

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Holne Village Hall on
Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) District Cllr Pannell and Ross Gray (Tree Warden)

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.30pm.

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| 040624.01 | Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr M Fairman• County Cllr Thomas• District Cllr Hancock• Rob Steemson (DNPA) |
| 040624.02 | 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> |
| 040624.03 | Open Forum <p>Ross thanked the Council for putting up the Animals Crossing signs. The Chair replied that it will be interesting to hear from residents about whether they are effective at reducing traffic speed.</p> <p>He also asked whether the Council could ask DCC to continue to patch all the necessary places on the length of the road from the junction on Holne Chase hill to the cattle grid with a view to surface dressing the whole stretch next year.</p> <p>For discussion at a future meeting, he asked whether the Council could remind landowners of their responsibility to cut their hedges and maintain their trees. It is particularly bad at Holne Park and around Holne Bridge.</p> |
| 040624.04 | Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 May 2024. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p> |
| 040624.05 | Reports <p>5.1 County Council Report Cllr Thomas was unable to attend but sent the following written report:</p> <p>New leader and deputy confirmed Devon County Council's deputy leader has become the new leader of the authority. James McInnes has been chosen by the ruling Conservative group to replace John Hart. Long-standing Cabinet member Andrea Davis has become deputy leader.</p> <p>The changes were ratified at the council's annual meeting on Thursday 23 May. John Hart was nominated to become chairman of the council at the same meeting.</p> |

£12 million boost to pothole repairs

A new multi-million pound investment in repairing potholes and boosting road drainage in Devon has been agreed. Cabinet was already set to discuss a £10 million boost to pothole repairs and pre-emptive road drainage work at the meeting on Wednesday 8 May but councillors have now agreed to add a further £2 million to the total after hearing that the overall county budget for 2023/24 has come in underspent.

So the county's budget for repairing potholes and drainage work will be boosted by a total of £12 million overall.

Combined County Authority

Devon County Council and Torbay Council have formally submitted our joint proposal for a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.

But of course the calling of a General Election has rather scuppered County's plans and the proposal was not heard in the winding up proceedings.

5.2 District Council Report

District Councillors Hancock and Pannell circulated the following report:

Are your residents ready to vote?

As polling day for the general election rapidly approaches, there are key dates for your residents to put into their calendar if they want to ensure they can vote in the way they want to.

The key dates they need are:

- Register to vote - before 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday 18 June
- Register online. It only takes five minutes. They'll be asked for their National Insurance number (but they can still register if they do not have one).
- Vote by post - Deadline for applications is before 5 p.m. on Wednesday 19 June
- Apply to vote by post
- Vote by proxy?
- Deadline for applications is before 5 p.m. on Wednesday 26 June
- Apply to vote by proxy. They can ask someone they trust to cast their vote on their behalf if they are unavailable to vote.

Photo ID

- Essential to vote in any election
- Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate - Deadline for applications is before 5 p.m. on Wednesday 26 June
- Apply for free voter ID

Changes to voting for British citizens living overseas

Changes to overseas voting

The 15 year limit on voting rights for has now been removed. The registration period has been extended to three years. This means that overseas voters will only need to register to vote every three years.

Polling Day

7 a.m. - 10 p.m. on Thursday 4 July [Remember photo ID]

LGA Corporate Peer Challenge: Executive Summary (excerpt)

South Hams is a high performing council, which is well led and managed and is delivering consistently well on behalf of its residents and communities. Following the district elections in May 2023, the political leadership of the council changed; resulting in a Liberal Democrat administration, with a new council leader.

The new administration had a well socialised manifesto ahead of the elections and the

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| | <p>officer team supporting the council very wisely used this by quickly and effectively producing a 'risk / RAG rated potential action plan arising from the manifesto, in order to help the new administration to hit the ground running.</p> <p>The above proactivity has been combined with a clear determination to be as inclusive as possible by drawing on the talent of elected members across all political groups. As one stakeholder told us, which was reflective of other views the peer team heard, 'the new arrangements feel like a breath of fresh air'. This is very much to the credit of the leader, his deputy and indeed the leaders of the other main parties and evidenced by the make-up of the council's Executive.</p> <p>The council's chief executive and senior officer team should take credit for supporting the new and very different political administration. Their proactivity in preparing for and effectively responding to change in May 2023 is a strong and defining feature of the relationship between the members and senior officers within the council, which has the hallmarks of a pragmatic, trusting and ever maturing leadership team.</p> <p>That effective preparation and good cross-party engagement has meant that the council already has in place a well-articulated Council Plan covering the period 2024- 28. The plan, its priorities and delivery outcomes are likewise reflected in the detail of a three-year rolling financial strategy, which is the norm for the council. The council has an excellent track record of financial management and planning, which is one of its underpinning core strengths.</p> <p>Cllr Pannell advised that he has now completed his year as Chairman of South Hams District Council. The new Chairman is Cllr Bernard Taylor (Conservative) from Modbury has been elected Chairman for the coming year. Cllr Pannell has been elected Vice Chairman.</p> <p>5.3 DNPA Link Member Report A copy of the latest news is attached.</p> <p>Cllr Pannell also reported that the government's plans to broaden the scope of permitted development rights will <u>not</u> apply in the National Park.</p> <p>5.4 DNPA Ranger Report No report from Rob Steemson.</p> |
| 040624.06 | <p>Finance and Governance There were no items.</p> |
| 040624.07 | <p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals None</p> <p>7.2 Decisions None</p> <p>7.3 The Chairman advised that local concerns have been raised about the scale and extent of the works at Glebe House. It was agreed to flag this with DNPA's Enforcement Officer so that they could verify that planning conditions are being complied with.</p> |
| 040624.08 | <p>Playpark Members agreed that Playpark is looking smart and were happy with the way it has been cut and trimmed. It was also agreed that there is a good mix of trimmed and wild areas. The Playpark Committee is currently undertaking a survey seeking local opinions about playpark and it will be interesting to hear the results of that in due course.</p> |
| 040624.09 | <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> |

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| | <p>9.1 The Animals Crossing signs are now installed and members will await community feedback as to whether these help to slow the traffic in this location.</p> <p>9.2 Whilst it was noted that Holne Bridge has been damaged on the Ashburton side for some time, the bridge is also damaged on the Holne side (on the right going towards Holne). It was agreed to report this to the Highways Officer and suggest that, although in different parishes, repair works are co-ordinated and completed at the same time.</p> <p>It was noted that Newbridge has also been damaged (within the last week). As this is monitored by CCTV, it was agreed that the clerk would also report this to Widecombe's Highways Officer.</p> |
| 040624.10 | <p>Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Cllr Grun presented the printing costs for the Gardening for Wildlife publication:</p> <p>200 copies - £212 300 copies - £275</p> <p>Moor Meadows have agreed to contribute 2 pages and there was also a discussion about other potential editorial contributors.</p> <p>It was agreed to contact Buckfastleigh West Parish Council to inform them of plans to print enough copies to distribute copies of the booklet in their parish.</p> |
| 040624.11 | <p>Leats Cllr Applegarth advised that there were no issues.</p> |
| 040624.12 | <p>Correspondence None</p> |
| 040624.13 | <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> |
| 040624.14 | <p>Date of Next Meeting It was confirmed that the next meeting is 2 July 2024.</p> |

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Cllr Owen (Chair)



Members newsletter – Parish News Update

Summer tour dates for Higher Uppacott

Places are available on tours of DNPA-owned Higher Uppacott.

Higher Uppacott is a medieval farmhouse (longhouse) in which both people and cattle were accommodated under a single roof. A Grade One listed building, it is of national importance because it's one of the few remaining examples of this historic building type. DNPA regularly holds guided tours of this fascinating building, and the Authority has just released its summer tour dates.

Guide-led tours cost £6 per person and should be booked in advance. All tours start at 10.30am unless stated otherwise.

Dates are: Saturday 1st June & Saturday 22nd June (noon); Saturday 6th July & Sunday 21st July; Saturday 3rd August, Sunday 11th August, Wednesday 14th August (6pm), Sunday 18th August, Wednesday 21st August (2pm) and Monday 26th August.

Book a place by contacting Princetown Visitor Centre on 01822 89041.

Summer opening hours: National Park visitor centres

The opening times for the National Park visitor centres at Haytor, Postbridge and Princetown are 10am until 5pm every day from 1 July – 30 September.

Make a date: upcoming events

With summer nearly here, DNPA is getting ready to put on two of its flagship family fun days. History Hunters Day returns on Saturday 20 July at Postbridge Visitor Centre and Meldon Wildlife Festival takes place on Tuesday 20 August at Meldon Old Quarry.

History Hunters Day

This is a free family event which runs from 10.30am until 4pm and is based around Postbridge Visitor Centre.

There will be crafts, activities and things to make and take home bringing to life the Brilliant Bronze Age, the Magnificent Middle Ages and Vibrant Victorians.

Have a go at being an archaeologist uncovering treasures in our excavation trays, make a spear, shape a clay pot or spin some wool. There's also trails to follow and artefacts to inspect inside the visitor centre.

There's no need to book to attend – just come along and enjoy!

Meldon Wildlife Festival

The popular Meldon Wildlife Festival is being held on Tuesday 20 August from 10.30am until 4pm.

This annual visit gives everyone an opportunity to learn more about nature. Many well-known wildlife organisations are returning to the event with activities designed to help children become wildlife champions. There'll be games, river dipping, walks, minibeast hunts and more.

These two events are part of a summer-long programme aimed at helping people explore Dartmoor, connect with its special qualities and appreciate its wild places. During school summer holidays, DNPA staff will be visiting various shows and fairs parts of the National Park for drop-in events where families can have a go at games and activities. Check www.dartmoor.gov.uk for up-to-date information.

Celebration of Dartmoor's Youth Rangers

Young 'Rangers in the making' were recognised for their enthusiastic hard work and passion for conserving Dartmoor National Park.

Teenagers involved in DNPA's Youth Ranger scheme were celebrated at a special event at Parke earlier in the spring.

DNPA has been delivering events for young people for several years through the Ranger Ralph and Youth Ranger programmes.

Dartmoor Youth Rangers is for 12 – 17-year-olds. Through a programme of accessible events and practical conservation it offers opportunities for participants to understand, appreciate, and enjoy Dartmoor and the ability to develop environmental skills and knowledge which leads to positive action for nature.

Four Youth Rangers gave inspiring presentations in front of an audience that included parents, carers, DNPA representatives and Dartmoor Preservation Association (DPA).

Their experiences covered everything from boosting self-esteem and getting out of their comfort zone, to learning new and specialist skills. Practical work completed includes drystone walling, gorse clearance, tree planting, path repairs, farm tasks plus much more.

"I've had so much fun learning new skills and meeting new people," said one. "Being a part of this awesome group has boosted our confidence and understanding of the world better," added another.

At the same celebration, certificates were presented to four Youth Rangers for achieving a John Muir Award.

The celebration was organised by Community Engagement Ranger Kats Koster-Shadbolt who leads the Youth Ranger programme. She said: "The Dartmoor Youth Rangers make an amazing commitment to learning about and caring for this wonderful landscape. This event gave them an opportunity to acknowledge all that they have achieved, reflect on their personal growth, and share with their families and decision makers within the national park. I am immensely proud of every one of them."