

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and District Cllr Pannell

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.30pm.

051223.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Owen• Cllr Fairman• County Cllr Thomas• Rob Steemson (DNPA)• Ross Gray (Tree Warden)
051223.02	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 or requests for dispensation.</p>
051223.03	Open Forum <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>
051223.04	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 November 2023. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
051223.05	Reports <p>5.1 County Council Cllr Thomas was unable to attend the meeting but advised that he and Nick Colton (Highways Officer) would be happy to attend a site meeting in the New Year to look at the roads and explore possibilities around speed reduction where possible.</p> <p>5.2 District Council Cllr Pannell gave a report, a copy of which is attached.</p> <p>He also reported on DNPA:</p> <p>In his Autumn Statement the Chancellor announced that £10m would be available for National Landscapes but it can only be used for capital costs.</p> <p>Dean Kinsella has been appointed the new Head of Planning. Chris Hart will become the Principal Planner, James Aven will be the Principal Planning Enforcement Officer and Olver Dorrell has been promoted to Senior Planning Officer.</p> <p>A first response has been submitted in response to the review of protected sites.</p>

	<p>5.3 DNPA Rob Steemson was unable to attend the meeting but sent a written report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A contractor order has been done for a new stile on the permitted path down the O Brook from Saddle Bridge • I am meeting a contractor on Wednesday to look at all the potential tree work in the Gallant Le Bower triangle of land that DNPA own • The reported old damaged waymark posts on the Combestone to Week ford path have been removed as due to increased use the path is now obvious • After a phone call, the fallen trees that were reported on the footpath between Gallant Le Bower to Holne Bridge were cleared quickly
051223.06	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Payments for Approval The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holne Village Hall – 12 months hire - £140 <p>6.2 Members noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023. Clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.</p> <p>6.3 Members received draft budget proposals for 2024/25. A final decision will be made in January's meeting.</p>
051223.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals None</p> <p>7.2 Decisions</p> <p>7.2.1 0442/23 – Meadow Leat Cottage, Holne Alterations to existing dwelling</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional consent</p>
051223.08	<p>Playpark Cllr Crook is meeting with Richmond Building Services at the weekend who will be installing steps to the side of the tunnel in playpark. He also advised that he had carried out some outstanding jobs in playpark including moving the logs from behind the wild area and has made some seats for the willow structure.</p> <p>It was agreed that a volunteer day should be arranged for Saturday 3rd February to carry out any outstanding maintenance jobs and discuss the future maintenance of the playpark equipment.</p>
051223.09	<p>Holne Park Farm Woodland Management Plan Consultation It was agreed to ask Ross Gray to review the proposals and comment on behalf of the Parish Council</p>
051223.10	<p>Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Cllr Grun reported that a representative from Sustainable South Hams is willing to attend the meeting in February. The clerk will confirm arrangements directly with the speaker and Cllr Crook take steps to publicise it within the parish.</p>
051223.11	<p>Leats There have been some issues this month. Cllr Applegarth advised that the biggest issue has been maintaining the flow of the leat running through the churchyard. The problems seem to be around the piped leats where debris is getting stuck. It was noted again that landowners are responsible for the leats running through their properties but the Parish Council may be able to encourage communication between particular landowners about the issues and how they might be resolved.</p>

051223.12	<p>Highways and Footpaths Members accepted County Cllr Thomas's offer to meet in the New Year with Nick Colton to discuss the speed issues. Parishioners wishing to be involved in leading on this should also be invited.</p>
051223.13	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda None</p>
051223.16	<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 The pub has sourced a Christmas Tree and the community will make arrangements to put it up and decorate it. It was suggested that the money in the budget allocated to the cost of the tree might be used to improve the lights/decorations.</p>
051223.17	<p>Correspondence None</p>
051223.18	<p>Date of Next Meeting The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 2 January 2024 at 7.30pm in Holne Village Hall.</p>

.....
Cllr T Crook
Chair

District Councillors' report - December

Progress of new recycling service

The rollout of the Devon Aligned Service (DAS) for our recycling and waste collections began on 20 November. It has gone as smoothly as we could have wished, with only a small number of complaints.

Residents can support us by reporting a missed collection on our website. The way we will measure the success of the service is via Whitespace (computer programme), which is why it's so important that missed collections are logged online. Reporting online allows us to address missed collection data in real time and improve our service.. We will try to collect missed collections within two working days of receiving the report. Residents can visit our Missed Collections page to let us know if we haven't collected their waste and recycling. Householders still presenting recycling bags or extra cardboard will receive a note explaining where they have gone wrong. It is hoped to reintroduce the collection of extra cardboard within a few weeks. Some residents may wish to make a complaint about a different aspect of the service. Complaints should generally be logged online – find out more here: www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/comments-and-complaints/complaints-and-feedback

Devolution Deal for Devon and Torbay

Devon County Council has received confirmation that the Government has given the green light for plans for a devolution deal. The proposed plans would create a Combined County Authority (CCA), a partnership between Devon County Council, Torbay Council, Exeter City Council and other district councils across Devon. Plymouth City Council have decided not to join the partnership. Importantly, the deal would not change any of the councils' established democratic structures and our responsibilities for the delivery of local services would remain unchanged. The deal would include new funding to support skills training and new jobs for the growing green economy.

This is part of a wider package of powers and funding being negotiated for transfer from Whitehall to local government in Devon and Torbay. A formal announcement with further details from Government is expected in the forthcoming Autumn Statement. There will be an eight-week public consultation on the proposal to create a Combined County Authority which would have responsibility for any powers devolved from Whitehall.

New Planning IT System

At the end of November South Hams Council introduced a new Planning IT system. This does not apply to parishes or parts of parishes within Dartmoor National Park. The new system will bring a range of benefits and improvements to our Planning Service. It will bring efficiencies to officer work streams and lead to quicker decisions for our customers.

Single Person Discount Review

The Council has begun a Single Person Discount Review of those receiving a 25% reduction in their Council Tax because they are the sole adult occupant of their property. Just over 14,000 occupants in the area receive a 25% Single Occupancy discount, which reduces 2023/24 Council Tax bills by over £7million. The Single Person Discount Review is being carried out Devon wide and funded by Devon County Council. Due to the numbers involved, it will be performed by a company called Capacity Grid, part of a larger company called Liberata, who will match Single Person Occupancy data to other information, to identify cases where there may be the potential of a second occupant. Those residents will receive a review letter and once issued there will shortly be available a link on our website (and only our website): - www.southhams.gov.uk/spd-review - for residents to complete the review form and provide confirmation that they are the sole occupant. For residents who are not able to get online or need additional assistance, they can call Capacity Grid on freephone 0808 168 8923, where someone will be happy to help with completion of the form.

Thermal Imaging Camera Hire Service

As part of our commitment to help reduce carbon emissions in our area and help people improve the energy efficiencies of their homes, we have four thermal imaging cameras available for use by town and parish councils, or local communities on a free to borrow basis.

Following a successful trial undertaken by Bigbury Net Zero over the winter of 2022/2023, which was supported through our Climate Engagement Fund, we have been using the result to develop a thermal imaging camera hire scheme.

Applications to hire one can be made by Town and Parish Councils or organised community groups only. Cameras are available to borrow for up to two weeks. It is expected that applicants will use the cameras with local residents to survey several homes within the hire period.

South Hams Community Action

At their AGM, the trustees of the South Hams Council for Voluntary Service announced that with immediate effect, the CVS would be rebranded South Hams Community Action. During the AGM, the South Hams Community Action team set out their ambitious plans for the organisation. We are looking forward to working with them over the coming years.

Free Skills Training for Residents

Having up-to-date skills in an ever changing workplace jobs market is a great way to stand out from the crowd!

For residents looking to kickstart a new career, upskill or change roles, the Skills Bootcamp might be the thing for them.

The Skills Bootcamp offers FREE, flexible training in a range of exciting sectors for those aged 19+ living in Devon - so our residents automatically apply for the scheme.

Rough sleeper estimate

Each year, we are required to submit an estimate of how many rough sleepers are out on any given night to the Government. This year our estimate was over the night of 6 November into 7 November. For 23/24, the official number of people verified as being out was five. Four of them were in Totnes, while one is in South Brent. This remains unchanged for 22/23, when the figure was also five. However, they are not the same people. The severe weather emergency accommodation is activated when the temperature is predicted to be zero, and people remain accommodated during this period. We also accommodate on amber weather warnings.

AONBs renamed National Landscapes

All designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales are becoming National Landscapes, including South Devon. The new name reflects their national importance; the vital contribution they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, while also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that they do.

This is a significant milestone for the UK and the next step in fully realising the National Landscapes' vision to be the leading exemplars of how thriving, diverse communities can work with and for nature in the UK: restoring ecosystems, providing food, storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change, safeguarding against drought and flooding, while also nurturing people's health and wellbeing. You can find out more on the South Devon National Landscapes.