

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Cllrs T Crook (Chair for this meeting), R Applegarth, L Grun & C McLean

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Pannell and Rob Steemson (DNPA)

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

040723.01	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr B Owen• Cllr Fairman• Ross Gray
040723.02	<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>
040723.03	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>
040723.04	<p>Ratification of Minutes</p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 May 2023. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
040723.05	<p>Reports</p> <p>5.1 County Council No report.</p> <p>5.2 District Council Cllrs Pannell and Hancock circulated a written report:</p> <p>Town and Parishes Forum</p> <p>SHDC will be holding an online Town and Parish Council Forum at 6.p.m. on Wednesday 26 July 2023. This will be the start of conversations with our Towns and Parishes with the initial focus for discussions being on developing our priorities for the next four-year term. An invite has already been sent to Clerks, with instructions on how to join.</p> <p>Prioritising climate and biodiversity action</p> <p>We have pledged £40,000 to support the work of Sustainable South Hams and the formation of a new council advisory panel for climate matters. Our Executive has agreed to give the substantial grant to Sustainable South Hams to continue their district-wide work in fighting climate change. The organisation supports grassroots climate projects across the South Hams, sharing knowledge and inspiration between its member groups. Our new Climate Change and</p>

Biodiversity Advisory Group will use specialist and expert knowledge to support ours and wider community's climate ambitions. Its core aim will be helping develop district-wide projects that have an influence on lowering carbon emissions.

More support with the Cost of Living

With the cost of living crisis still biting for many residents across the District, we are looking at more ways to get support to those who need it through our Household Support Fund. The Executive Committee have agreed to take immediate steps to move quickly to get support payments to those who need it the most. Used to help cover basics essential living costs like food, energy, water and other necessities the households may need, we are spending £168,598 from the Department of Work and Pensions to help residents until the end of summer, with a further £206,064 for the winter period. An additional surplus of £48,245 from the Council Tax Support Fund will be used to top-up the existing Exceptional Household Fund which supports residents receiving Council Tax Reduction and are still struggling to pay their Council Tax.

My Place, My Views

Last summer we launched our 'My Place, My Views' survey. The results told us about our residents' experiences accessing facilities and services where they live. The views shared with us, together with the information collected in Neighbourhood Plans and the mandates of our elected councillors, will now directly inform our future approach to our Joint Local Plan (JLP). There are several ways to explore the talking points raised from My Place, My Views:

- Use our interactive dashboard to view what residents said about the areas they live in by clicking on our interactive maps, graphs, and tables.
- View our Future Talking Points report which provides our overview of the key recurring topics and themes raised during the consultation which will inform our future work including future conversations about the Joint Local Plan
- View the original consultation page to see comments and our Questions and Answers page.

New online service to help tenants

Tenants of all types of landlord across South Hams are now able to report housing disrepair issues through our new and simplified service. As part of our ongoing commitment to improve housing standards across the District, tenants can benefit from a new online form, making the process quicker and easier to report a housing repair issue. They can use the online service to upload photos and will then be provided with a clear point of contact for advice and support. Tenants can expect a response to their enquiry within two weeks, with emergency situations dealt with more quickly. This new online service supports our work in ensuring that housing issues are continuously monitored and resolved in a timely manner. Where appropriate, we will continue to inspect properties and contact landlords directly, working closely with Registered Providers to report and track the progress of any issues on the tenant's behalf.

Active Devon Volunteer Award

Nominations are now open for the Active Devon Volunteer Awards. For the second year running, the awards will recognise people across Devon who go the extra mile, giving up their time and energy to make a big difference to the health and wellbeing of others in their local community, helping them to be more active.

5.3 DNPA

Rob Steemson advised that he has now taken on the role of Sector Ranger and looks after five parishes including Holne. A major part of his role is dealing with members of the public out on the moor including 49 weekend days. This means there is more limited time for Public Rights of Way work, however when he took over the role in April there were 12

	<p>defects on the system on PROW and 9 have been completed. The other three defects are linked to Combestone and erosion of bridleways. (Problems on public rights of way within Dartmoor National Park can be reported by the public on DNPA's website.) He has now been given this year's path survey to complete and will be assessing the infrastructure on each of the paths he is responsible. He invited Cllr Crook to walk some of the paths with him. He commented on the recent landslide in the Dart Valley which is possibly linked to the pipe track. He does a lot of work with the police as well; this week is Anti-Social Behaviour week.</p>
<p>040723.04</p>	<p>Minutes</p> <p>4.1 Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23 May 2023. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
<p>040723.05</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>5.1 County Council</p> <p>Cllr Thomas highlighted one relevant item from the County Council:</p> <p>Find out about grants and funding for businesses and community groups in Devon</p> <p>Devon County Council's recent <i>Cost of Living Spotlight Review</i> looks at the scope for improving our offer to communities that are struggling with increasing costs. The review highlights the financial pressures facing community and voluntary organisations that provide support to vulnerable people. For many of these organisations, grant funding can be a lifeline.</p> <p>Devon Funding News is published by the Economy, Enterprise & Skills team to provide information about grants, loans and other financial support that organisations in Devon can apply for. This might be a £500,000 research grant for a business partnership or £500 to help a local voluntary group.</p> <p>You can search Devon Funding News for live funding opportunities and subscribe to the site for regular updates straight to your inbox. The service is free of charge and available to anyone in Devon who wants to keep up to date with the latest funding news. Find out more at www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews</p> <p>Did you know that we also offer a grant search service? We subscribe to Grantfinder – a database of over 7,000 funding opportunities. We can search the database to find grants suitable for all kinds of projects across Devon. Please get in touch if you are looking for funding for a business, charity or community group in your area. Contact funding@devon.gov.uk</p> <p>5.2 District Council</p> <p>Cllr Pannell circulated a written report:</p> <p>New Council - as a result of the Local Elections on 4th May, the Liberal Democrats are now the majority party for the first time since South Hams District Council was formed in the 1970s. There are 19 LibDem Members, 7 Conservatives, 3 Greens, 1 Labour and 1 Independent. The two Members for South Brent Ward are David Hancock and Guy Pannell.</p> <p>Waste - At a Special Council meeting on 13th April SHDC Members debated and unanimously approved a report from Officers detailing how the Waste and Recycling service will be updated to ensure all SHDC residents receive the full Devon Aligned Service (DAS) including glass and food waste collection from the doorstep. We have been waiting for the Governments delayed Environment Bill to be published which should detail improvements to waste collection particularly around food waste, however for reasons of expediency the</p>

	<p>Council has decided to put underway changes now ahead of this. Currently approximately 22,500 households receive the full DAS, 15,000 are on a weekly co-mingled collection which allows all materials to be recycled at Chelson Meadow, Plymouth, except food waste, and a further 8000 (including most of the South Brent Ward) are still on the old blue and clear sacks. These households have to recycle glass using bottle banks (if they have them) and have to put food waste in the black bin for incineration. Following extensive research and modelling by our Officers aided by industry experts, plans have been drawn up to ensure that the waste and recycling service both remains within the revenue budget 23/24 and provides the full DAS to all South Hams residents by October 2023. This will involve two main strands:</p> <p>(1) The purchase of additional vehicles (8x 7.5 tonne narrow access and 2x 12 tonne kerbside sort trucks) £2.16million funded from earmarked Vehicle and Plant reserves.</p> <p>(2) The use and upgrade of SHDCs site at Torr Quarry, Kingsbridge as an additional offload site for the Kingsbridge/Salcombe/Dartmouth area to relieve pressure on Ivybridge and ensure faster turnaround of trucks, £0.5 million funded from internal borrowing.</p> <p>The Torr Quarry site will need upgrading to meet new Environment Agency rules around the bulk storage of waste and recyclates, mainly relating to access and additional new fire protection measures such as a massive water tank etc. With significant lead times for the procurement and implementation of 1 and 2 above the earliest operational window is October 2023, hence the need for the Special Council to put these measures underway.</p> <p>Street Cleaning, a key priority, has been remodelled to ensure that all key areas are covered by a large mechanical sweeper on a 6 weekly schedule while the small mechanical sweepers are used in the main towns and close areas. Frequent emptying and unreliability mean use of these small vehicles are being reviewed against newer technology. The Garden Waste service continues to operate smoothly, by March 2023 11,356 households had signed up, totalling 12,000 subscriptions and achieving the budgeted income target of £575,000.</p> <p>5.3 DNPA Rob Steemson was not present at the meeting but sent the following report:</p> <p>'After some changes within the DNPA Ranger Service I am now your new Sector Ranger. I say new with slight trepidation, as for me it is a renewal of covering Holne after a forty year absence whilst undertaking various other roles within the Authority. I already know some of you and look forward to meeting the rest of you soon.</p> <p>After being provided with the outstanding list of Public Rights of Way issues (luckily not many) in early April I can confirm that over the last few weeks I have walked and surveyed all the paths and fixed/repaired all the problems.'</p>
<p>040723.06</p>	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Payments for Approval The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMRC (PAYE) - £177 • EDF (Electricity for DAAT mast) - £148.89 • BNC Electrical Contractors (fitting of defibrillator cabinet) - £153.60 • Matt Powell (no parking sign) - £50 <p>6.2 Members considered a request to retrospectively approve the cost of refurbishing the Ukrainian Flag (£50.93). After a brief discussion, it was agreed to approve this as a one-off payment under s.137 LGA 1972.</p>
<p>040723.07</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>7.1.1 0279/23 - Glebe House, Holne Purpose built bat house</p>

	Members had no objections to this application.
040723.08	<p>Village Hall Committee Members received a request for a member of the Parish Council to join the Village Hall Committee. After discussion, Cllr Crook offered to attend their next meeting to hear more about their concerns.</p>
040723.09	<p>Playpark Following the informal meeting at play park (the notes of which had been circulated to members), Cllr Applegarth reported that he had cut the grass and moved the chippings. The fence posts and two new gates need purchasing (£242.25 + delivery). It was agreed to purchase the materials and organise a volunteer day to carry out the work (August/September). Cllr Crook will contact the Playpark Committee to let them know.</p> <p>With regard to the rotten inclined climber, Cllr Crook reported that he is exploring options for replacing this. He is in touch with a company who will visit the site in order to provide a quotation for replacement; he also suggested that it could be an option that the Council purchases a post and arranges to chain-saw the steps in and fit the post with new brackets (subject to insurance requirements).</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth reported that he has changed the basketball net. He will also advise Tom at the Church House Inn that Council will be putting up the 'no parking' sign next to the leat in the village.</p> <p>Leave the area between the leat and the southern area of the play park as a shaded area and not strimming it. The wildflower/scything group will manage this area and the Council will monitor this to ensure this is carried out as agreed. It has also been requested that a metre at the bottom of the hedge on the north and east side left which would allow bracken but also smaller plants to grow in the summer. Every three years this would be cut back to the hedge. It was agreed to try this and review it.</p> <p>Members discussed the presence of hogweed in the leat and how this is managed. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the wildflower group should manage the leat in the 'no cut' area but the rest will be strimmed.</p> <p>Cllr Crook will also cut up a log for seating in the willow structure and move some logs to clearly demark the hedge area.</p> <p>It was agreed to email a copy of the map to Geoff.</p>
040723.10	<p>Devon Air Ambulance Lighting Mast Cllr Applegarth advised that DAAT tested the light and it was found not to be working. It has now been fixed. The EDF contract has now been changed and the Council is now on a new, cheaper tariff (fixed for three years).</p>
040723.11	<p>Leats There were no new issues reported.</p>
040723.12	<p>Highways and Footpaths The kissing gate on the footpath to Holne Woods is broken. Rob Steemson will look at this.</p> <p>A reflector post, which has fallen into the leat on the top road, has been reported.</p>
040723.13	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None</p>

040723.14	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
040723.15	Correspondence 15.1 Members received an invitation to attend the online Town and Parish Forum on 26 July. Cllr Crook will attend.
040723.16	Date of Next Meeting The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 5 September 2023 at 7.30pm in Holne Village Hall.

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Cllr T Crook
Chair