

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON ZOOM ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell, Mike Reece, Carol Ackroyd, Harry Baumer, Julie Fuller,
Trudie Timlin Brown, Nirosha Gunatillake, Andrew Hollett and Chris Flower

County Councillor Richard Hosking (from 8.35 pm until 9.00 pm)
District Councillor Keith Baldry (from 7.30 pm until 8.34 pm)
Teresa Drew - Parish Clerk

Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s) present: 2

155/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from District Councillor Dan Thomas and Cllr James Pengelly.

156/20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were invited to declare any personal, or disclosable pecuniary interests including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in items to be considered at this meeting.

Cllr Flower - pecuniary interest in planning application 0281/21/FUL agenda item 11.

157/20 REPORTS

(a) County Councillor and District Councillor's Reports

County Councillor Richard Hosking:

1. Coronavirus Vaccinations. The race to vaccinate and ensure we stay ahead of virus variations continues and those receiving their first vaccine dose is now beyond the 10 million mark in England. Vaccination facilities are expanding daily.
The number of cases globally now exceeds 103 million with 2.3 million Coronavirus-related deaths. Tighter lockdown regulations were announced in several postcode areas to combat the South African variants.
2. There have been 478 cases of Coronavirus confirmed in Devon in the week to 4th February, a significant decline from the second peak, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 18,460. Although the numbers are declining, there were sadly 29 deaths confirmed in the County in the same week.
3. Testing remains an important element of pandemic containment, particularly for some of the new variants. Area testing is being rolled out in a few locations. Self-referral is required in the event of symptom development, and testing capacity is being increased across the country (County Hall and Home Park are now testing centres).
4. Case numbers are beginning to fall again across the country and we await the outcome of the review of lockdown measures promised on 14th February 2021. You will be pleased to hear that the number of cases in Diptford in the week to 4th February was less than three per 100K.
5. The current indication is that Police and Crime Commissioner and County Council elections will take place on 6th May 2021.
6. Immunity takes at least a fortnight to establish following vaccination, and the possibility of those who have been vaccinated still spreading the virus is not yet known. Hands, face and even more space are still essential to contain the spread in the next few weeks as the race between virus and vaccination accelerates. Please stay at home unless your journey is essential.
7. The Devon County Council Active Travel Report was presented to the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee last week. I raised the lack of financial assistance for the proposed traffic free route between Bittaford and Ivybridge and proposed a new DCC policy for Active Travel for larger villages and small towns and the Scrutiny Committee agreed to propose this to Cabinet. A policy will assist the County in lobbying Central Government for funding.

157/20 REPORTS - County Councillor Richard Hosking: (continued)

8. Libraries

A Choose and Collect lifeline library service recommenced in Ivybridge on 19th January 2021 - email - Ivybridge.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk or visit the website bit.ly/Jan21-Lockdown-Update

9. The Budget proposed by the Cabinet of Devon County Council this year is £578.5 million, an increase of 6.6%, which will require the maximum permitted increase of 4.99% in our Council Tax precept. The Budget will be considered at the Full Council meeting on 18th February 2021.
10. Locality Budget. Regrettably County Hall have declined the request for funding for a promotional video for Holbeton School. I believe this is due to the Academy of which Holbeton School is a member receiving funding for promotion. I have invited the school to apply for other equipment and await their response.
11. The Holbeton Bird Box Project have also made a request for funding of £1,000. I can potentially divert the school funding to the Bird Box Project and would like the Parish Council view on this project before deciding. I only have until the 5th March 2021 to make applications for these funds.

District Councillor Keith Baldry:

SHDC Full Council meeting Thursday 11 February will be discussing the regeneration of Ivybridge. Council Tax proposal increase of £5.00 per annum Band D property.

(b) Questions from the public and Councillors

Cllrs Ackroyd - Scobbiscombe Farm entrance has been widened to increase visibility, which was not in the recent planning application and may have destroyed the early flowering purple orchids in the area. Resolved Cllr Ackroyd will assess the situation and report to various bodies and report objection to the widening of the entrance to SHDC. **ACTION: Cllr Ackroyd**

158/20 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

136/20 A379 to Bull and Bear, near area where the engineering work has recently been completed. Road surface is deteriorating. On the crest of the hill vehicles are encroaching into the bank, bollards required. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking - Bull & Bear to Flete Western - crest of hill photographs have been received. I will attempt to inspect from within the field.**

136/20 White lines are required urgently at the junction by Holbeton post office. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking/DCC Highways - Regrettably there is no identifiable budget for refreshing the white lines at the Post Office junction at this moment. We will continue to seek a budget.**

136/20 Pot holes on Brent Hill, Eastern Town and Holbeton Point need repairing. Verges need repairing in Ford area near Backlane footpath and at the turning into Fursdon Farm. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

136/20 Drains still need to be addressed opposite Church top gate, Vicarage Hill and outside the Dartmoor Union. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking - the problem with drains at various locations is noted and we continue to try and get these cleared.**

136/20 Parking on the corner of Garden Close and Fore Street - Cllr Hosking to visit area and understand the issues. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking - I will attempt to look at the parking situation at Garden Close at the same time as the hedge on the Bull & Bear Road.**

136/20 Speeding at Battsborough Cross - Cllr Hosking will look at Battsborough accident history, SCARF history is also being assessed. Nick Colton DCC Highways is reviewing the situation. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking/DCC Highways - there is no apparent route to funding for the relocation of the 30-mph sign at Battsborough Cross. Speed data recorded not long ago in Battsborough, which did not support any change in the limit.**

136/20 Hedge slip near Gibb - Cllr Sherrell to liaise with Cllr Hosking. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

136/20 Village Play Park - slide safety concerns. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell** - quote has been received from Earth Wrights. To fix cladding to the play tower (in the Earth Wrights style) will cost £958 + vat. To fix a single pitch roof to the tower would cost £1,427 + vat (with an added benefit of extending the lifespan of the whole tower). Discussion ensued and it was resolved Cllr Gunatillake will seek grant/funding for the project. **ACTION: Cllr Gunatillake**

159/20 APPROVAL OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of Holbeton Parish Council meeting held on 12 January 2021 (previously circulated), were approved by the Chairman and will be signed.

160/20 FLOODING ACROSS THE ROAD BETWEEN THE TOP OF CHURCH HILL AND WHITEMOOR CROSS

Cllr Timlin Brown pointed out, the Lengthsman does not have permission to go onto private land to clear buddle holes/drains. Cllr Sherrell will discuss with Flete Estate. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

It was also noted there was flooded road, due to a blocked buddle hole abuts one of Mr Hockin's fields.

161/20 RENEWAL OF VILLAGE PLAY PARK LEASE

Cllr Sherrell reported that Flete Estate have spoken to their agent a short-term lease of 3 years is agreed (which can be renewed every 3 years). Renewing the lease every 3 years would avoid legal fees, which would be required for a longer term lease. Flete Estate are happy for the area to continue being the play area, there are no intentions to change the use of the land. Resolved to sign lease for 3 years. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

162/20 HOLBETON JOG TRACK - SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

The Parish Council can reclaim the VAT on the costs of the running track as long as it meets certain conditions:

1. The project must be a Holbeton Parish Council community project for a non-business purpose (i.e. no charge for the facility).
2. The Parish Council must place the orders for the project.
3. The tax invoices from the contractors must be made out the Holbeton Parish Council
4. The payments are made from Holbeton Parish Council's bank account.

The track will be a community sporting facility for the parish. Discussion ensued and it was resolved to set up a sub-committee to look at fund raising for the project. **ACTION: Cllrs Flower/Fuller**

163 SOUTH WEST INTEGRATED FOOTBALL (SWIFT) - BATTISBOROUGH CROSS (BX) PARKING PROJECT

An update had been received from SWIFT on proceedings for the car parking at BX which is as follows:

The football association are withholding any funding for this sort of project as the COVID lockdowns/furloughs etc have diminished their ability to generate the cash. Alternative funding is being investigated. Dennis Curtis has indicated the works cost will be in the region of £6000, but this has not been confirmed. It is agreed everything will have to be on hold, however, we do have 3 years to get the work completed.

164/20 PLANNING

The following plans were ratified:

Reference: 4226/20/FUL

Proposal: Provision of agricultural/equestrian building

Site Address: Keaton Farmhouse, Holbeton, Devon, PL8 1HL

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0177/21/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for new timber frame entrance porch, demolition of the existing single storey extension and erection of new single storey extension (resubmission of 3826/20/HH)

Site Address: Keaton Farmhouse, Holbeton, Devon, PL8 1HL

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0077/21/FUL

Proposal: Provision of two fodder stores

Site Address: Fursdon Farm, Yealmpton, Devon

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0281/21/FUL

Proposal: Replace existing porches and new living room extensions

Site Address: Carswell Cottages, Holbeton, Devon, PL8 1HJ

Recommendation: Support

Planning Decision:

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3175/20/TCA Holbeton LOCATION: Grannys Cottage 47, The Square Holbeton PL8 1LR

PROPOSAL: T2: Lombardy Poplar - Crown height reduction by 5-6m, tree has poor form, is top heavy and leaning into neighbouring car park

DECISION: Tree Works No Objection Raised

165/20 FINANCE

It was resolved to approve the following payments and receipts:

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Nett
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - January 2021 Salary	£441.76	-	-
HMRC	Parish Clerk	£13.00	-	-
Mrs M Venton	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - January 2021	£67.50	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Repairs to Parish laptop	£45.00	-	-
EDF Energy	Reading Rooms - 25 July 2020 - 23 January 2021	£52.02	£2.60	£49.42
Mr M Rawlings	Lengthsman Duties	£50.00	-	-
Cllr Hollett	Zoom - HPC Climate Change Sub-committee	£14.39	-	-

Receipt: Bank Interest (11.01.2021) - £0.05

Grant Request: Kingsbridge Gymnastics Club Project - resolved not to award a grant

Holbeton Parish Council - Bank Reconciliations

Business Account bank statement as at 11 January 2021:

£5,000.00

Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 January 2021:

£20,343.63

£25,343.63

Less: any un-presented cheques

001421

-£50.00

001440

-£66.44

001441

-£52.50

001442

-£64.05

-£232.99

Add: any un-banked cash/cheques

£0.00

£0.00

Total =

£25,110.64

HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2021/2022 = £14,375

An increase of 14.2% or £5.82 on the 2020/21 Band D figure.

Resolved payments for the climate change subcommittee Zoom meetings, will be charged to the Section 106 fund.

166/20 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee held its most recent meeting on Tuesday the 2nd February via Zoom.

The section 106 money (£3,646.35) should now appear imminently, having had an email from the person responsible at CORE. To date £516 has been earmarked for spending in support of the Environmental Action Plan. The 2 proposals below would increase this to a maximum of £966.

- The new wildflower area next to the Reading Rooms will be prepared by mowing the grass short and scarifying the surface (no charge for the work), with the seeding to be done mid March, the exact timing dependent on the weather.

The PCC has approved the management arrangement for the new wildflower area, with the following stipulations:

- The land will be managed by Holbeton Parish Council under an annual licence from All Saints Parochial Church Council starting on 1st January 2021.
- The licence will be reviewed each year before renewal on 1st January and both sides will have the option to give three months' notice to quit for whatever reason.
- There will be no fee for the licence and no compensation on termination.

- The permitted use of the land is as a wild flower meadow and ancillary education and research.
- The Parish Council is liable for public liability insurance to cover its use of the land.

The PCC has indicated that they consider the wild flower area as a long term project, at least 5 years duration. They also favour a small notice adjacent to the area explaining its purpose and significance. The Parish Council is asked to approve the PCC's conditions, and a sum not greater than £150 for such a notice board. Resolved to approve.

- The Devon Climate Emergency zero carbon plan consultation has been completed with the statements agreed at the last parish council meeting.
- The SHDC draft housing policy consultation has been completed, though difficult as their process consisted of a series of closed ended questions. The parish council comments have been emailed via our two district councillors.
- The Yealm Community Energy open zoom meeting is arranged for the 23rd March at 7pm. This will give a better idea of their activities and plans for the future. As a significant local dividend results from the two solar farms, it is hoped that as many parish councillors as possible will be able to attend. Holbeton News will advertise the event and parishioners wishing to attend will be asked to email Andrew Hollett for details of how to attend. Other local parishes will also be allowed to attend the meeting.
- A new application form for those requesting funding from the section 106 money was put together and a copy is appended for approval. Two funding requests were considered.
- The first, from Joe Clarke on behalf of an ad hoc group, asked for £1,000 to make 100 bird boxes to be put up along public footpaths in the parish, plus the community orchard and the old orchard along the lane to Brownswell farm. The costs were £6 a box for the materials including hardwood. There was an additional £4 a box for labour costs. They proposed that the parish council should oversee the project and manage the payments. I had contacted Robbie Phillips, bird ecologist, who confirmed that he is advising the project, and supports its aims. He advised that in woodland it is important to use hardwood as otherwise there is a significant risk that the boxes would be destroyed by woodpeckers.

The sub-committee considered that it would not be appropriate to pay any labour costs, considering that entraining the help of parishioners in the making of the boxes would enhance the project. It was agreed that section 106 funds should not be spent on any bird boxes on private property, and any in the woodland must be visible from where there is public access. It was also agreed that as any bird boxes placed on the grade 1 listed church would require formal planning consent from the Church Commissioners, that any swift boxes or house marten decoys, whilst welcome, would not be supported. These could be installed by house owners at their own expense.

It was agreed that the project was nonetheless very welcome, on condition that it was continued with the active support of the bird ecologist. A sum of £300 would be offered to pay for the materials for 50 bird boxes. A report, including information about bird box uptake by wild birds later in the year, must be undertaken as a condition of the grant. If this proved successful, then the applicant can apply for a further £300 for 50 more boxes. The parish council is asked to support this proposal. Resolved support the proposal.

- The next tip of the month for March has not yet been finalised but is hoped that Joe Clarke will make a contribution on encouraging wild birds and explaining and advertising his bird box project.
- The second application was from Giles Ebbutt on behalf of the Holbeton Cricket Club for a solar panel installation behind the cricket pavilion at Flete. This will be used for lighting and an urn for cricket teas. Currently they use a Calor gas arrangement for their teas. They brew teas in the summer months for around 22 people and approximately once a week. They propose a free standing panel as the pavilion is a listed building. Two large lead acid storage batteries would allow plenty of energy to be stored for the urn as well as lights. The total cost of the project is £2,700 including installation and a small contingency fund. He is asking for up to £1,000. They have their own bank account with a significant current balance.

The subcommittee noted that they have not undertaken a feasibility study. Although the angle of the wooded hill south of the pavilion is quite small (around 10 degrees calculated from the ordnance survey map) and unlikely to interfere much with the collection of solar energy, a measurement of the actual angle of the hill and a calculation of the likely amount of electricity generated by the panel should be undertaken. It would also help to know how much Calor gas is currently used.

On satisfying the subcommittee of the feasibility, despite the cost of the project, it could approve funding on condition that the Calor gas arrangement was no longer used. The parish council is not asked to approve this proposal until the subcommittee has seen a feasibility study.

166/20 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer (continued)

- Cllr Nirosha Gunatillake wishes to join the climate change subcommittee. As a parish councillor I would consider that she should be able to join without approval. However, as she is the first parish councillor to ask to join, the parish council is asked either to approve the principle, or failing that to approve her membership. Resolved Cllr Gunatillake will join the subcommittee as of right as a serving parish councillor.
- There was a zoom meeting of the 5 Parishes Environment and Climate Change Alliance on the 4th February. Yealmlton Parish Council is reviewing its verge mowing arrangements to encourage biodiversity.

I am unclear what our parish's mowing policy is and suggest that Holbeton Parish Council reviews its own policy, drawing upon the work that has been undertaken by Yealmlton, and other local parish councils. The only sections of verges/hedges that are cut during the summer by Devon County Council are those obstructing the vision of road users at junctions.

- A carbon footprint tool for parish and town councils, developed by two groups at Exeter and Bristol universities, was shown to representatives of around 200 parishes, for the purpose of providing feedback. When launched it will be free to use. It uses available data, some from commercial sources, to create charts breaking down individual parishes' CO₂ equivalent consumption and emissions. It is unclear at this stage how to interpret the information and how this will help to identify priorities for carbon reduction.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 2nd March 2021.

167/20 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS TRANSFER TO PARISH COUNCIL - update

Cllr Hollett asked for a metered electricity supply to be installed in the public toilets, prior to the building being handed over to the parish council. Cllr Baldry has agreed to seek advice on the situation. **ACTION: Cllr Baldry**

168/20 MOTHECOMBE DOG WASTE BINS - Cllr Flower

Cllr Flower has received a response from SHDC Specialist (Waste), Commercial Services, Department. Unfortunately, there is no capacity to add any further bins onto the current bin emptying schedules. SHDC suggested looking at increasing the capacity of the existing dog bins. The maximum dog waste bins capacity is 60 litres, due to the weight when the bin is full for the operative to safely

The cost to change the bins would be approximately £500, resulting in a capacity increase of only 20%, which is not practical. Cllr Baldry agreed to pursue this issue at SHDC. **ACTION: Cllr Baldry**

169/20 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL LOGO

Prior to the parish council meeting, Cllr Hollett via email sent various ideas for a HPC logo. Discussion ensued on the ideas. Resolved to discuss in more detail with colour versions of selected logos at the Parish Council meeting in March. Clerk to add this item to the agenda. **ACTION: Cllr Hollett/Clerk**

170/20 CONDITION OF ROAD TO LAWNFIELD

Cllr Timlin Brown informed Cllr Hosking, that the road from Whitemoor Cross to Lawnfields is in bad condition. This is due to the development of Lawnfields. Cllr Hosking will liaise with DCC Highways and assess the damage. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

171/20 REVIEW OF DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY POLICY & DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT JULY 2020

Cllrs Baumer and Hollett asked if the use of parish surveys could be included into the policy and impact assessment. Resolved to add Parish Surveys to both documents. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer/Clerk**

172/20 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Reece continues to empty the dehumidifier and check Reading Rooms weekly. The dehumidifier appears to be preventing deterioration due to damp.

Cllr Timlin Brown noticed plastic collars around young trees are often not removed, or they are left lying on the ground.

Cllr Gunatillake - volume of traffic/people at Mothecombe beach has increased recently, which may be linked to the recent COVID -19 restrictions. Cllr Ackroyd had also received concerns from parishioners.

172/20 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS (continued)

Cllr Baumer asked if the idea of placing a log across the route between Lawnfields and Efford House lane had been pursued, as it would stop the bikers, but allow use by walkers and riders. Cllr Sherrell will speak to Mr. J Mildmay-White. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

Cllr Ackroyd has received COVID complaints and advised parishioner on what to do. Avian Flu concerns had been raised. Clerk to write to an owner of poultry at Brownswell Farm. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Sherrell - grant for a video tour of Holbeton Primary School from Devon County Council was not granted. Cllr Sherrell will liaise with Cllr Hosking.

173/20 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK INSPECTIONS AND MONTHLY INSPECTION OF PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS - Cllr Reece

The bike track has now been closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

174/20 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Clerk had received an email from a parishioner informing her the noticeboard at Battisborough Cross has been badly damaged in the recent weather conditions. Councillors thanked the parishioner for dealing with the incident. Clerk to speak to the insurance company. **ACTION: Clerk**

175/20 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next **Parish Council Meeting** to be held remotely on Zoom will take place on **Tuesday 9 March 2021** at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

John Sherrell

(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 9 March 2021

Holbeton Parish Council website- <https://www.holbeton-pc.gov.uk>

Dementia Friendly Parishes Around The Yealm



Holbeton Parish Council website- <https://www.holbeton-pc.gov.uk>

To report issues to the local Police. Members of the public who have a non-urgent matter to bring to the attention of their Local Policing Team, the easiest way of contacting them is:

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Ivybridge/Overview> or contact form:
<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/Ivybridge/Contact>

To report highway issues - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Devon County Council road works completed, current & future works -

<https://apps1.wdm.co.uk/Live/Devon/PBLC/PIP/Map.aspx?cg=sws>

SHDC website: - <https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit> - click on what you would like to report, from the drop down menu.