

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 3 September 2024 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr B Owen (Chair), M Fairman and Cllr Grun

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Hancock and one member of the public

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.30pm.

030924.01	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr R Applegarth• Cllr McLean• District Cllr Pannell• County Cllr Thomas• Rob Steemson (DNPA)
030924.02	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>
030924.03	Open Forum <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>
030924.04	Ratification of Minutes <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 July 2024. It was Agreed that ratification of minutes would be deferred until next meeting as there were insufficient members unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
030924.05	Reports <p>5.1 County Council Report Cllr Thomas was unable to attend the meeting but sent a brief report advising that the Devon Devolution Deal will in all probability need to be renegotiated. Angela Raynor, Deputy PM and Minister for Local Government, has written to Council leaders to tell them that the consultation process can begin again with new offers on the table but with an expectation that Councils will work widely (geographically) with other Authorities in their area. As such, it is possible that any Combined Authority will need to look further afield than merely Torbay. There is a County Council meeting to discuss this on Thursday, so more next month.</p> <p>5.2 District Council Report Cllr Hancock gave a verbal summary of his written report (copy attached).</p> <p>5.3 DNPA Link Member Report Cllr Pannell circulated an update from DNPA (copy attached).</p> <p>5.4 DNPA Ranger Report None</p>

030924.06	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>The following items were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF (DAAT mast: March-July) - £93.20 • Clerk’s expenses for Land Registry Search, paper and ink - £17.97 • T Crook - website hosting and domain renewal (3 years) - £356.79
030924.07	<p>Planning</p> <p>7.1 New applications/appeals 0346/24 – Higher Mill Leat Farm, Holne Prior Notification application for an Agricultural Storage Building</p> <p>Members agreed not to comment.</p> <p>7.2 Decisions None</p>
030924.08	<p>Playpark</p> <p>8.1 It was noted that, over the summer, the maintenance plan has been updated and the contractor has been informed. The change relates to the shady area around the willow structure which had previously been left wild but will now be mown. This followed a survey of the Playpark Committee which showed that park users wished for it to be returned to being mown so families can use it. This includes keeping the leat clear.</p> <p>8.2 Members discussed the permanent fixing of plastic ground shields around the basketball hoop. The ground would need levelling prior to the grounds shields being laid. After discussion, it was agreed to obtain a quotation. The Chairman will arrange this.</p> <p>8.3 Members discussed the future of the Playpark Committee. The Chairman advised that, some years ago, the Committee was set up as a Charity in order to raise funds to purchase and install new playpark equipment. Members of that Committee have now requested that the Charity is wound up and that the play park is passed back in its entirety to the Parish Council to run. They would continue to organise informal events (such as Easter egg hunts, pumpkin carving etc) for the children.</p> <p>After discussion, it was thought that having a mechanism for raising charitable funds to improve/replace the current equipment would be useful to have. It was agreed to look at major sources of funding and whether there is a requirement/preference for applications to be submitted by a registered charity. It was also agreed to look into the minimum requirements for running a charity and how the constitution could be changed, if required. This would be discussed again next month.</p> <p>8.4 Other matters</p> <p>8.4.1 Cllr Fairman advised that he had finished realigning the leat through Little Bewden into Playpark and it is flowing very well.</p> <p>8.4.2 It was agreed that a date should be arranged to review and carry out the required maintenance in the playpark and that work should be prioritised. There was a discussion about whether the fencing and gates were a priority. Cllr Crook advised that it was not a ROSPA requirement for equipment to be fenced off. The Chairman advised that members of the Playpark Committee had suggested coming to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the playpark. It was suggested that they are invited to the October meeting to gather their views and ideas on the future of playpark.</p> <p>8.4.3 It was agreed that a permanent sign should be made and put up on the inside of the main playpark gate directing people to the toilets in the shop. The Chairman will ask Matt Powell if he could make something suitable.</p>

030924.09	<p>Overgrown areas - Memorial in Village Centre and Gallant Le Bower</p> <p>The Chairman advised that the memorial behind the post box in the centre of the village has become very overgrown. Cllr Crook offered to strim the hedge around it after Cllr Owen has spoken to the family of the property owner whose hedge it is.</p> <p>The Chairman advised that Gallant Le Bower has become very overgrown and is in need of tidying up. It was agreed to ask Rob Steemson whether he/DNPA has a view on how it can be managed.</p>
030924.10	<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>Correspondence was received from a resident updating the Parish Council on the impact of the new highways signs at Priddons. Whilst the signs were welcomed, the speed has not reduced. The new ‘Please drive slowly through the village’ sign is visible and should have made a difference although the opinion of residents living in nearby properties has not yet been sought.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about the work behind Bakers Park which was done to create actual parking places instead of cars half on and half off the road causing bigger vehicles to drive on the leat bank. It was noted that Jodie Crook-Giles has done an excellent job with the hedge-laying which has meant that vehicles have been able to park closer to the hedge and further reducing the risk of damage to the leat bank. The Chairman suggested that sections of hedge adjacent to the parking places is cut back but the hedge adjacent to non-parking places is allowed to grow out. This will encourage more sensible parking. Members supported this proposal.</p> <p>The road has collapsed outside Tithe Barn. Two posts have now fallen into the leat. It was agreed to report this to Highways.</p> <p>Holne Bridge repairs are being carried out 9-13 September.</p>
030924.11	<p>Climate and Biodiversity Emergency</p> <p>Cllr Grun advised that Moor Meadows have agreed to include a page in the Gardening for Wildlife booklet. With Scorrilton also wishing to be involved in the project, it was agreed to have 300 copies printed which will be more than enough for both parishes.</p> <p>She also attended a video meeting with Sustainable South Hams which was very interesting. Cllr McLean will try and attend the next meeting on 11 October. They are genuinely willing to help and offer solutions to small communities.</p>
030924.12	<p>Leats</p> <p>There are no issues.</p>
030924.13	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>13.1 It was noted that The Dartmoor Devil Cycle Ride will be passing through the parish on Sunday 27 October.</p>
030924.14	<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</p> <p>None.</p>
030924.15	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>It was confirmed that the next meeting is 1 October 2024.</p>

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Cllr Owen (Chair)

District Councillors' Report **August/September 2024**

New Community Woodland for South Hams

An exciting and ambitious woodland deal for a new 65-acre community woodland has been agreed and will be created in South Brent.

With the support of the Government's Trees for Climate Land Acquisition Fund, South Hams District Council has been able to buy the site. This is part of the District Council's priority to tackle climate change and increase biodiversity by 20% over four years. tree planting will start later this year with a community planting event.

Leader of South Hams District Council, Cllr Julian Brazil, says: "We are so thrilled and excited about this project. As an ambitious administration this is all about what we are trying to achieve. It emphasises our priority around the climate change and biodiversity agenda, but it does so much more. We will be working with local schools, social prescribers, and other local community groups. It will leave a lasting legacy for the South Hams. We hope to plant around 25,000 trees on this site. It is the start of us planting a tree for every resident of the South Hams"

As part of the woodland, the fields will continue to be a productive landscape, with parts of the site still being grazed. As part of the varied community proposals, an orchard and a market garden will be created in partnership with local group, Sustainable South Brent to deliver the project for their local area. They are passionate about the project and will use some of the woodland for education and community food production.

Over the coming months South Hams District Council will engage with local residents over proposals for the site and consider detailed design and planting with the community, partners and stakeholders. The planting will be supported through a partnership with the Woodland Trust and their MoreWoods scheme.

The planting will be supported through a partnership with the Woodland Trust and their MoreWoods scheme, which is funded by Lloyds Bank.

Outreach Manager for the Woodland Trust, Eleanor Lewis, says: "This is an excellent opportunity for a new woodland serving the South Hams. MOREWoods is an established scheme that provides expert advice, funding and trees to landowners who want to create a woodland."

"With careful planning this site can deliver huge benefits for people, wildlife and climate, as well as incorporating local aspirations for continued local food production on part of the land. We look forward to working collaboratively to design a woodland that can deliver multiple benefits with the local community at its heart."

The next step is to share proposals with the local South Brent community at a drop-in event. This will be held on Wednesday 14 August in the Aune Room, Old School Community Centre in South Brent from 3 to 8 p.m.

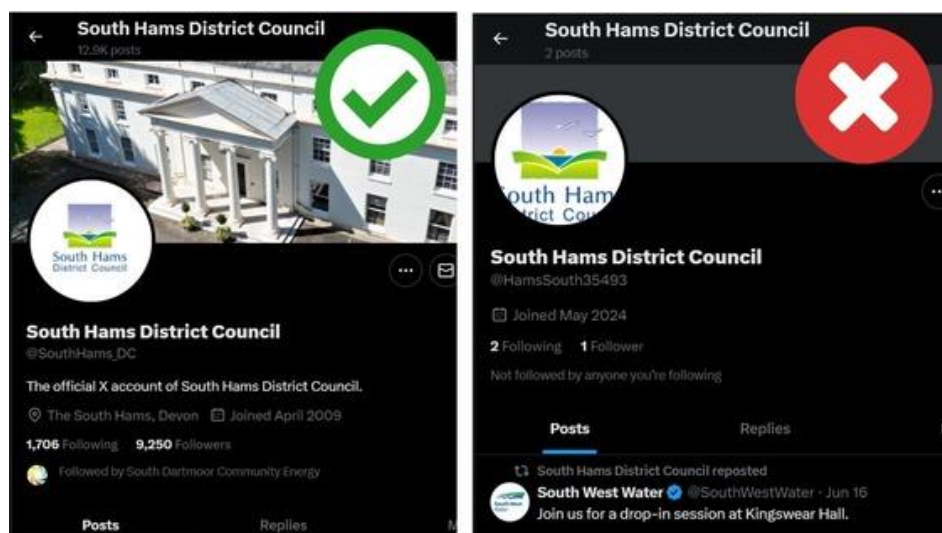
South Hams Council demands answers from South West Water

At its July meeting District Councillors unanimously resolved to demand that South West Water makes significant environmental and water quality improvements and called on the Chief Executive to attend a Water Summit with MPs, Councillors and community groups. The motion:

- Calls on the government to recognise the guiding principle in all policy that clean water is a right and not a commodity;
- Calls on the government to ban all bonuses and company dividend payments until such time as the Environment Agency's Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA) metric is 'good' (4 stars);
- Calls on the government to limit the time to no more than five years to reach an EPA of 4 stars after which it would take the company into 'special measures' with a view to the possible creation of a public benefit company or re-nationalisation;
- Calls on South West Water to provide a detailed plan and timetable on how it intends to achieve an EPA of 4 stars and to undertake to consult with and seek the approval of all the local authorities in its service area;

- Calls on South West Water to provide a detailed plan on how it intends to reduce leaks by at least 50% in the next 5 years;
- Calls on South West Water to provide a full explanation of why it initially failed to detect the presence of cryptosporidium in the Brixham water supply, either directly or through regular monitoring for e-coli as a proxy for its possible presence;
- Calls on the government to strengthen the Environment Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate so that they are better able to monitor and provide oversight of the water services sector;
- Requests the CEO of South West Water to attend a session of this Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to answer questions;
- Calls on the board of South West Water to give serious consideration to their position if the requests of this Council are unacceptable;
- Calls on the CEO of SWW to attend a water summit of local MPs, Councillors and Community Groups to explain the cause of recent failures, provide plans for remediation and answer questions, to be held by 30 September 2024;
- And in the meantime, highlights to Devon County Council that a review is required on the impacts of South West Water's vehicles and services causing damage to other infrastructure (i.e. highways and rural roads that are not being repaired and maintained). This Council therefore calls upon Devon County Council to address (as a matter of urgency) the outstanding damage and repairs that are required to be addressed.

Beware fake SHDC X (Twitter) account



We're aware of a fake X (Twitter) account imitating our own. [@SouthHams_DC](https://twitter.com/SouthHams_DC) is the only official X account for South Hams District Council.

Watch out for the @HamsSouth35493 account - we've already reported it to X as fake and will be monitoring it until it is removed.

Decarbonisation programme

SHDC is supporting local businesses and helping them to become more energy efficient through a decarbonisation scheme. As part of our efforts to support both the economy and natural environment, we're providing funding for a specialist business consultancy, being run by Libraries Unlimited.

The funding is being provided through our Council's £60,000 share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Those who take part can also apply for Rural England Prosperity Fund decarbonisation grants, which could help to pay for implementing one or more of the measures highlighted in their decarbonisation plans. Please help sign post local businesses to more information. They can sign up for the project by registering an interest online at <https://bipc.librariesunlimited.org.uk/decarbonisation-plans/>

They can also find out more [on our website](#) and by [watching our YouTube video](#).

Help shape adult education in the District

We are working with [Learn Devon](#) to better understand how local residents can engage with adult education. Learn Devon is Devon County Council's adult education provider and delivers courses and qualifications across Devon, both online and in-person.

To help us ensure that relevant courses and opportunities are available, please complete their [short survey](#) and encourage your residents to take part

DNPA Parish News Update

Dartmoor dig uncovers Early Bronze Age burial cist

Archaeologists have made 'stunning' discoveries after excavating an Early Bronze Age burial cist at Cut Hill, northern Dartmoor.

Led by Dartmoor National Park Authority painstaking work revealed an exceptional cist - a stone-built box used to bury the dead in prehistoric times - containing well-preserved wood and a host of other material yet to be identified.

The Authority is now seeking funding for micro-excavations of the cist and the future conservation of any artefacts, and is encouraging people to contribute to the Donate for Dartmoor fund.

Cut Hill stands at 603-metres high – one of five peaks on Dartmoor that's over 600m – and lies within the military firing ranges.

Cist excavations were prompted when local historian Paul Rendell reported to the Authority that the feature was eroding out of the peat. Site surveys and analysis, including radiocarbon dating of charcoal from inside the cist, gave a date of around 1,800BC - or 3,800 years old.

In May, Dartmoor National Park Authority unanimously supported a full archaeological intervention. The dig took place in early August with the team working in all weathers, from bright sunshine through to thick fog and persistent rain.

Excavations revealed a prehistoric cist of around one-metre square – over twice the size of the Whitehorse Hill cist – and topped with three granite capstones. Not only was the cist bigger than expected, but it contained multiple pieces of wood that appear to have been deliberately shaped and cut.

The volume of material under the wood reaches a depth of about 30cm meaning there's every chance it could contain objects or artefacts that can't yet be seen.

The team worked respectfully to wrap and seal the cist to conserve its contents. A special all-terrain vehicle was used to carefully transport the cist off the moor. It is now in the care of the Wiltshire Conservation and Museums Advisory Service, part of Wiltshire Council, where it will undergo micro-excavations.

The Cut Hill project is a partnership involving many skilled individuals and organisations.

Alongside Dr Bray was National Park and Historic England Archaeologist Andy Crabb; Laura Warren-Ratcliffe, Alexandra Taylor-Redish and Paul Redish from the Cornwall Archaeological Unit (CAU); the University of Leicester's Dr Laura Basell; Professor Ralph Fyfe of the University of Plymouth; Andy Coleman, Elliot Clarke and Josh Ashby of Quantock and Exmoor Ltd.

In addition, support and funding was given by landowner the Duchy of Cornwall. Support also came from the Ministry of Defence, the South West Peatland Partnership, Alec Collyer MBE and the Forest of Dartmoor Commoners' Association.

Meticulous micro-excavations of the cist's contents will be conducted in controlled laboratory conditions. Any artefacts uncovered will be conserved and analysed with outcomes published when work is complete. Post-excavation works to restore the site to its original condition have been completed.

The site was visited by the BBC's Digging for Britain team, who will be following the story as it unfolds.

People who want to help conserve the Cut Hill cist and any artefacts can make a donation online via www.dartmoor.gov.uk/donate

Dartmoor joins UN-backed Race to Zero in world first

Dartmoor and all other UK National Parks have joined the UN-backed Race to Zero initiative.

In July it was announced that the UK's National Parks had become the first protected landscapes in the world to join the Race to Zero.

Race to Zero commits cities, companies, regions, financial and educational institutions to take immediate and effective action to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.

Dartmoor is already playing a significant role in reaching net zero goal with the Partnership Plan setting an ambition for the National Park to be carbon negative by 2045. Work already underway includes nature enhancement through landscape recovery areas, peatland restoration, natural flood management, woodland management and creation, and testing and trialling land management and farming practices.

In 2019, Dartmoor was the first National Park in the UK to declare a climate and ecological and quickly put in place its own Climate Action Plan.

Opening hours: National Park visitor centres

The National Park Visitor Centres welcome residents as well as visitors whether that's for buying gifts for loved ones or to take part in family activities during school holidays.

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

From 1 October – 31 October the centres will be open from 10am – 4pm daily, before switching to winter opening hours. To stay up to date, visit www.dartmoor.gov.uk/enjoy-dartmoor