling for an independent inquiry into management of the Commons on Dartmoor, and for a 12 month extension of all current agri-environment schemes.

DNP Officers will present a report on these issues to the Authority meeting scheduled for 14 April 2023. This is a public meeting and people can register to speak

Appeal re. Backpack Camping

DNP have yet to hear if they will be granted leave to appeal in the wild camping judgement.. There is no timeline for a decision by the Court of Appeal. As soon as we hear anything we will notify interested parties. If we do get permission to appeal then the next step will be a report to Authority seeking authority to proceed with the appeal (subject to legal advice).

On a separate but related matter, the crowdfunding initiative has now raised over £40,000 which we understand means a total (with gift aid) of just over £50,000. The donations have come from 1,425 individuals.

Finally, we are still working on the permissive agreement for backpack camping. We met with Dartmoor Commons Owners' Association earlier this week and the latest (and hopefully final version) is with our lawyers. The aim is that the agreements will commence at the beginning of April 2023.

Ranger Team

Following the conclusion of the Business Review there has been a slight change to the structure of the Ranger team, Simon Lee is Head Ranger and Ella Briens has been appointed Deputy Head Ranger and will assist with the day-to-day management of the team. Ella will also retain a small sector. Rob Steemson's role has changed and Rob will now be a Sector Ranger. Importantly Rob will no longer be the Emergency Officer contact for the Authority. Simon will be the new Emergency Officer contact with Ella as Deputy Emergency officer. The new emergency contact number is: **07745 734647**

It is with great pleasure that I can confirm that Ethan Parsons position as Assistant Ranger has now been made permanent. Ethan will continue to assist the Ranger team on the west side of the moor.

Brentor Church car park

At the Authority meeting in early March Members took the decision to devolve the running of the car park at Brentor Church from DNP to Brentor Parochial Church Council. This will allow the PCC to run and maintain the carpark and toilets. They plan to introduce charges for parking, the revenue raised being used for the upkeep of the toilets and surrounding area.

Cllr Peter Smerdon, SHDC Ward Member for South Brent Cllr.Smerdon@southhams.gov.uk

Dartmoor National Park Authority Member Peter.Smerdon@dartmoor.gov.uk

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