

HOLNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr T Crook (Chair for this meeting), R Applegarth, M Fairman, L Grun and C McLean

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Thomas, Rob Steemson (DNPA) and two members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Crook at 7.30pm.

060525.01	<p>Election of Chair</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Crook, seconded by Cllr Grun, and unanimously agreed that Cllr Owen is re-elected as Chair.</p> <p><i>Cllr Owen will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.</i></p>
060525.02	<p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Grun, seconded by Cllr McLean, and unanimously agreed that Cllr Applegarth is elected as Vice Chair.</p> <p><i>Cllr Applegarth signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</i></p>
060525.03	<p>Resignation and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>3.1 It was noted that Cllr Fairman had decided to step down as a Parish Councillor after this meeting. Cllr Crook had also decided to step down to focus on other village commitments. His last meeting will be July. Both were thanked for their hard work and commitment and their contribution will be missed</p> <p>3.2 Apologies were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Owen• County Cllr Thomas
060525.04	<p>Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.</p>
060525.05	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>Ross Gray advised that he had visited the owner of The Glebe to discuss recent tree work at the property. He had a useful discussion with him and left with no concerns.</p> <p>It was noted that a car has been parked on Holne Chase Hill for at least a fortnight. It was agreed that the clerk would contact District Cllr Pannell to see if any action could be taken to remove it.</p>
060525.06	<p>Reports</p> <p>6.1 County Council</p> <p>Cllr Thomas circulated a written report as follows:</p> <p>Election Results</p> <p>Last week's election saw the political map of Devon dramatically redrawn. The Lib Dems went from 9 to 27 Cllrs (4 short of an outright majority). The Conservatives went from 40 to 7 Cllrs. The Green Party gained 4 members, from 2 to 6 Cllrs. The Independents are now at 2, down from 3 Cllrs.</p>

	<p>Reform UK are the official opposition, with 18 Cllrs. The South Hams is the only authority area in Devon with no Reform members.</p> <p>Julian Brazil has been elected Leader of the Lib Dems and will become Leader at County later this month. He has announced that he will be resigning from his position as leader at SHDC.</p> <p>Paul Arnott, the Leader of East Devon District Council, will be his county deputy. A new county cabinet will be selected over the next couple of weeks, prior to the annual meeting on 22 May.</p> <p>6.2 District Council Cllrs Hancock and Pannell circulated a written report (attached). In County Councillor Thomas's absence, Cllr Pannell also commented on the election results. Julian Brazil, Leader of South Hams, has become the Leader of the Lib Dem Group so they presume he will become Leader of the County Council. He also commented that the result of this will be that the District and County will be as one on the future shape of local government. One of the key issues will now be about how much of the South Hams Plymouth will be allowed to take as part of the restructuring.</p> <p>6.3 DNPA Rob Steemson reported that whilst the government has cut DNPA funding, there is some extra FiPL (Farming in Protected Landscapes) funding.</p> <p>There are currently no complaints on the Public Rights of Way system. Nine new footpath signs have been installed on footpaths across the parish. A loose style-tread has been noted on Footpath 11 (Chase Gate) and needs repair. Works on Holne Moor on the track to Ringleshutes have generally been completed. There is a potential issue with the surface which will be looked at at a later date. The Commoners have done a lot of controlled burning which will have a positive impact on biodiversity. A management plan is being put together for the Commoners to feed in to. DNPA is still waiting for the result of the camping challenge. There was a big fire over the weekend on Duchy of Cornwall land spreading over 500 hectares. There is an ongoing warning about the risk of fire.</p>
060525.07	<p>Minutes Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 April 2025. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
060525.08	<p>Roles and Responsibilities The following roles and responsibilities were agreed:</p> <p>8.1 Planning It was agreed that all members will be responsible for looking at planning applications.</p> <p>8.2 Playpark It was agreed that all members will be responsible for Holne Playpark subject to confirming this with Cllr Owen who had previously represented the Parish Council on Holne Playpark which no longer exists.</p> <p>8.3 Village Hall Committee Cllr Crook advised that he was in the process of looking at the Village Hall constitution to see if it was necessary to have a Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>8.4 Snow Warden It was agreed the Cllr Applegarth would continue as Snow Warden.</p> <p>8.5 Tree Warden It was agreed that Ross Gray would continue as Tree Warden.</p>

	<p>8.6 Leats Liaison It was agreed that Cllr Applegarth would act as the Leats Liaison Officer.</p> <p>8.7 Website It was agreed that Cllr Crook would look after the Parish Council page of the village website.</p> <p>8.8 Defibrillator It was agreed to ask Paul Arrowsmith whether the shop will continue to check the defibrillator.</p> <p>8.9 Devon Air Ambulance Night-Landing Site It was agreed that Cllr Applegarth would continue as the guardian of the DAA night-landing site.</p> <p>8.10 Footpaths It was agreed that Cllrs McLean and Grun would walk the paths and report any matters which need action.</p> <p>8.11 Climate & Biodiversity It was agreed that Cllrs McLean and Grun would lead on Climate and Biodiversity.</p> <p>8.12 Trustee of Holne Church Charity Cllr Owen is a Trustee of the Holne Church Charity and it was assumed she would continue in this role.</p>
060525.09	<p>Review of Parish Council Governance Documents</p> <p>9.1 Members received and adopted updated Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, as proposed.</p> <p>9.2 Members reviewed the Assets Register. There were no changes.</p> <p>9.3 No changes were required to other governance documents.</p>
060525.10	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <p>10.1 Payments for Approval The following payment was approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DALC Annual Membership Fee - £121.89 • Lee Accounting (SW) Ltd - Internal audit of accounts - £108 • TQ Print & Design - Gardening for Wildlife booklet - £332.70 • EDF - Night-landing mast - £19.53 <p>10.2 Insurance Members reviewed the Council's insurance and agreed to accept the quote for £562.58. Members agreed to commit to 3 years.</p> <p>10.3 Audit 2024/25</p> <p>10.3.1 Members received and noted the year-end bank reconciliation.</p> <p>10.3.2 Members received and noted the internal auditor's report and agreed that this Council is confident that the internal audit arrangements provided by Lee Accounting (South West) Ltd provides excellent reassurance for the public that the financial systems are robust and fit for purpose and to continue with their appointment as the Internal Auditor to the Parish Council.</p> <p>10.3.3 Members agreed that this Council is exempt from a limited assurance review under s9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and authorised the Chair and RFO to sign the Certificate of Exemption.</p> <p>10.3.4 Members completed and authorised the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 1 of the Annual Return (Annual Governance Statement 2024/25).</p>

	10.3.5 Members received, approved and authorised the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign Section 2 of the Annual Return (Accounting Statements 2024/25).
060525.11	Planning 11.1 New applications/appeals 11.1.1 0115/25 – Barn at Michelcombe, Holne Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use – continuous use of barn in connection with business storage Members agreed not to comment. 11.2 Decisions 11.2.1 0424/24 – Stonehanger, Holne Replacement dwelling and garage building Members noted that DNPA has granted conditional consent.
060525.12	Playpark 12.1 Cllr Fairman advised that the swings have been fitted and are being used by the children. Despite stepping down as a Parish Councillor, he will continue to dig out the leat around the sump. The sign pointing to the toilets in the village centre needs chasing and he has put up a new aluminium frame on the outside gate to replace the one which had disintegrated. The baby swing needs to be fitted. Cllr Crook offered to do this. The spare swing can be stored in the storage shed in the Village Hall car park. Members received the inspection report and noted the highlighted defects. Cllr Applegarth offered to tighten the bracket at the top of the basket swing and would look at the wooden block at the top of the slide which can be lifted from the concrete base.
060525.13	Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Cllr Grun advised that she receives the updates from Sustainable South Hams and always looks to see if there is anything relevant to Holne parish.
060525.14	Leats There were no new issues reported.
060525.15	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/ There were no new issues.
060525.16	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
060525.17	Correspondence None
060525.18	Date of Next Meeting It was agreed that June’s meeting will be replaced by a walkabout of the village on 3 June at 7.30pm. Members to meet outside the Village Hall. The next formal meeting of the Parish Council will be on 1 July.

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Cllr T Crook
Chair for this meeting

District Councillors' Report

May 2025

Election round-up

The results for the Devon County Council election are in.

The following people have won the seats for the 7 wards within the South Hams.

- Totnes and Dartington - Jacqui Hodgson (Green Party)
- South Brent and Yealmpton - Dan Thomas (Liberal Democrats)
- Salcombe - Louise Wainwright (Liberal Democrats)
- Kingsbridge - Julian Brazil (Liberal Democrats)
- Ivybridge - Victor Abbott (Liberal Democrats)
- Dartmouth & Marldon - Simon Rake (Liberal Democrats)
- Bickleigh & Wembury - Tony Carson (Conservative)

You can find all the detailed information on our website.

Congratulations to both new and returning councillors.

Water Quality Monitoring Pilot for South Hams

Our rivers and estuaries are a major draw for those who engage in leisure activities both in and on the water, ranging from dinghy sailors to paddle boarders and wild swimmers.

Currently, up-to-date information on water quality is difficult for the public to find, and is often restricted to seasonal sampling at designated bathing water sites.

In April, South Hams District Council launched a pilot project which aims to deliver real-time (or near to real-time) data to help our residents and visitors stay better informed about the health of our rivers and estuaries. The pilot supports our Delivery Plan on climate and biodiversity and our commitment to local tourism and marine businesses.

We've been working with Totnes-based Teledyne Valeport to bring together a suite of sensors that will be deployed at four locations in the district and will monitor water quality without the need for off-site analysis.

A senior leadership strategic visit last year highlighted the company's long-established role in underwater sensor research and development.

Throughout this pilot, we will work closely with local community groups already actively engaged in water monitoring activities to identify the most effective locations for exposure risk. The pilot will also work with organisations such as the Environment Agency to help build a better picture of water quality in our district.

The pilot offers an important opportunity to partner with University of Plymouth, with researchers from its Faculty of Science and Engineering playing a key role in providing support for data management and analytic activities, and in developing a user-friendly water quality dashboard. Historic raw water quality data will also be maintained.

Monitoring equipment is expected to be deployed over the course of the summer and will be followed by the launch of the dashboard. An impact report at the end of the pilot will also offer recommendations for potential future activity.

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan consultation – now live

Further to previous advanced notice, the public consultation on the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan has begun and will run until Monday 19 May.

The consultation draft of the Forest Plan can be viewed here: [PSDCF Consultation](#).