

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

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

County Councillor Richard Hosking (from 8.10 pm until 8.40 pm)

District Councillor Dan Thomas (from 7.30 pm until 8.00 pm)

Teresa Drew - Parish Clerk

Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s) present: 1

176/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from District Councillor Keith Baldry, Cllr James Pengelly and Cllr Julie Fuller.

178/20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

179/20 REPORTS

(a) County Councillor and District Councillor's Reports

County Councillor Richard Hosking:

Over 90% of residents aged over 70 have been vaccinated and people aged 50+ are now called. On the 1 March 2020 the first case was reported in Devon. Reported numbers of new COVID-19 cases and people in hospital with COVID-19 are falling.

Schools returned on the 8 March 2021.

Road works have commenced on A3121, A379 junction at Flete Eastern will be ongoing for some time.

Anyone struggling during the pandemic please contact Cllr Hosking.

The County Council budget has been approved. Over 73% of the net revenue budget of £545.5million will be spent on caring and supporting vulnerable people.

Devon County Council tax increase of 4.99%. Band D Council Tax will rise by £71.82 a year or £1.38p per week

Holbeton Primary school has applied for a Locality Grant for reading books.

The verge at the entrance to Scobbiscombe Farm where the Wild Orchards were growing, does not belong to DCC Highways.

District Councillor Dan Thomas:

South Hams Council tax increase of 2.9% district has been agreed, which is an increase of £5 per annum on a Band D property.

The new recycling system has 5 phases, Holbeton is phase 5. New recycling containers will be delivered week commencing 26 April 2021 and the new collections will be rolled out the following week.

Business Grant scheme managed by SHDC - 3,053 applications have been received, 1989 have been paid, 250 have been refused and the remainder is being processed.

Local elections - Local Elections will be going ahead in England on the 6 May 2021, SHDC are now working to ensure that this can be delivered safely looking at all aspects of safety to ensure COVID compliance. The use of postal voting will be encouraged.

179/20 REPORTS (continued)

(b) Questions from the public and Councillors

Cllr Baumer asked if the blue recycling bags will continue to be supplied. Cllr Thomas confirmed blue bags will continue to be issued and used until the end of May 2021.

Cllr Hollett asked if the brown and grey bins will be required when SHDC new recycling system is in place? Cllr Thomas confirmed the brown bin will be required for garden waste and the brown food caddy for food waste. The grey bin to be used for waste that cannot be recycled.

Cllr Hollett was concerned that there does not seem to be a procedure for COVID testing, at a local secondary school is which is using supply teachers. Cllr Hosking will investigate. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

Cllr Ackroyd - when the beach is busy at Mothecombe, parishioners find it difficult to access their properties. Is there anything be done? Cllr Hosking stated the situation can be monitored but currently there is no solution.

180/20 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

158/20 A379 Flete Western 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. Highway near Ramsland Farm needs to be assessed. Cllr Sherrell will assess the issues with Cllr Hosking. **ACTION: Cllrs Hosking / Sherrell**

158/20 White lines are required urgently at the junction by Holbeton post office - **ACTION: Cllr Hosking/DCC Highways**

158/20 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**

158/20 Drains still need to be addressed opposite Church top gate, Vicarage Hill and outside the Dartmoor Union - **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

158/20 Parking on the corner of Garden Close and Fore Street - Cllr Hosking to visit area and consider possible solutions with Cllr Sherrell - **ACTION: Cllrs Hosking/Sherrell**

158/20 Cllr Hosking is trying to obtain funding to extend the 30 mph speed limit in a residential area at Battisborough Cross. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking/DCC Highways**

158/20 Hedge slip near Gibb - **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

158/20 Village Play Park Safety Concerns - Information is being sought for various grants. Resolved not to place a roof on the slide, but install cladding on the side. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

160/20 Permission from Flete Estate to access land to clear drains - **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

170/20 Condition of the road from Whitemoor Cross to Lawnfield. Cllr Hosking will liaise with DCC Highways - **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

181/20 APPROVAL OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of Holbeton Parish Council meeting held on 9 February 2021 (previously circulated), were approved by the Chairman and will be signed.

182/20 WHITE LINES REQUIRED BATTISBOROUGH CROSS AT JUNCTION TO MOTHECOMBE - Cllr Pengelly

Cllr Sherrell and Cllr Hosking will assess the area. **ACTION: Cllrs Hosking/Sherrell**

183/20 PLANNING

Planning Application Ref: 0357/21/ARC

Description: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4 and 9 of planning consent 0610/19/FUL

Address: Lawnfield Holbeton PL8 1JH

Recommendation: No comment

PLANNING DECISIONS:

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0022/21/ARC Holbeton

LOCATION: The Smithy Battisborough Cross Devon

PROPOSAL: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 5, 6 and 9 of planning application 2850/17/FUL

DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3443/20/ARC Holbeton

LOCATION: Little Luson, Luson, Yealmlton Devon PL8 2JD

PROPOSAL: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 11 and 12 of Planning Application 3860/19/FUL

DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

184/20 FINANCE

It was resolved to approve the following payments and receipts:

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Nett
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - February 2021 Salary	£441.56	-	-
HMRC	Parish Clerk	£13.20	-	-
Mrs M Venton	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - February 2021	£60.00	-	-
South West Water Business	Services at allotments	£49.32	-	-
Mythic Beasts Ltd	Renewal of Holbeton-pc.gov.uk (website) for 2 years	£72.00	£12.00	£60.00
J C Garden Services	Removal of branches around street light	£30.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Cllr Harry	Purchase of wild flower seeds	£63.50	-	-
Baumer - S016 Creacombe	Purchase of environmental books	£65.39	-	-

RECEIPT(S): Bank Interest (09.02.2021) - £0.04
Marlands Solar Ltd - £1,846.00 (S106 Creacombe)
Marlands Solar Ltd - £2,800.35 (S106 Creacombe)

GRANT REQUEST(S): Parish Churchyard Maintenance - discussion ensued on the management of the churchyard, particularly the number of times the grass is cut. Resolved to grant £500. **ACTION: Clerk**

Holbeton Parish Council - Bank Reconciliations		
Business Account bank statement as at 09 February 2021 :	£5,000.00	
Treasurers Account bank statement as at 12 February 2021:	£24,065.27	
		£29,065.27
Less: any un-presented cheques		
	001421	-£50.00
	001450	-£67.50
	001451	-£45.00
	001452	-£52.02
	001453	-£50.00
	001454	-£14.39
	001455	-£13.00
		-£291.91
Add: any un-banked cash/cheques	£0.00	
		£0.00
	Total =	£28,773.36
PRECEPT 2021/2022 = £14,375		
An increase of 14.2% or £5.82 on the 2020/21 Band D figure.		

185/20 VERIFICATION OF BANK STATEMENTS AND RECONCILIATIONS

Financial Regulation 2.2: On a regular basis, at least once in each quarter, and at each financial year end, a member other than the Chairman shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the council

Resolved that Cllr Flower will verify reconciliations. **ACTION: Cllr Flower**

186/20 HOLBETON JOG TRACK - SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

A sub-committee is in the process of being setup. **ACTION: Cllrs Flower/Fuller**

Cllrs Thomas and Baldry have earmarked £500 from their Locality Grant and a further £500 after April 2021, which will be released when the project commences.

187/20 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 March (zoom meeting) and approved minutes of the February meeting.

- The section 106 money (£3,646.35) is now in the parish council account (along with an extra £1,000 that is to be distributed to the 3 local primary schools). The solar panel proposal below would increase the amount of this money already committed to a maximum of £1,566.
- Preparations for the new wildflower area next to the Reading Rooms have started. Tom Flint has mowed the area short, and it will soon be scarified and sown with seed mix, the exact timing dependent on the weather. The PCC has signed the agreement and is sending a copy to Teresa for safe keeping.
- 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. It is hoped that as many parish councillors as possible will be able to attend, and will encourage others to do so. Holbeton News and Yealmpton Press have advertised the event. Other local parishes have been encouraged to attend the meeting. The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82865129575>. The meeting ID: 828 6512 9575.
- Joe Clarke has accepted the donation of £300 for the bird boxes project with the attendant conditions. All expenditure invoices will be sent to myself for onward payment from the section 106 environmental fund. He has apparently managed to recruit around 20 local parishioners to help construct the boxes. He is applying for further funding to other bodies in order to increase the number of boxes to 100.
- The next environmental tip of the month for April will be on the subject of encouraging wild flowers.
- Giles Ebbutt on behalf of the Holbeton Cricket Club has resubmitted his application for a solar panel installation behind the cricket pavilion at Flete, including a feasibility study. This will be used for lighting and an urn for cricket teas.

They brew teas in the summer months for around 22 people approximately once a week. Currently they use a Calor gas arrangement for their teas, and get through around 24 litres a year, resulting in calculated CO₂ equivalent emissions of around 36 kilos per year.

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 and the occasional use of power tools.

The total cost of the project is £2,700 including installation and a small contingency fund. They are asking for up to £1,000. They have their own bank account with a significant current balance.

The subcommittee were satisfied with the feasibility study, and despite the cost of the project, it could approve funding on condition that the Calor gas arrangement is permanently removed. The proposal is to pay £600 towards the project. A parishioner who is CEO of Ethical Power has also kindly offered to donate 1 or 2 new solar panels for the project.

The parish council is asked to approve this proposal. Resolved to grant £600 towards the project.

187/20 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE (continued)

- A carbon footprint tool for parish and town councils, developed by two groups at Exeter and Bristol universities, has now been launched, and is free to use. It uses available data, some from commercial sources, to create charts breaking down individual parishes' CO₂ equivalent emissions. It demonstrates the importance of agriculture in contributing to Holbeton Parish's carbon footprint. It can be accessed at <https://impact-tool.org.uk/>.
- John Sherrell has kindly agreed to encourage his farming colleagues to undertake carbon audits of their farms along the lines of his own work. **The subcommittee wishes to support this by ensuring that the manpower to help farmers to collect and enter the data for farmers is made available as a one off. The parish council is asked to support this initiative in principle. Resolved the parish council will support the initiative in principle.**
- John has also kindly offered to brief the subcommittee on aspects of farming, looking at the anticipated changes in farming practices as a consequence of climate change and post Brexit. It is hoped that this might pave the way for a series of pieces for the Holbeton News, with the aim over time of educating parishioners about a variety of farming issues, particularly as these impact on the farmed environment.
- A repeat wild flower survey of the field Cross Park at the top of Church Hill, is planned. A previous survey in 1986 demonstrated an abundance of different species that suggested that this field's traditional flowers have been preserved. Since then, the field has been managed using traditional methods. Now, 35 years later, we have the local expertise insofar as a parishioner, Andy Byfield, is the Landscape Conservation Manager for Plantlife (the British wild plant conservation charity). He has agreed to undertake the survey and involve other parishioners who would like to learn from the experience. This is supported by the landowner and farmer.
- A review of all the Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) in the parish was undertaken by Caroline Howarth for the subcommittee. The report on this work is appended to this briefing. It has a potentially important message for the parish council when considering the Church Hill development. The 14 dwellings in Masons Yard development had EPC ratings of either B or C, and the subcommittee considered that the new development must be built to an A rated standard. The developers should be in a position to be able to predict the EPC ratings.
- It was agreed that members of the subcommittee would document where early purple orchids are located this year along the roadside verges in the parish. Any councillors who would care to join in this initiative are asked to email me with their sightings. From this a register of the flowers will be created and be available when considering proposals that could adversely affect these flowers.
- A recent report on the effects of domestic wood burning on the amount of fine particulate matter in the atmosphere was discussed. It was agreed that it was important to raise awareness of the potential hazards to health. A significant number of parishioners rely on this practice for heating their homes. It will take a national initiative to tackle the problem.
- The environmental library project is progressing. So far, the following books have been purchased second hand (7 hardbacks, 2 are donated):
 - Nature Cure, Richard Mabey
 - Plants with a purpose, Richard Mabey
 - Flora Britannica, Richard Mabey (an as new copy of this beautiful book for just £14)
 - Wilding, Isabella Tree
 - A sting in the tale, Dave Goulson
 - The Shepherd's Life, James Rebanks
 - The old ways, Robert MacFarlane
 - The wild places, Robert MacFarlane
 - Discovering Hedgerows, David Streeter & Rosamund RichardsonAt the moment I am holding the books until such time as they can be accommodated in the Reading Rooms. If you wish to borrow any of these then do contact me and I will arrange to pass them on.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 6th April 2021.

Holbeton Parish domestic Energy Performance Ratings

Over half the homes in the parish have had an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) following an inspection. They tend to be carried out when selling or renting a house or flat. These certificates are now publicly available online and can be accessed by searching by street or postcode.

To calculate the energy efficiency band, a qualified assessor comes to a property and looks at a variety of factors to better understand how energy is used in that home. This includes:

- looking at any potential for heat or energy loss,
- checking for insulation throughout the property,
- looking at how efficient the heating system and water is,
- inspecting whether there is double-glazing, energy efficient light bulbs, and so on.

Each segment of their inspection is given a score depending on how efficient it is and what condition it's in. The assessor then calculates how energy efficient the property is and provides an EPC rating for the property. These are graded according to a points system which runs as follows:

- EPC rating A = 92-100 SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) points
- B = 81-91 points
- C = 69-80 points
- D = 55-68 points
- E = 39-54 points
- F = 21-38 points
- G = 1-20 points

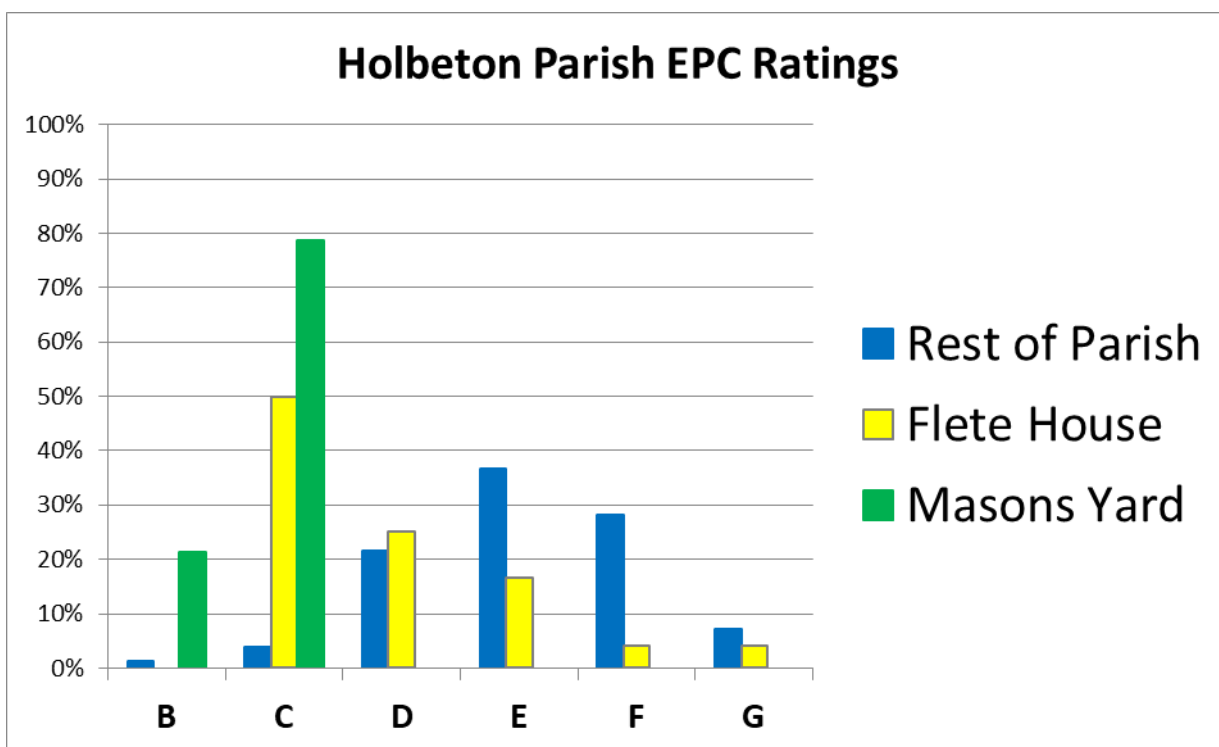
Over the past month Caroline Howarth has been identifying homes within the parish that have an EPC rating available. For each the rating and date of expiry have been collected alongside each address and postcode.

In all 334 households or flats have been identified, of which 191 (57%) have an EPC. No household had an A rating (the highest). The ratings have been separated out for two particular areas.

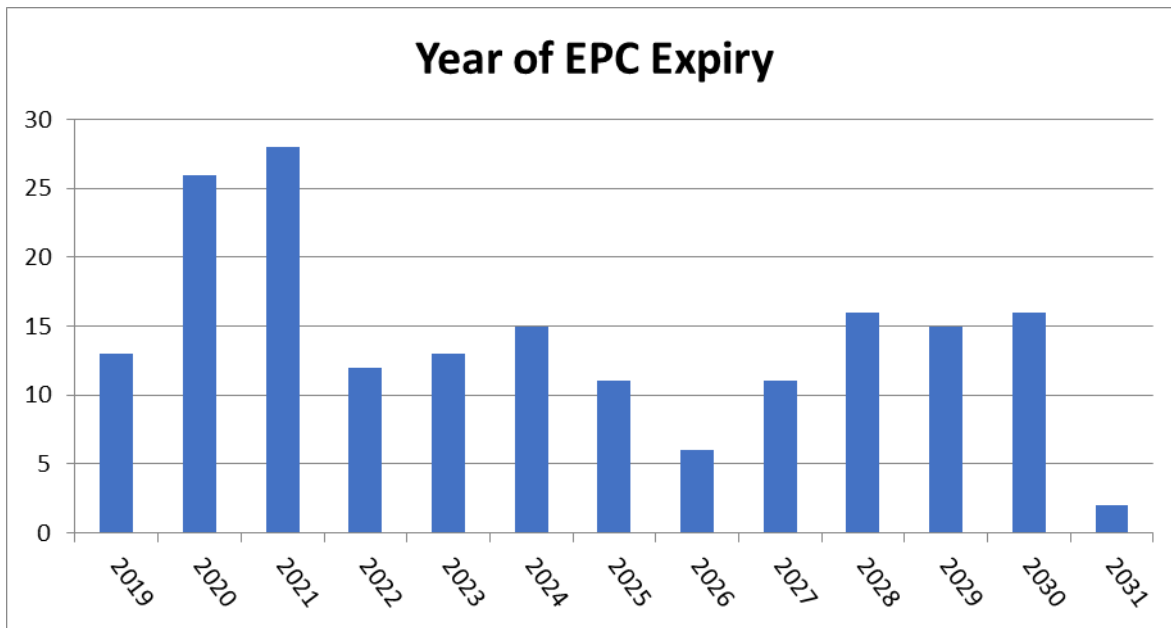
Firstly, Flete House is divided into a number of retirement flats. It accounts for 12 of the 29 properties in the parish with EPCs rated as C.

Secondly, Masons Yard is a relatively newly built development, around 2009. It accounts for 3 of the 5 properties with a B rating in the parish and 11 of the 29 with a C rating.

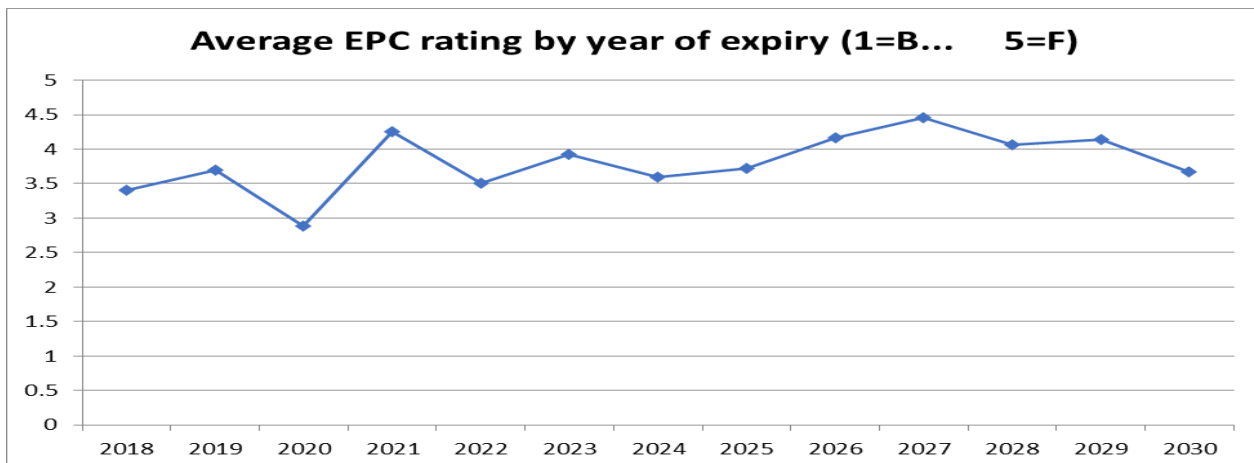
There are just another 8 homes in the parish with a rating above D. The percentage of homes with each EPC rating are shown in the figure below:



The next figure shows the year of expiry for each EPC. Each EPC lasts for 10 years.



There has been no significant change in EPC ratings in the parish in the last decade. As each rating was translated into a number it was possible to plot the average, a downward trend meaning better ratings. Note that the earliest 2 years included the 14 Masons Yard properties.



One of the critical things that needs to be achieved in order to reduce domestic carbon emissions is improvement in the energy efficiency of our homes. There is no evidence of any improvement in this over the last decade.

To quote a Swedish article from *Energy Policy*¹ "EPCs can serve as an important source of information for local communities and citizens in their activities targeting sustainable energy and climate goals."

Many thanks to Caroline for an excellent piece of work!

¹ Energy performance certificates — New opportunities for data-enabled urban energy policy instruments? *Energy Policy* 127 (2019) pp486-499.

188/20 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS TRANSFER TO PARISH COUNCIL - update

No further information has been received from SHDC in connection with the installation of an electricity meter for the public toilets. **ACTION: Cllrs Baldry/Thomas**

189/20 MOTHECOMBE DOG WASTE BINS - Cllr Flower

Cllr Flower had circulated photos prior to the meeting, which were taken in the last week of February 2021. The photos showed the need for larger bins or additional waste bins.

Cllr Baldry will liaise with SHDC to ascertain what can be done. **ACTION: Cllr Baldry**

190/20 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL LOGO

Awaiting further information. Resolved the logo will be discussed at April's meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Hollett/Clerk**

191/20 PLAY PARK SIGN

After consulting with Tim Pollard, Locality Engagement Officer, at South Hams District Council it was suggested the signs should have a bald statement such as "This area is to be used by children Under 8 only". Where there is a mixed age range equipment in a small area this is not as applicable. In this case it is advised to state that "Children should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times". Tim was not able to provide any "hard and fast guidance" on what should be said and advised the Parish Council to contact their insurance company.

Resolved the parish council's insurers are asked what wording is acceptable, to reduce any risk of a claim being brought against the Parish Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

192/20 BATTISBOROUGH NOTICEBOARD

The parish council insurance company has been informed of the storm damage, awaiting a response. **ACTION: Clerk**

193/20 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

The draft policy was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and with a few amendments it was resolved to agree the policy.

Resolved to purchase two condolence books and 2 loose leaf refills to be stored with the Clerk, maximum cost of £100.00. **ACTION: Clerk**

194/20 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 1ST MARCH - 1ST JUNE INCLUSIVE -

Resolved the date of meeting to be confirmed at April 2021 meeting.

Clerk informed Councillors that she would not be able to attend a parish council meeting if held on the second Tuesday in May 2021.

195/20 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ackroyd - an allotment is being given up. The first applicant on the allotment waiting list will be offered the plot.

Cllr Reece - road salt has been received. If parishioners require road salt, please contact Cllr Reece.

Cllr Hollett - the polling station for Police and Crime Commissioner elections and Devon County Council elections on 6 May 2021 will be the Holbeton village hall. Information will be placed in the Holbeton News.

The parish council has registered for the Calor Rural Community Fund.

196/20 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK AND PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllr Reece

Flailing has been carried out at the bike track and there is a lot of litter.

197/20 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

None.

198/20 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next **Parish Council Meeting** to be held remotely on Zoom will take place on **Tuesday 13 April 2021** at **7.30 pm**.

CONFIDENTIAL MATTER - to receive a report from the Chairman of staffing.

Cllr Sherrell briefed Councillors on a recent staffing issue - no decision(s) were made.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

John Sherrell

(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 13 April 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.