

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllrs B Owen (Chair), M Fairman, L Grun & C McLean

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Thomas, District Cllr Hancock, Ross Gray (Tree Warden) and 7 members of the public

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.30pm.

071123.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Applegarth• Cllr Crook• District Cllr Pannell• Rob Steemson (DNPA)
071123.02	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>Cllr McLean declared an interest in item 7.1.1.</p>
071123.03	Open Forum <p>A member of the public requested that the agendas and minutes be circulated on the Holybrook Exchange. She also advised that she had written to the MP about potholes and was told that DCC has been given an extra £9million towards pothole repairs. She followed this up with a letter to DCC advising that she had not seen any improvement and received a comprehensive response. She will forward this to the Parish Council for information. County Cllr Thomas advised that all potholes should be reported on DCC's website and provided the pothole meets the criteria, they should be filled. However, it is to be noted that work is prioritised according to the hierarchy of the road and as this decreases the time frame for repair extends. A third party contractor is responsible for filling them and they will only respond to individual reports. They will therefore not fill other potholes along the same stretch of road if they have not been reported. The Chairman advised that all members of the public can report a pothole (https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/)</p> <p>The layby opposite the playpark has been taken over by parked vehicles. The Chair advised that she can provide an update on this at item 14.1.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the speed of traffic along Holne bypass and up to the cattle grid and beyond. It was noted that there is no speed restrictions in and around Holne and therefore there is no signage. County Cllr Thomas advised that he is very happy to work with Parish Councils to look at ways of introducing speed restrictions as he has done in Ermington over the last two years.</p> <p>Ross Gray, Tree Warden, commented on the works at Venford Reservoir. He has been liaising with the contractor about one or two issues including the drainage. He has also looked carefully at the proposed Holne Chase Woodland Management plan and has prepared a response on behalf of the</p>

	<p>Parish Council which he read. With reference to Objective 5 <i>'To retain the policy of no public access'</i>, members of the Council have observed that there is limited access (fisherman, holiday cottages etc) and that therefore this objective was rather disingenuous. A member of the Council asked whether individual written requests for access (no dogs) might be supported so that members of the public with a genuine interest in the woodland would be given an opportunity to visit. It was agreed that the Council will formalise its response at item 11.</p> <p>A member of the public commented on the works at Venford and that some more tidying up is required following the recent tree work. It was agreed to contact South West Lakes Trust.</p> <p>A member of the public was interested to hear about the grass cutting contract and the Council's biodiversity aspirations (item 8). She would like to come to an agreement with the Parish Council about how best to communicate an understanding about the management of the wildflower area and biodiversity in playpark. The Chair advised that the open forum is the best place to raise concerns. The Parish Council has also mapped out how it expects the area to be managed and if there are any concerns relating to this then these can be raised at a meeting of the Parish Council for discussion. The Parish Council is responsible for Playpark and therefore all proposed actions relating to its management should come through the Parish Council for agreement.</p>
<p>071123.04</p>	<p>Ratification of Minutes</p> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 October 2023. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
<p>071123.05</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>5.1 County Council</p> <p>Cllr Thomas reported as follows:</p> <p>Storm Ciaran kept Devon Highways teams busy</p> <p>Strong winds and persistent rain led to more than 80 reported incidents of fallen trees, flooded roads and landslips on local roads. Extra staff were drafted in to our Network Operations Control Centre to co-ordinate the response, with more than 30 teams of tree surgeons and 12 emergency call-out teams available to help where needed.</p> <p>The first incidents were reported overnight, with a number of roads temporarily blocked by fallen trees before they were cleared. Winds eased in the early hours which provided a calm but wet start to the morning until conditions started to deteriorate again. As the stormy conditions picked up, further reports of blocked roads were dealt with.</p> <p>As a general reminder, people are encouraged to report any property flooding on the Flood Online Reporting Tool at: www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/report-flooding-to-property/ and any further information can be provided to our Flood Risk Management team via email to floodrisk@devon.gov.uk</p> <p>Mobile Library Review & A3121 speed limit (Ermington)</p> <p>These will be considered at Cabinet on Wednesday morning (8th November).</p> <p>5.2 District Council</p> <p>Cllr Hancock gave a report, a copy of which is attached.</p> <p>To item 12, SHDC is very supportive of Climate and Biodiversity mitigation. Cllr Hancock is happy to signpost the Parish Council to relevant groups.</p> <p>5.3 DNPA</p> <p>Rob Steemson was unable to attend the meeting but sent a written report as follows:</p> <p>Apart from Watery lane (BW15) that had a couple of trees down after the recent storm which will be cleared this week, I am not aware of any other damage or issues on the public rights of way network.</p>

	<p>Some parishioners had mentioned that the DNPA owned area at Gallant le Bower was very overgrown and untidy. I had a look and generally agree so reported this into the office. I am meeting our ecologist on site soon to discuss how we can improve the area and reinstate the small circular walking route.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to report to Rob that there are a number of trees down on the footpath from Gallant Le Bower to Holne Bridge. Also, the stile is in a poor condition/unsafe at O'Brook/Saddlebridge.</p>
071123.06	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Payments for Approval</p> <p>The following payments were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G Partridge (grass cutting April-October) - £900 • RBL (poppy wreath) - £30
071123.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>7.1.1 0442/23 – Meadow Leat Cottage, Holne Alterations to existing dwelling</p> <p><i>Having declared an interest, Cllr McLean left the meeting for this item.</i></p> <p>Members had no objections to this application.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions</p> <p>7.2.1 0401/23 – Glebe House, Holne Partial demolition of staircase, timber treatment and replacement to match the existing (part retrospective)</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional consent</p>
071123.08	<p>Playpark</p> <p>The Chair reported on a very successful pumpkin carving competition.</p> <p>A proposal was put forward that the Parish Council pays for the 'no dog poo' sign which was reported on last month. This was agreed up to a limit of £100. The Chair will advise the Playpark Committee of the decision and ask them to organise it.</p> <p>It was agreed to consider the grass cutting contract in January.</p> <p>Cllr Applegarth has now put the new part on the climbing frame. The inspection reports have flagged up other items which will need attention. It was agreed to review these in advance of the volunteer day in February.</p> <p>Some mats have been generously donated by the contractors carrying out the forestry work at Venford (GAP Ltd) to lay around the basketball hoop. Residents will help to lay these.</p>
071123.09	<p>Service of Remembrance</p> <p>Cllr Grun offered to lay the wreath.</p>
071123.10	<p>Christmas Tree</p> <p>Cllr McLean offered to liaise with the Church House Inn about this year's tree.</p>
071123.11	<p>Holne Chase Woodland Management Consultation</p> <p>Members thanked Ross Gray for drafting a response to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed to amend his response to Objective 5 supporting no public access, to request that <u>managed</u> access is considered:</p>

	<p><i>The Council appreciates the need to control the excess growth of Beech and especially Holly because of their adverse effect on the ground flora and some tree mosses and lichens.</i></p> <p><i>However, it urges some restraint on the wholesale war on Beech in view of the increasing need for a greater diversity of species to provide resilience in the face of ever-increasing tree diseases. We have experienced Dutch Elm Disease in the past and currently Ash Dieback decimating these species. Should any of the various pests and diseases affecting Oaks strike out 'protected' Western Oakwoods locally, there should be a diverse range of other tree species present to enhance or replace them. In this instance some Beech and Sycamore would complement the Lime, Birch and minor species in Holne Chase Woodland alongside the predominant Oaks.</i></p> <p><i>With reference to Objective 5 'To retain the policy of no public access' in order to provide an island of tranquility for wildlife to thrive, the Council understands that managed access exists for fishermen, holiday cottages etc and it would support a policy which would accept individual requests for access (no dogs) from members of the public. It can't imagine that the number of requests would be high but it would give those with a genuine interest the opportunity to visit. The Council also requests that the owner gives permission for the Tree Warden for Holne to visit the woodland to observe progress.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, Holne Parish Council requests that it is consulted again at the 5 year review.</i></p>
071123.12	<p>Climate and Biodiversity Emergency</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed to invite a representative of Sustainable South Hams to attend a future meeting to advise the parish on how it should move forward. Cllr Grun offered to contact Sustainable South Hams.</p>
071123.13	<p>Leats</p> <p>The leat WhatsApp group has carried out some work during the recent storm whilst Cllr Applegarth was away. There are no current issues.</p>
071123.14	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p>14.1 To receive correspondence regarding parking in the unofficial layby opposite playpark</p> <p>The owners of the trailers have apologised and advised that the trailers will be moved very soon.</p> <p>14.2 To consider action regarding the speeding traffic along Holne bypass and up to the cattle grid and beyond</p> <p>It was agreed to ask County Cllr Thomas to start to explore the possibility of reducing the speed on Holne bypass from 60mph to 40mph.</p> <p>14.3 Other matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Applegarth has strimmed the edges of the footpath along Church Park. - A Devon bank is collapsing on Michelcombe Lane. The Chair will speak to the landowner.
071123.15	<p>Clerk's or Councillors reports on matters authorised by the Council at previous meetings not otherwise on this agenda</p> <p>None</p>
071123.16	<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</p> <p>None</p>
071123.17	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None</p>

071123.18

Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 5 December 2023 at 7.30pm in Holne Village Hall.

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Clr B Owen

Chair

District Councillors' report - November

Rollout of the Devon Aligned Service

The final rollout of the Devon Aligned Service (DAS) for our recycling and waste collections will begin later this month, on 20 November. Since bringing the service back in-house in October 2022, we have been delivering three different types of recycling and waste collections to residents. We're now making the final changes so that all residents can recycle the same materials, including food waste and glass, at the kerbside. Every household across the District will be affected by the changes in one way or another. For some, it will just mean a change in their collection day. For others, it will mean they need to change how they present their recycling and waste on the kerbside. We are writing to all households in the South Hams explaining the changes and what it means for them. Residents will start to receive these letters from Monday, 6 November. If residents have not received their new boxes they should report this via the SHDC website.

Rural England Prosperity Fund grants

Further to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme, the Government awarded a further £838,000 of capital funding to SHDC through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). This fund has a more narrow scope than the UKSPF programme, needing to align with our UKSPF activities, and having a strong focus on decarbonisation, clean growth and business diversification and community activities. The investment plan was submitted in November 2022, and the funding was approved in April 2023.

- The 4 grants available are:
 - Decarbonisation Grants
 - Clean Diversification Grants
 - Agri-Tech Adoption Grants
 - Community Resilience Grants

Details of these schemes are available through the Council's website, along with guidance documents, policy documents and the online application forms at:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/budgets-and-finance/budgets-and-spending/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-0>

Further to these grants, part of the funding (approximately £300,000) has also been allocated for the delivery of active and inclusive travel infrastructure. However, the programme is flexible, and funding can be allocated to projects where demand is high, and reduced from projects where demand is low.

Promotional activities are being coordinated to raise awareness of the programme to our businesses and communities. This information will be shared with members. With the grants having gone live in the last few weeks, specific communications activities are being developed to drive traffic to the Council's website. 2 email addresses have also been set up to help funnel grant enquiries to the Place and Economy team. Members are welcome to share these addresses with organisations that are interested in the grants:

businessgrants@swdevon.gov.uk
communitygrants@swdevon.gov.uk

Community Action

South Hams Community Action is holding two events in the next few months that will be of interest to you and your residents:

Mini-conference: Caring organisations

Tuesday 21 November, 10am to 2pm, at Follaton House, Totnes.

All are welcome to our mini conference where Claire Hill, Totnes Caring; Liz Hitchens/Steven Parker Davidson, Four Rivers Dementia Alliance; and Suzie Walters-Jefferies, Devon Carers will talk about the work they are undertaking in the South Hams. The aim of this first mini conference is to enable our caring organisations to network, to learn what other organisations are doing, and also to consider the potential to join together with a future district-wide alliance/peer-support network (around funding and other needs). It will be useful for community leaders to attend to see what is being undertaken and the needs of our groups. There will be a networking lunch from 1pm-2pm.

If you would like to attend either in person or via Teams, please email:

admin@southhamscvs.org.uk

Funding support day

***Hold the date!* Monday 4 December 2023, (times tbc) at Tumbly Hill, Kingsbridge**

Funding bodies, including the National Lottery team, will provide more information on their funding streams and answer questions from attendees. There will also be a workshop on 'How to write a successful bid'.

Please can you disseminate this information to your community and voluntary groups?

Your groups can register interest for the event at this stage as we will need to limit numbers for the sessions. For more information, please email admin@southhamscvs.org.uk.