

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Holne Village Hall on
Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Pannell, Sune Nightingale (Sustainable South Hams), Ross Gray (Tree Warden) and 18 members of the public

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.30pm.

060224.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Crook• County Cllr Thomas• Rob Steemson (DNPA)
060224.02	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>
060224.03	Climate and Biodiversity Emergency <p>Sune Nightingale - a member of 'Sustainable South Hams' (and Parish Councillor in Dittisham) gave a presentation after which followed questions and answers. A summary of the presentation and useful links are attached.</p> <p>Following the presentation, the Chairman thanked Sune for attending and it was agreed by members of the Council that this would be followed up at the next meeting.</p>
060224.04	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 January 2024. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
060224.05	Reports <p>5.1 County Council Cllr Thomas was unable to attend the meeting but sent the administration's view of the Combined County Authority deal (attached).</p> <p>5.2 District Council Cllrs Pannell and Hancock sent a report, a copy of which is attached.</p> <p>Cllr Pannell also sent a report as DNPA Link Member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members may be aware that Mr and Mrs Darwall from Cornwood have been granted leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against the unanimous decision by the Court of Appeal which upheld the right to backpack camp on Commons Land on Dartmoor. No date has been set for this hearing but it is likely to be many months away. In the interim the right to backback camping on Dartmoor remains.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA officials and Ministers are holding dialogues with interested parties, including DNPA and Natural England, following the publication of the Fursden Review into proposed changes to grazing regimes. • At our meeting on Friday members agreed to increase car parking charges in our car parks in line with inflation from £3 to to £3.20 for three hours and from £5 to £5.30 for all day. <p>5.3 DNPA</p> <p>Rob Steemson was unable to attend the meeting but sent a written report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has attended the site meeting last week regarding speeding around the village. • There is a new sign has been erected on FP11 near Chasegate and there are two new signs at either end of FP5 near Michelcombe. • Vegetation clearance has been carried out on FP6 & 16 either side of Langaford hill including clearance of stone steps and new signs ordered. • FP2 has been surveyed in respect of field furniture safety and some works will be done over the next year. The fence and gate will be renewed at top of BW3 on to moor next week. • Work has been done at Rouse`s corner on Holne moor to alleviate flooded car park and water going across the road.
<p>060224.06</p>	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Payments for Approval</p> <p>The following payment was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Crook – Reimbursement for website domain renewal - £57.55
<p>060224.07</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>7.1.1 0024/24 – Glebe House, Holne</p> <p>Repairs, alterations and the erection of a single storey extension</p> <p>Members agreed not to support this application due to the amount of habitat clearance and overdevelopment of the site.</p> <p>7.1.2 DOC/0227/23 7 8 – Glebe House, Holne</p> <p>Discharge of conditions relating to 0227/23 - Proposed repairs and alterations including new staircase and the installation of insulation, damp-proofing and internal finishes to enable the existing ancillary building to be used as a home working office/study</p> <p>Members agreed not to support this application for the same reasons as stated in 7.1.1.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions</p> <p>7.2.2 23/0077 - Churchway Cottage, Holne</p> <p>Works to trees protected by TPO (T2003, Beech: Crown reduction by up to 3m)</p> <p>Members noted that DNPA has consented to these works being carried out.</p>
<p>060224.08</p>	<p>Playpark</p> <p>8.1 Playpark maintenance contract</p> <p>It was agreed to accept Geoff Partridge’s quotation for grass cutting between March and October. The quote is based on one cut per month (8 cuts) with two discretionary cuts to be used as required depending on the growing season @ £110 per cut. It was agreed that Geoff will continue to contact Cllr Applegarth (even at short notice) so that the mole hills can be levelled out when possible.</p> <p>It was noted that some members attended a walkaround of playpark at the weekend and agreed the following actions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with the playpark events group about digging a gap in the mound just inside the south gate at playpark, rather than spending £600 on putting steps in near the tunnel. This will improve access and is a job we can organise ourselves. Action: Belinda (Done) • Trim the metal coping strip on the roof of the old metal play-frame. Action: Richard • Contact the volunteer in Mitchelcombe who was happy to help repair things, and ask him to quote to replace 2x swing gates. Action: Tim • Start to replace the 13 fence posts. Action: Richard • Investigate the cross-beam of the big swing by loosening the bolts and seeing if they can be shimmed or otherwise tightened to reduce play. Action: Richard If the hinge and/or beam needs to be replaced, ask Rhino Play for a quote. Action: Tim • Investigate if there are child-safe wood preservatives on the market we can use to prolong the life of the wooden structure: Action: Tim • Remove bits of the broken goal posts and dispose of through the bin collection. Action: All • Provided the playpark events committee agree with point one, cur through and landscape the inner playpark mound, cutting and reusing turf. Action: Richard • Trim off the rotten tops of the wooden faces of the tunnel. Action: Tim/Richard • Hedges need cutting – Action: Belinda (Paul Pearse to be advised) • Football posts – buy new one – will be funded by Holne Books. Action: Malcolm to purchase
<p>060224.09</p>	<p>Highways and Footpaths <i>Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:</i> https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/</p> <p>Some members of the Council, along with residents, attended a site meeting with Nick Colton, Highways Officer, to discuss speed reduction in the parish.</p> <p>A report from Nick Colton, following the meeting, was noted:</p> <p>‘Amongst several things, it was discussed that the Parish Council may want to source a sign to add to the existing Holne Village nameplates with a message along the lines of please drive slowly. Looking at Google it appears that the two existing signs I can find already incorporate that message but cannot find more than these two so will head out to site later to see if I can find more.</p> <p>England - Google Maps</p> <p>England - Google Maps</p> <p>I’ve designed a Holne sign to be deliberately smaller than the existing so if you have them made they will fix on a single post so therefore it could be fixed to a fence post or similar which will reduce the costs to the PC. It is only a suggestion but they do meet the guidance set out in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.</p> <p>I’ve also agreed to move the new warning signs I installed near Priddons so they are more in advance of the junction and the Parish Councillor present was happy to discuss adding your own signs to the post with the Parish Council. Although I can’t provide new signing I did notice the sign in the attached photo has been installed near Cornwood and thought it was a good example of something that may be useful for you to consider.</p> <p>Finally we discussed the idea of Holne having a 30mph speed limit and I agreed to put together a proposal for the Parish Council to put to the locals to gauge how much support there would be. I’ve put together the attached proposal which would be indicative of where signs would have to be erected if a 30mph limit was advertised and implemented to make the limit enforceable. It will need to be tweaked if it is progressed in the future as some of the signs may not fit at each location but it is a good guide.</p>

	<p>If it is decided the Parish Council wish to proceed with requesting a 30mph limit then it would need to be discussed how it may be funded as I don't have access to a budget to assist. I believe that will be the biggest stumbling block to get over once we get past current DCC policy and as a guide I think the proposal would cost in the region of £10,000.00 to £15,000.00 for the necessary Traffic Regulation Order and associated signs.</p> <p>I have to stress that the attached is just a proposal and it doesn't necessarily meet all of DCC's policy but I know there was a strong desire to cover the area north of Baker's Park, which I have tried to do but it is not possible to cover the whole area to the cattlegrid it would not get approval as it is too rural.'</p> <p>It was agreed to seek quotes to produce two signs stating 'Welcome to Holne - Please Drive Slowly'.</p> <p>Ross Gray and Cllr Crook will also look at designing something appropriate to add to the warning signs near Priddons, as suggested.</p> <p>These matters to be agreed at the next meeting.</p>
<p>060224.10</p>	<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>
<p>060224.11</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>11.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 5 March 2024 at 7.30pm in Holne Village Hall.</p> <p>11.2 The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 4 April and will be attended by a representative from Devon Air Ambulance who will deliver CPR training.</p>

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Cllr Owen
Chair

District Councillors' Report – 6 February 2024

Devolution Deal for Devon and Torbay

Devolution for Devon and Torbay has taken a step nearer with the publication of Government proposals for a ground-breaking deal that could re-draw the future relationship between local government in Devon and Torbay, and Whitehall.

The plans, announced by Levelling Up Minister Jacob Young at an event in Paignton on 25 January, would enable more decisions to be taken locally on issues such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport. The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of a range of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA), subject to public consultation. Under the proposals the new body would have direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030.

Through Local Skills Improvement Plans, the proposed CCA will work with business and education leaders to create a stronger, joined-up relationship between employers and schools, colleges and universities. The Government is proposing to transfer over £16 million of new funding to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy.

The Government is offering a stronger partnership with Homes England, capitalizing on the Affordable Housing Programme and Brownfield Infrastructure and Land Fund to create a joint action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people and reduce homelessness. The proposal includes additional land assembly and compulsory purchase powers and would facilitate greater Community Land Trust-led delivery.

On transport, the proposed Deal builds on Devon County Council and Torbay Councils' long history of working well together on local transport planning. The proposed Deal will strengthen this joined-up approach with Devon and Torbay working as equal partners on a CCA and improving the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport.

The Government is also offering to transfer responsibility for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025.

The CCA would be responsible for working with Devon County Council, Torbay Council, District Councils and the business and education sectors to support high growth business sectors such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital, and improve the look and feel of local communities with street and town centre enhancements.

The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority (CCA), that will not require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils.

The new powers would be devolved to a proposed CCA – a partnership comprising Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education.

Together, the partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of other local stakeholders, to tackle key local priorities.

What happens next?

The next step will be a six-week public consultation on a draft proposal to establish the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DT CCA) beginning on 12 February. The results of the consultation will be considered by Devon County Council and Torbay Council in April, and subject to a decision by both authorities, followed by submission of a final Deal proposal to Government for approval.

If approved, the DT CCA would be established through secondary legislation introduced by Government.

Some critics see this deal as the first step on the road towards the abolition of District Councils in Devon and the creation of one or two Unitary authorities covering the whole county. Will this happen, and what is the timescale, who knows?

Executive approves Council Plan for 2024-5

South Hams District Council's Executive has set out the Council's priorities for the next four years in response to the challenges and opportunities faced by communities across the District. The Executive Committee considered The Council Plan 2024-2028 and its supporting Year 1 delivery plan. It recommended that Council should adopt both plans and approve the funding needed to deliver them. The Council Plan includes four key policy areas: to tackle the housing challenges, address climate change and biodiversity loss, support the economy and deliver good quality services to our communities.

The plan is funded by an investment of £4.59m. This is made up of £1m of money released from reserves and capital schemes that are no longer needed together with £3.59m from the realignment of core budgets and government grants such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. To complement the housing priorities in The Council Plan, The Executive also approved a specific action plan focused on Housing and Homelessness prevention. The focus for the next twelve months includes working with partners and communities to create good quality, genuinely affordable, energy efficient housing and making the best use of housing that already exists.

Another of the Council's key priorities is to do all it can to respond to Climate change and Biodiversity loss . It will do this through supporting changes to agricultural practices and decarbonisation of the marine economy. Another key project is to work with the agriculture sector to develop a 'keep it local' scheme to promote local produce and reduce food miles.

Working with businesses and partner organisation will also be key to achieving the Council's ambition to support a thriving and resilient economy. The community services the Council Delivers is also a key priority. It has pledged in The Council Plan to deliver effective frontline services that address consider the environment and enhance the wellbeing of communities across South Hams.

These four priorities will be underpinned by providing good quality core council services. The Council will do this by working closer with our communities, improving customers access to services, making sure it is financially sustainable and putting the right governance in place.

Grants for climate and ecology projects

District Councillors have been given a budget of £2,000 each to enable them to support a wide range of projects to help us tackle our Climate and Ecological Emergency Declarations. The project should meet one of the objectives in the South Hams Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy. These are:

- Reducing carbon emissions from households, businesses or organisations, including community and voluntary groups
- Supporting behaviour change and sustainable living
- Projects which will result in removal of carbon from the atmosphere through nature-based solutions or supporting improvements in biodiversity
- Providing education and awareness of the Climate and Ecological emergency through direct engagement with hard to reach groups and individuals
- Projects which aim to help communities and species adapt to the effects of Climate Change
- Projects to help reduce organisational carbon footprints

Each Councillor has a budget of £2,000 to help not for private profit groups or organisations to deliver community projects that benefit their Ward or the wider local area.

Garden waste service

South Hams residents can sign up to or renew their subscription for our garden waste collection service from 15 February. The fee is going up this year to cover costs, though we're offering a discount to those who sign up early. Anyone who signs up between 15 February and 1 April 2024 will pay a discounted fee of £52 for a year-long subscription running from April 2024 that covers collections for one brown wheelie bin.

There is a maximum of two subscriptions (which would cover two bins) per household. Anyone who signs up after 31 March will pay £55. This is an increase on last year's fee, but it is necessary to cover rising costs.

The quickest and easiest way for residents to sign up is on our website: www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste - the website is also full of information and useful FAQs on the service. Alternatively, residents can call us on 01803 861234, though we encourage everyone to use the website as it's easier and quicker.

For current subscribers who renew by 1 April, there will be no changes to their service, and they can continue to use their brown bin with no interruptions.

Subscriptions for the 2023/24 year close on 14 February. We will be promoting subscriptions to residents with social media, e-mail newsletters, print advertising and a press release.

Support for our care leavers

At the last meeting of the Executive, it was agreed to adopt our new Employment Policy for care leavers. If you know of a business or organisation who would like to support a care leaver, whether that be through employment, work experience or apprenticeships, please ask them to email hr@swdevon.gov.uk.

Free IT and digital training courses

Our partners Learn Devon have a range of free courses to choose from to help residents build on their digital skills. They could help with things like accessing digital banking, connecting with loved ones online and accessing job and training opportunities.

Courses include help with the first steps to getting online, building computer confidence to gaining a nationally recognized 'Award in Digital Skills'.

County Councillor's Report – 6th February 2024

Here is the administration's view of the Combined County Authority deal. I'm not a fan, but herein is some information and the website, for those of you who wish to, to find out more.

Proposed transfer of powers and funding to local government

The Minister for Levelling Up, Jacob Young, was at the EPIC Centre in Torbay last week to sign a ground-breaking deal that could transfer significant decision-making powers and funding, from Whitehall to local government in Devon and Torbay.

The proposed Deal could mean that more decisions can be taken locally by people who know their areas best, and on things that matter to local people, such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Mr Young was joined yesterday by the Leaders of Devon County Council and Torbay Council, two local MPs, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

But before the proposal can be confirmed, it first needs to be supported by the two councils, followed by a six-week public consultation.

So what is the Devolution Deal?

The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, subject to public consultation.

The proposed Combined County Authority would be a partnership made up of Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education.

Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities.

The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority (hereafter CCA), that will not require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils.

What would the Deal allow the local councils to do?

It would allow important decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best, on things that matter to local people, such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Here's a summary of the highlights:

- under the proposals, the CCA would have direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030
- it would create a stronger relationship between employers and schools, colleges and universities to provide the skilled workforce the local economy needs for the future
- it would see the Government transfer over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy
- there would be a stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people, and reduce homelessness
- it would lead to even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport
- Devon and Torbay would be responsible for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025
- there would be a significant boost to high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital

For more information on the Devolution Deal, there is a website:

www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk

Item 2 – Climate and Diversity Emergency

Sune Nightingale, Sustainable South Hams

Please treat me as a friendly point of contact. I can merrily signpost you on to various people and organisations.

I also like being in contact with other Councillors and clerks outside of just climate & nature - I find it very helpful.

Sustainable South Hams are here to support you - we have lots mentors for a variety of topics, projects which can be done in your community, monthly meetings, big assembly meetings on themed topics, and we can signpost to resources.

There is a mailinglist to sign up to and you can join specialist groups - all for free.

<https://www.sussh.org/>
info@sussh.org

We're keen to encourage that a Councillor in every Parish is put forward as the key contact for climate & environment.

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There are some Projects which I think you could do straight away using up minimal time:

South Dartmoor Community Energy is a great example of an organisation working to reduce our energy use and to reduce energy poverty:
SDCE - <https://www.sdce.org.uk/>

You could book in a free energy efficiency workshop with them:

Mark Skinner
mark@sdce.org.uk
07535 022774

They also do 1-1 home visits

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The Gardening For Wildlife Booklet can be easily adapted for local use.
Contact me initially, Sune Nightingale, hello@beginbystarting.co.uk, 01803 712 695

There's also the hedgehog highways project which you could join in with.

You could apply to your District Councillor to cover the minimal printing costs.

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I mentioned that the Fire Service will do home visits.
On checking the website it says it's currently paused due to high demand but will restart.

H#, here is the link: <https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/safety/home/home-safety-visits>

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I have included the Climate Impact tool report for Holne. It was created here:
<https://impact-tool.org.uk/report?regionId=E04003155&geography=parish>

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I mentioned Devon Local Nature Partnership
<https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/>

You can get support from other Parishes and join in with the Wild About Devon project.

<https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/get-involved/wild-about-devon/>

One of the key contacts of which is Sarah Jennings

Sarah.Jennings@devon.gov.uk

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South Hams District Council have a climate and environment section with Resources for Parish Councils:

<https://southhamsdistrictc.wixsite.com/mysite-4/parish-and-town-councils>

Their Climate Officer is Adam Williams

adam.williams@swdevon.gov.uk

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Action on Climate in Teignbridge are excellent and have a resource pack for Parish Councils:

<https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/newsite/page.php/page/resources-pack-for-town-and-parish-councils>

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Devon has 23 Community Energy Organisations - more than any other County.

There are at least 62 community owned renewable projects in Devon that have saved over 6,000 tonnes of CO2, saved lots of money, and the profits have been ploughed back in to the local community.

There are lots of resources on the Devon Community Energy Network website to help you get started:

<https://www.devoncommunityenergy.org.uk/>

There are some good local examples of community projects:

In South Brent the wind turbine is owned and run by S Brent Community Energy Society
In Totnes the hydro scheme by the weir is owned and run by Tresoc - Totnes Renewable Energy Society.

I'm a member of DCEN so if you'd like to make contact just ask.

South Dartmoor Community Energy are also members.

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The Melt - giant floating artwork project coming to the Dart this summer:

<https://www.the-melt.co.uk/>

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The Gara River water vole reintroduction project:

<https://beginbystarting.co.uk/project/electric-blanket-project/>

Useful Links:

Habitat Clearance



Habitat Clearance.pdf

South Devon Community Energy Saving Tips



SDCE Energy Saving
Tips v4-1 (1).pdf

Holne Carbon Footprint Report



Impact Report -
Holne.pdf

Guide to Energy Retrofit of Traditional Buildings



Various measures
compared energy-reti