

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Holne Village Hall on
Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Thomas and District Cllr Hancock

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.30pm.

050324.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">District Cllr PannellRob Steemson
050324.02	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>
050324.03	Open Forum <p>No comments.</p>
050324.04	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 February 2024. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
050324.05	Reports <p>5.1 County Council Cllr Thomas gave a report, a copy of which is 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 written report as DNPA Link Member:</p> <p>Four weeks to the start of the new financial year and still no news about National Park Grant for 2024/25. If the Grant had kept pace with inflation over the past 14 years it would now be at £6.8million. It has been level at £3.8million since the last increase in 2019.</p> <p>The Authority report on the draft revenue budget that Members approved last Friday stated that the Authority faces an uncertain financial future and that without further core funding for service delivery we would need to undertake a business review to reduce costs. We are using reserves to balance the budget in 2024/25. This is the money that we received as a one-off grant in March 2023. Our real problem is in 2025/26 – the Medium Term Financial Plan indicates a shortfall of circa £500,000 assuming that we receive flat cash National Park Grant in 2024/25 and 2025/26. In summary we are okay for 2024/25 as long as we do not get a cut in National Park Grant; our challenge is in 2025/26.</p>

	<p>As well as agreeing the revenue budget and Medium Term Financial Plan at the meeting on 1 March, Members also approved the draft business plan; to support the Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal; key priorities for the Government’s response to the Fursdon Review and to use up to £175,000 to support the development of affordable local needs housing at Hessary View Princetown. The £175,000 comes from a contribution in lieu of on-site provision as part of the Blue Cedar development at Chagford.</p> <p>5.3 DNPA No report from Rob Steemson.</p>
<p>050324.06</p>	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>6.1 Payments for Approval The following payment was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P Pearse - Playpark hedgecutting - £60
<p>050324.07</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals</p> <p>7.1.1 0071/24 - Sky Garden, Holne External changes to existing dwelling, enclosure of interior courtyard, associated updated landscaping works and new outbuildings</p> <p>Members agreed not to comment.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions</p> <p>7.2.1 DOC/0227/23 7 8 – Glebe House, Holne 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 noted that conditions have been part discharged and part not discharged.</p>
<p>050324.08</p>	<p>Playpark</p> <p>The Chair advised that the next meeting of Playpark is on Thursday 7th March.</p> <p>Cllr Fairman reported that there was a problem with the flow of the leat from Little Bewden where it zig-zags under the hedge. This has now been realigned and the flow has now improved.</p> <p>It was noted that there are many docks which need cutting and there are some arisings which need clearing to the bottom corner of the playpark. The Chair will take this to the next playpark meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Crook has looked into child-safe preservatives. The guidance is that as long as they don’t contain a banned substance, CCA, there appears to be no limitations. He advised that a 5 litre tin would cost £36. It was agreed that he should purchase this.</p> <p>The most recent safety report was noted and members discussed the ongoing maintenance of the equipment. It was also suggested that the Chair should ask the Playpark Committee for their views on the future of the equipment and for their thoughts on it being replaced with metal and plastic at some point.</p> <p>The dog poo sign has been designed and the Chair will ask the playpark to arrange for this to be produced and invoice the Parish Council (as previously agreed).</p> <p>The playpark sign has been damaged. It was also noted that the telephone cable serving Little Bewden has been damaged though it is unclear who is responsible for this damage. It was agreed to ask Highways about a replacement playpark sign.</p>
<p>050324.09</p>	<p>Highways and Footpaths</p> <p><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>9.1 Members received details and quotations for the proposed signage as agreed at the last meeting. The cost will be £117.54 including VAT for 2 x 'Please drive slowly through the village' supplemental plates and 1 x 'wild horses or ponies likely to be in the road ahead' sign. Members approved the purchase of the signs. The issue of liability was discussed as these signs are being added to existing posts. Cllr Crook offered to check this with the Highways Officer before proceeding to order the signs. It was agreed that these should be ordered.</p> <p>As reported in last month's meeting, the cost of funding a 30mph zone in the parish would cost in the region of £15k as repeater signs would also have to be erected through the centre of the village and not just on the outskirts of the village. This would not be funded by DCC. There would also need to be consultation with parishioners and the overall process would be quite lengthy. It might be possible to have unofficial signs to be erected on private land.</p> <p>9.2 There were no new highways/footpath issues. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have a map of the numbered footpaths; the clerk will ask Rob Steemson to see if he is available to provide one.</p>
050324.10	<p>Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Following last month's talk by Sune Nightingale, the following actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look into facilitating an Energy Efficiency workshop which could be combined with learning how to use and borrowing the Thermal Imaging camera from SHDC. - Look into the cost of producing a Gardening for Wildlife magazine tailored to Holne. It was suggested that a page could also be added for Moor Meadows and Moor Trees. - Think about making a formal statement agreeing to consider the climate and environment in all future actions and decisions - Contact SEARCH and accept the residual funds being held in their account and ringfence them for climate and emergency purposes. <p>It was agreed that Cllrs Grun and McLean would progress these matters.</p>
050324.11	<p>Devolution Deal Consultation https://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk/ No comments.</p>
050324.12	<p>Leats There are no new issues.</p>
050324.13	<p>Correspondence None</p>
050324.14	<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 None</p>
050324.15	<p>Date of Next Meeting 15.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 2 April 2024 at 7.30pm in Holne Village Hall. 15.2 The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 4 April at 7pm at which free CPR & Defibrillator training by Devon Air Ambulance crew will be offered. A poster has been produced and a message will be circulated on the Holybrook Exchange.</p>

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Cllr Owen
Chair

County Councillor's Report – 5 March 2024

The budget for 2024/25 has been agreed, with another 4.99% rise in council tax. Bands are below:

Key Table 2 – Precept & Council Tax

TOTAL SPENDING TO BE MET FROM COUNCIL TAX

	£
County Council Budget funded by District Councils' collection funds	529,198,103.08
Net Surplus on Council Tax collection in previous years	(5,223,838.10)
Total to be met from Council Tax Precepts in 2024/25	523,974,264.98

COUNTY COUNCIL TAX DUE FOR EACH PROPERTY VALUATION BAND

Valuation Band	Government Multiplier		Adult Social Care Precept	General Expenditure	2024/25 Council Tax Devon CC
	Ratio	% of Band D	£	£	£
A	6/9	66.7	165.06	978.72	1,143.78
B	7/9	77.8	192.57	1,141.84	1,334.41
C	8/9	88.9	220.08	1,304.96	1,525.04
D	1	100.0	247.59	1,468.08	1,715.67
E	11/9	122.2	302.61	1,794.32	2,096.93
F	13/9	144.4	357.63	2,120.56	2,478.19
G	15/9	166.7	412.65	2,446.80	2,859.45
H	18/9	200.0	495.18	2,936.16	3,431.34

The County Council Tax for Band D represents an increase of 4.99% on the 2023/24 amount.

The headline spending figures, with this year's figures shown on the left, are below:

2023/24 Adjusted Budget £'000		Changes £'000	2024/25 Budget £'000
340,245	Integrated Adult Social Care	20,501	360,746
206,278	Children and Young People's Futures	21,507	227,785
21,678	Public Health, Communities & Prosperity	(755)	20,923
49,755	Corporate Services	(1,310)	48,445
81,619	Climate Change, Environment & Transport	3,863	85,482

As you can see, the vast majority of spending continues to be on adult and children's services. There is just under 5% more for the whole department that covers highways, suggesting another tough year ahead.

A fully costed opposition amendment for an extra £2million on roads, split into £1.5m for potholes and £0.5m for road lining, was defeated on party lines.

The small piece of good news is that Locality Funding seems to have gone back up to £8k per Cllr.

Public asked to have their say on Devon and Torbay devolution deal

A six-week public consultation was launched on Monday 12 February, on the draft proposal to create a Combined County Authority (CCA) for Devon and Torbay to oversee new powers and funding transferred from Government.

People are being invited to have their say on how the CCA would work, the powers that it would have and the functions it would be responsible for. These include investment in local economic growth, delivering affordable housing, improving public transport, and meeting net zero ambitions.

Further information about our joint consultation with Torbay Council and details of how to respond are available at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk

District Councillors' Report – 5 March 2024

South Hams Community Awards

Do you know people doing great things for the community?

If the answer is yes, then you can showcase their hard work, by nominating them for a South Hams Community Award. The awards will recognise the individuals, groups and organisations who go above and beyond to support their local towns and parishes. Read more about the awards and watch the recent video from Cllr Pannell.

The Chairman, Cllr Guy Pannell and his panel of judges are looking for nominations in three categories:

- The Young Persons Award (for under 18s)
- The Community Champion Award (for over 18s)
- The Community Organisation Award

Help us shine a spotlight on the people, groups and organisations who support our wonderful community by:

- Watching and sharing our video message from the Chairman
- Sharing our social media posts
- Directing your communities to our online nomination form

Nominations close on Sunday 31 March 2024.

Small grants for village halls

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) grant scheme for those managing rural community buildings has now reopened with lower thresholds for smaller projects such as disability access, toilet upgrades and new kitchens. Grants of between £2,000 and £5,000, and up to 20% of eligible project costs, are on offer to new applicants. Please share this information with your local communities.

Find out more [here](#).