

# HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs B Owen (Chair), T Crook, M Fairman, L Grun and C McLean

Also present:

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

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7.30pm.

<b>040225.01</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rob Steemson (DNPA)</li><li>• County Cllr Thomas</li><li>• Ross Gray (Tree Warden)</li></ul>
<b>040225.02</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</b> <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>
<b>040225.03</b>	<b>Open Forum</b> <p>A resident asked whether there would be County elections this year. This is currently unknown.</p> <p>A question was asked about the planned road closure from Gallant Le Bower to Brackenwood. They were advised that this was an application made by Kier on behalf of South West Water for metering works.</p>
<b>040225.04</b>	<b>Ratification of Minutes</b> <p>Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 January 2025. It was agreed that they should be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of those meetings.</p>
<b>040225.05</b>	<b>Reports</b> <p><b>5.1 County Council Report</b> Cllr Thomas was unable to attend the meeting but advised that there is very little to report other than to advise that the County Council asked the Government to delay May's elections to allow for negotiations around Local Government reorganisation. As of today, we still don't know whether the Government will acquiesce, so we remain in an unfortunate state of limbo.</p> <p>On 20 February, the County Council will discuss the budget for next year; he will update members in the March meeting.</p> <p><b>5.2 District Council Report</b> Cllrs Pannell and Hancock sent a written report (copy attached).</p> <p><b>5.3 DNPA Link Member Report</b> The application at Glebe House will be dealt with by the Development Management Committee this Friday. The Planning Officer is recommending approval but the Conservation Officer will be recommending refusal. There is an opportunity for a member of the Parish Council to speak at</p>

	<p>the meeting if they wish. It was agreed that the Parish Council had already sent its comments to DNPA and that attendance at this meeting would not add anything to this.</p> <p>The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded DNPA £3 million as part of the Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes partnership program. The funding has been awarded the funding to take forward a major programme of work to restore nature, protect and enhance Dartmoor’s cultural heritage and enrich people’s understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. Dartmoor’s Dynamic Landscapes brings together Dartmoor National Park Authority, the Woodland Trust, Sustrans, the RSPB, Dartmoor Hill Farm Project, Emergency Exit Arts &amp; Flock South West, the Environment Agency, Shallowford Trust, Dartmoor Headwaters Project, South West Water for the South West Peatland Partnership and the Westcountry Rivers Trust. We will deliver a wide-ranging suite of projects encompassing river, habitat and species conservation; creative events and engagement activities, support for farmers, training and skills and improving access and active travel opportunities. The communities of Okehampton, Ivybridge, and Princetown, will become ‘hubs’ for visitors, allowing people from all backgrounds to spend time and money in these places while taking part in events or activities that promote enjoyment and understanding of Dartmoor’s special qualities. Conservation work will advance the excellent woodland, habitat and river restoration already taking place, with a particular focus on the river catchment areas of the Okement, Dart, Erme and Yealm. Active travel and access will unlock further opportunities for walking and cycling, particularly for children, and giving people the chance to experience amazing views or explore historic remains no matter what their age or ability. With partner contributions, the total investment in Dartmoor’s Dynamic Landscapes will be around £5.85million. The programme will run until 2030.</p> <p>DNPA still doesn’t know what the funding settlement is for the coming year. However, a further reduction in funding is expected. A contingency of £500k has been made for redundancy payments if necessary. As part of the funding cuts, the Princetown Visitor Centre will be closing.</p> <p><b>5.4 DNPA Ranger Report</b></p> <p>Repairs to erosion to the Ringle shutts track on Holne Moor continue. Work on the gate and adjacent fence on Bridleway 3 at Greatcombe that joins the common should be completed this week.</p>
<p><b>040225.06</b></p>	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p>No payments to approve.</p> <p>Members discussed purchasing some plastic scoops for the grit bins. Cllr Applegarth proposed purchasing 10 scoops at an approximate cost of £5-7 each. This expenditure was approved.</p>
<p><b>040225.07</b></p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>7.1 New applications/appeals</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>7.2 Decisions:</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>040225.08</b></p>	<p><b>Playpark</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Report and updates</b></p> <p>Bryan Booty has started work to remove the rotting equipment and fencing. It was agreed that the soil can be disposed of in the back left hand corner by the leat. There was a discussion about replacement equipment and it was agreed that the swing set needs to be replaced as a priority; Cllrs Crook and Fairman offered to research this for the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman asked about the sign directing users of playpark to the toilets at the shop. She would chase this up with Matt Powell.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that the precise location of the time capsule (buried in Playpark in</p>

	<p>September 1990) should be recorded so that the information can be passed down to future parishioners. It was agreed that the clerk would have a look in the minutes. It was also suggested that a resident with a metal detector could try and detect its location (though it was thought that it was made of plastic rather than metal).</p> <p>The clerk has asked the contractor for a quote for 2025 but this has not yet been received. The item was therefore deferred to March.</p> <p>The hedges have not yet been done; the Chairman will remind the contractor.</p> <p>The volume of the water in playpark is not as high and the flow has reduced. Cllr Applegarth suggested that the something further up might be blocking it. He will go round them all later in the week and check them. The area around the sump also needs to be monitored as the water is undercutting the bank.</p> <p>8.2 Playpark Charity A meeting will be arranged to wind-up the Charity. Ideally, the current Trustees would like the surplus funds (approximately £1200) to be used towards a pump track. It was agreed to find out how much a pump track would cost but members were concerned that this might considerably exceed what was currently available.</p>
<b>040225.09</b>	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths</b> <i>Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:</i> <a href="https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/">https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/</a></p> <p>There was a further discussion about the water run-off outside Littlecombe Farm. It appears that the drain is blocked and the run-off from the fields is being forced into the road causing significant damage. Cones have now been placed around the large pothole so it looks as though Highways are aware of it and will carry out necessary repairs. However, a solution is also required to prevent water running down the road which includes unblocking the drain outside Littlecombe Farm. It was agreed that the clerk would write to Highways.</p>
<b>040225.10</b>	<p><b>Climate and Biodiversity Emergency</b> Cllr Grun will confirm the cost of printing the gardening booklet with a view to distributing this before Easter.</p>
<b>040225.11</b>	<p><b>Leats</b> No further issues other than those already discussed.</p>
<b>040225.12</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b> None</p>
<b>040225.13</b>	<p><b>Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting</b> None</p>
<b>040225.14</b>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> 14.1 It was confirmed that the next meeting is 4 March 2025 14.2 It was agreed that Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 6 May 2025 at 7.00pm.</p>

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Cllr Owen (Chair)

## District Councillors' Report February 2025

### Consultation on 'Strengthening the standards and ethical framework for local authorities in England'

The Government launched a consultation on 18 December 2024 seeking views on proposals to introduce a mandatory minimum code of conduct for authorities. The Consultation can be found here: [Standards Consultation](#)

### Removal of bottle banks

As approved by the Waste Working Group in September, a number of bottle banks across the South Hams will be removed in the coming months as part of our ongoing efficiency programme of our waste and recycling service.

13 banks across the District will be taken away in the first wave of removals from 3 February. These banks have been selected because almost all residents now have access to glass collections as part of their weekly kerbside recycling collection.

#### The first bottle banks being removed are:

- Tuckenhay - Bank at The Watermans Arms
- California Cross - Bank at the California Cross Inn
- Churchstow - Bank at the Church House Inn
- Hemerdon - Bank at The Miners Arms
- Heybrook Bay - Bank at The Eddystone Inn
- Marldon - Bank at the Church House Inn
- Ringmore - Bank at the Journey's End
- Shaugh Prior - Bank at the White Thorn Inn
- Yealmpton - Bank at Ben's Farm Shop
- Wotter - Bank at the Moorland Inn
- Kingswear - Bank at Darthaven Marina
- Stokeham - Two banks at Stokeley Farm Shop

All of the bottle banks being removed in the first wave are in car parks of commercial businesses. These businesses are being offered the opportunity to keep the bottle banks on site for their exclusive business use, as a chargeable trade waste service.

A further 34 bottle banks across 30 other sites in the South Hams are also set to be taken away. The timeline is as follows:

- Phase 1 - planned start from 3 February - removal of bottle banks in commercial settings (listed above) and offer of trade glass option
- Phase 2 - planned start from 24 February - removal of 10 banks from the least used sites in public settings **(including Rattery)**
- Phase 3 - planned start 17 March - removal of the remainder of banks in public settings

15 bottle banks across nine sites will remain in place, to support the visitor economy in the busy summer months.

### Response to the Local Government Finance Settlement

Please find attached a copy of the Council's consultation response to the Local Government Finance Settlement.

[Click here to download a copy.](#)

We have made the point that we strongly oppose the decision taken by ministers to cut the funding for rural authorities.

In particular, the decision to abolish the Rural Services Delivery Grant (RSDG) without any engagement or consultation with the affected authorities has been very disappointing.

The Council's view is that affected authorities should have had a lot more notice that this was going to be the case and been given the opportunity to make representations.

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## PayByPhone

Many thanks for all your feedback on PayByPhone.

We have been working with our supplier using this feedback to improve the customer's experience when using the cashless parking app.

A number of changes have already been carried out since it went live and the suppliers continue to work with us to make further improvements.

We understand that many customers are more familiar with the previous app, and changes in functionality can take time to adjust to.

While not all changes may be possible, PayByPhone is committed to improving the overall user experience and making the parking process as seamless as possible.

We will continue to pass back any feedback received.

## Garden waste service

South Hams residents can sign up to or renew their subscription for our garden waste collection service from Monday (3 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 3 February and 1 April 2025 will pay a discounted fee of £65 for a year-long subscription running from April 2025 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 £68. 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](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste) - the website is also full of information on the service. Alternatively, residents can call us, though we encourage everyone to use the website as it's easier and quicker.

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

We will be promoting subscriptions to residents with social media, e-mail newsletters, and a press release.

## Avian Influenza - Bird Flu

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been declared for the whole of England.

This means that people who keep birds must, by law, follow strict biosecurity rules to prevent the spread of bird flu.

Biosecurity measures include for example;

- Placing bird food and water under cover to prevent contamination from wild birds
- Changing or disinfecting footwear when entering the enclosure to prevent any contamination.
- Washing hands before and after tending to birds

Bird species such as parrots and budgies that are kept entirely indoors are excluded from the order, but people who keep poultry are, regardless of how many birds they keep, included. Since 2022, one in five

bird flu cases were in poultry kept in the garden as pets?

## What's bird flu and how does it spread?

Bird flu is a fatal viral disease that can affect both wild and domestic birds, including chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys. Cases usually peak in winter due to the migration of wild birds into the UK, who can bring the virus with them, but outbreaks can occur at any time of year. It's spread by:

- Mixing with infected wild birds
- Being exposed to faeces and feathers from infected birds
- The virus being brought into the bird's environment, for example from dirty footwear or clothing

## More information

In order to keep up to date with latest advice and developments please see the Government website for the most up to date information. It contains lots of information, such as webinars for bird keepers, and links that you will find helpful

Latest situation in England (DEFRA): [click this link](#).

## Reporting Dead Wild Birds

Finally, it is important that if you find a wild dead bird to not touch it, but to report it to DEFRA. They test the bird to track the extent of any bird flu outbreak. You can report to DEFRA [via this link](#) or by telephoning them on 03459 33 55 77.