

## MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON ZOOM ON TUESDAY 20 APRIL 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 8.45 pm until 9.05 pm)  
Teresa Drew - Parish Clerk

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

Due to the period of National Mourning following the death of HRH The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh on 9 April 2021, the meeting scheduled to take place on 13 April 2021 was postponed until 20 April 2021.

### 199/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from, District Councillors Keith Baldry and Dan Thomas, Cllrs James Pengelly and Julie Fuller.

### 200/20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Flower pecuniary interest - agenda item 6, Reference: 0685/21/FUL

### 201/20 REPORTS

(a) County Councillor Richard Hosking:

COVID - A further reduction in reported COVID cases, vaccination programme is progressing well

(b) Questions from the public and Councillors

Cllr Ackroyd - a proposed street light has been applied for near Holbeton Village Hall, neighbours to be consulted. Resolved to place the request for an additional light on the next parish council meeting agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllrs Hollett and Ackroyd raised issue of traffic entering the carpark at Mothecombe, which often causes traffic to back up on the highway. Resolved Cllr Sherrell will liaise with Flete Estate. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

### 202/20 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

180/20 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.**

180/20 Parking on the corner of Garden Close and Fore Street - **ACTION: Cllrs Hosking/Sherrell.**

180/20 Battisborough Cross 30 mph speed limit extension. Cllr Hosking pointed out there is no budget but will still try to action the request. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking/DCC Highways.**

180/20 Village Play Park Safety Concerns - **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell - resolved Earthwright will install the standard height of the cladding on the slide. Two post which are in poor condition to be replaced under guarantee by Earthwright.**

180/20 Permission from Flete Estate to access land to clear drains - permission has been granted to the Lengthsman. The Lengthsman to inform Flete Estate when and which land they are accessing. Cllr Sherrell will inform the Lengthsman.

192/20 Battisborough noticeboard - awaiting insurance payment for a replacement noticeboard.

Cllr Sherrell and Cllr Pengelly met with Cllr Hosking on 9 April 2021 and visited the following issues in the parish:

170/20 Condition of the road from Whitemoor Cross to Lawnfield. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking to discuss situation with Nick Colton DCC Highways and a letter will be sent to the contractors.**

## 202/20 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY (continued)

180/20 & 182/20 White lines urgently required at junction by Holbeton post office and Battisborough Cross at junction to Mothecombe - **ACTION:** Cllr Hosking pointed out white lines have to be 70 - 75% worn away, a list of lines to be renewed will now be sent to Nick Colton DCC Highways.

180/20 Drains still need to be addressed opposite Church top gate, Vicarage Hill, outside the Dartmoor Union and Gibb. **ACTION:** Cllr Hosking will liaise with Nick Colton DCC Highways.

180/20 Hedge slip near Gibb. **ACTION:** Cllr Hosking will write to Devon County Council Solicitor to clarify who is responsible for dealing with the issue.

## 203/20 APPROVAL OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

Resolved to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 9 March 2021 and Planning Meeting minutes of 26 March 2021 (as previously circulated).

## 204/20 PLANNING

Reference: 0685/21/FUL

Proposal: Provision of ground based PV solar array to support electrical demand for Crofters Cottage

Site Address: Carswell Farm, Holbeton, PL8 1HH

Recommendation: Support

### PLANNING DECISIONS:

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0177/21/HHO Holbeton

LOCATION: Keaton Farmhouse Holbeton Devon PL8 1HL

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/HHO)

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0281/21/FUL Holbeton

LOCATION: Carswell Cottages Holbeton Devon PL8 1HJ

PROPOSAL: Replace existing porches and new living room extensions

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0077/21/FUL Holbeton

LOCATION: Fursdon Farm Yealmpton Devon

PROPOSAL: Provision of two fodder stores

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0357/21/ARC Holbeton

LOCATION: Lawnfield Holbeton PL8 1JH

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

DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

## 205/20 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL LOGO

Various logos were viewed. A logo was chosen which has to have a few minor amendments. **ACTION:** Cllr Hollett

Cllr Hollett reminded Councillors a fee was agreed to pay a parishioner a one-off fee which would be approximately £50 (see October 2020 minute reference 080/20) and to negotiate copyright of the logo.

Due to the involvement of Holbeton Primary School pupils, it was resolved to donate environmental books for pupils, to a maximum of £50.00.

## 206/20 STREET LIGHTING IN THE HOLBETON PARISH - CLLR HOLLETT

Discussion ensued and it was agreed not to pursue the idea of reducing street lighting in the village.

## 207/20 HOLBETON JOG TRACK - SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Flower reported that the working group are applying for grants, if successful the project will be fully funded.

## 208/20 FINANCE

It was resolved to approve the following payments and receipts:

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Nett
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - March 2021 Salary	£441.56	-	-
HMRC	Parish Clerk	£26.40	-	-
Mrs M Venton	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - March 2021	£67.50	-	-
Flete Estate	Annual Rent - Battisborough Cross Recreation Field, Kingsgate Orchard, Allotments, Playground for the period of 25/03/2021 to 24/03/2022	£100.00	-	-
SHDC	Providing 2021/21 payroll service for Parish Clerk	£120.00	£20.00	£100.00
Robbie Phillips (Ecologist)	Section 106 environmental fund - Holbeton Bird Box project - oak material for 46 boxes (minutes ref. 187/20)	£300.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Mr J Clarke - P3	Purchase of sign for bridleway 2 - P3 grant	£102.00	-	-
Information Commissioner's Office	Renewal confirmation - registration as a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 - <i>paid by Direct Debit</i>	£35.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk	2 x Condolences books and 2 loose leaf additional pages, 1 green lever arch file	£85.27	£14.22	£71.05
Mr W Scarlett	Grass cutting at the Battisborough Cross playing fields on the following days: - Friday 12 February 2021, Friday 26 February 2021, Tuesday 9 March 2021, Monday 29 March 2021	£100.00	-	-
	Electricity to Reading Rooms			
edf	S106 Creacombe - Climate Change Sub-Committee = Purchase of second-hand environmental books	137.75	£6.56	£131.19
		£208.61	-	-
Reimbursement to Cllr Harry Baumer	DALC & NALC Affiliation Fees and DALC Service Charge	£138.92	£15.92	£123.00
Devon Association of Local Councils	Clearance work carried out on the Bridleway at Efford - P3 grant	£400.00	-	-
Will Wallis	Lengthsman Duties			
Mr M Rawlings		£105.00	-	-

## 208/20 FINANCE (continued)

**RECEIPT(S):** Bank Interest (09.03.2021) - £0.04  
Devon County Council P3 payment - repairs to bridleway 2, addition of signs to discourage illegal use - £650.00  
1st Precept payment - £7,187.50

Cllr Flower has verified bank reconciliations - see minute reference 185/20.

Lengthsman hourly rate increase from £10/hr to £15/hr with immediate effect.

## 209/20 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 6<sup>th</sup> April, a zoom meeting (approved minutes of the March meeting attached).

- A draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay is out for consultation. The last review was in 2013. The responses will help shape how Local Authority Collected Waste is managed in Devon up to 2030. Such things as climate change and Brexit will have had an impact on the strategy. The consultation document runs to 91 pages, and covers a wide range of aspects, including methods of reducing household waste. The climate change subcommittee has considered the document and a proposed response from Holbeton Parish Council has been prepared. It is set out at the end of this briefing.  
**Resolved Cllr Baumer's response on behalf of Holbeton Parish Council has been sent. The deadline for the consultation is the 14<sup>th</sup> April (tomorrow).**
- Cllr Andrew Hollett has reviewed the possible ways in which the parish might reduce carbon emissions related to street lighting in the parish. DCC has a plan to replace existing lights with lower energy ones. See appendix for their press release last October. Any additional measures would involve at least reduction in the brightness and/or timing of street lights. It is recognised that this would require careful consultation within the areas currently served, namely Holbeton Village and Battisborough Cross.  
**Resolved the Parish Council not to pursue this at this stage.**
- As the public toilets are buying eco-friendly toilet rolls at a slightly higher price it has been suggested that the extra amount spent on these is paid for from the section 106 budget.  
**Given that the parish council is paying for these anyway and the extra sum involved is relatively modest, resolved the parish council to support this arrangement.**
- Preparations for the new wildflower area next to the Reading Rooms have been completed. A small group of volunteers completed the scarification and sowed the area with seed mix. Artwork for the accompanying notice board is being put together, for approval in due course.
- The Yealm Community Energy open zoom meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March went ahead as planned. Just over 20 people attended, most from Holbeton, but a few from neighbouring parishes.
- Joe Clarke has made excellent progress with the bird boxes project. Green oak is being used to make up the boxes by around 20 volunteers. He is planning to place the 46 boxes constructed to date around the parish and to make up a map showing their locations.
- The next environmental tip of the month for May will be on the subject of LED lights in the home.
- Holbeton Cricket Club is awaiting approval for further funding from Yealm Community Energy Community fund for a solar panel installation behind the cricket pavilion at Flete.
- A repeat wild flower survey of the field Cross Park at the top of Church Hill, is going ahead, thanks to Andy Byfield, the Landscape Conservation Manager for Plantlife (the British wild plant conservation charity). He will inspect the field and surrounding hedgerow and verges over the summer months.
- Parish councillors are reminded to email me with their sightings of early purple orchids around the parish.
- The environmental library project should be up and running this month. All the 39 books have now been purchased second hand. They will be taken to the Reading Rooms and placed in the metal cabinet on wheels there by the 17<sup>th</sup> of April.

The books will be available to loan on Monday mornings when the general library there is open, and arrangements will be made to make books available at other times. Details of the books in the environmental and climate change collection will be placed on line and elsewhere. The books can be borrowed without cost and for no specific time period. A record will be kept of the books borrowed.

The sum of £325 was approved for the purchase of the books. They actually cost £347.17, and the parish council is asked to approve the extra £22.17, resolved to spend another £50 for any future recommended books.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.  
Cllr Harry Baumer 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021

#### **DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE ON CONVERTING STREET LIGHTS TO LEDs OCTOBER 2020**

"All of Devon County Council's 79,000 streetlights will be converted to LED lights within the next two years - reducing carbon emissions by 75%.

It comes as SSE Contracting announces it will be carrying out maintenance of streetlights in Devon and Torbay over the next ten years - with the aim of the contract being carbon neutral by 2030.

The company will be building on the work it has undertaken for the County Council for more than 25 years, which has already seen around 34,000 street lights converted to low energy LED technology since 2015, as well as the replacement of more than 5,400 streetlighting columns. It will also look to improve the county's Central Management System to remotely monitor and operate lighting more flexibly and efficiently and will eventually allow us to cease night scouting saving further costs.

SSE is the biggest streetlighting contractor in the UK and has become a significant local employer over the past 40 years with depots across Devon. The company has well established supply chains across the region, which will help support economic recovery in the South West.

In the light of COVID-19 the company is also looking at opportunities to re-train and employ people who have lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic. It will support local suppliers and workforce and it also intends to invest in apprenticeships.

The streetlighting contract is extremely important as we continue to reduce our carbon emissions, and this new contract will enable us to develop our well-established collaboration with SSE. Streetlights accounts for a significant amount of the Council's emissions, and working with SSE will help us make further energy and carbon savings. The conversion to LEDs alone will reduce carbon emissions by more than 15,000 tonnes each year, the equivalent of taking 8,000 cars off the road."

#### **HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO DCC RESOURCE AND WASTE DISPOSAL STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

Holbeton parish council welcomes the opportunity to comment on this comprehensive document. Although waste is responsible for 3 to 4% of overall carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, the overuse of packaging and the need to reduce overall consumption of goods in developed countries are important aspects of current contributions to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The section on reducing the amount of waste produced by our society is very welcome. An unfortunate trend over the last few decades has been towards products that have to be discarded after ever shorter periods of time, particularly when it is impossible to get spares or make repairs. Common products to which this is applicable include cars, domestic electrical goods, computers and smart phones.

It suggests a target for the availability of spares might be 10 years. This is not nearly long enough, and a more ambitious target should be set. For many domestic items there need to be greater incentives at a national level for affordable products with lower energy requirements.

Another approach to increasing the durability of electrical and other products is to require manufacturers and sellers to increase the length of their guarantees, thereby encouraging them to pay more attention to the quality of their components and their build quality in general.

Similarly for computers and mobile phones better opportunities for upgrades and repairs require national incentives, ideally enshrined in law. Otherwise, this will not happen. Devon County Council's strategy document should emphasise those actions that need government involvement and lobby for such changes.

However, a change in attitude on the part of the public to the purchasing and ownership of products is also needed. Opportunities to encourage this exist at county and parish level.

The reduction in amounts of packaging waste requires action primarily on the part of retailers, and there is only so much that householders can do. The strategy document should call for such action from manufacturers and retailers. Again, government pressure is needed.

Paragraph 7.2.5 suggests that "Apple are offering an out of warranty repair programme for iPhones...". However, many would argue the opposite, namely that the common experience is that it is becoming increasingly more difficult for repairers to access spare parts for Apple (and other) products, and that Apple's own repairs are so expensive that they encourage discarding otherwise usable equipment.

Another issue with smartphones is the need to update the actual phone in order to be able to use a number of Apps. For example, the Covid tracing App requires the iOS software version 14 or above. This iOS 14 can only be loaded onto more recent iPhones. This is also true of Android software. This issue is one reason for people replacing otherwise fully functioning smartphones.

On page 21 is stated "the Plymouth plant [incinerator] is a combined heat and power plant which gives it a good efficiency rating." However, a recent Channel 4 despatches programme has highlighted the problem with the move to developing incinerators of this sort nationally. They do not have to report the full amount of greenhouse gas emissions. The TV programme produced evidence that some recyclable (plastic) waste is being incinerated, and where this is the case less recycling happens.

We are told that in a few years' time these incinerators will be producing more greenhouse gas emissions than landfill.

Many of these incinerators have been built with PFI money and councils find themselves tied into long-term agreements. It is of concern that the Plymouth and Exeter incinerators have contracts which continue for so long (Plymouth until 2040, Exeter until 2044, page 55).

The programme recommended that there should be a tax on recyclable material sent to incinerators in order to discourage this activity, that no new incinerators are built, and that all incinerators are required to report their full greenhouse gas emissions. The Devon and Torbay strategy should support these proposals.

It is understood that South Hams District Council who are changing their recycling arrangements are determined not to send plastics for incineration nor to landfill, but to get them recycled even when this is not "commercially viable". In such situations the environmental benefit from recycling should outweigh economic considerations. SHDC's approach is strongly supported, and should become part of countywide policy.

Throughout the strategy there are references to charging for garden waste. Whilst encouraging more composting, there are some aspects of garden waste such as weed seeds and woody trimmings that are not amenable to domestic composting. One unintended consequence of this policy is to encourage more bonfires, a process that adds to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

It is unclear how charging for garden waste encourages householders to reduce waste (page 43). If free garden waste collections are to disappear then DCC needs to actively promote, assist and fund the establishment and maintenance of community composting arrangements, which are covered in the strategy (para 10.4, page 54) but which are expensive to set up and maintain. It is unreasonable to pass responsibility for such services to parish councils without proper funding.

Fly tipping is discussed on page 59. It should be pointed out that every time another form of waste is made chargeable, more fly tipping will occur. It is unclear that such charges reduce the production of waste, and this needs justifying.

Figures 8A, 8B and 9 (pages 18, 19) are misleading. The y-axis does not go down to zero. This over emphasises the reduction in dustbin waste and these graphs (and any others with the same error) need modifying.

Finally, although much of this very long document reads well, there are plenty of unfortunate examples of poor English. On page 46 one example is "explore the reuse theme cross cutting opportunities"!

**210/20 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS TRANSFER TO PARISH COUNCIL - update**

Cllr Sherrell - waiting for information from SHDC in connection with the installation of an electricity meter for the public toilets. **ACTION: Cllrs Baldry/Thomas**

**211/20 MOTHECOMBE DOG WASTE BINS - Cllr Flower**

Cllr Flower reported there had been no further correspondence from South Hams District Council. Resolved to remove item from future agendas. **ACTION: Clerk**

**212/20 CALOR RURAL COMMUNITY FUND**

Village Hall garden project has applied for £1,000 grant.

**213/20 REVIEW OF CURRENT HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT**

Resolved to review the agreement at May 2021 Parish Council meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

**214/21 OPENING OF THE READING ROOMS FOR HIRE**

Resolved to reopen the Reading Rooms for hire and assess the lighting.

Hire cost is currently £10 per 4-hour session, to be reviewed at May 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

**215/20 PLAY PARK SIGNAGE AND WEEKLY CHECKS**

Cllr Baumer has contacted the Parish Council's Insurance company for clarification and is waiting for a response.

**216/20 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Baumer - Gigabit cable network scheme - there could be some parishioners who would benefit from faster Broadband. Cllr Ackroyd will prepare some information for the Holbeton Parish Council Facebook page.

Cllr Hollett - government has announced mobile phone masts can be 5 meters higher and 2 meters wider at the top which may improve mobile phone coverage. Disappointed there has been an increase in vandalism within the parish. Cllr Ackroyd has posted information on HPC Facebook.

**217/20 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK AND PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllr Reece**

Cllr Reece asked for the sign at the bike track to be remounted on a pole. Resolved to obtain a quote from the Lengthsman. **ACTION: Cllr Reece**

**218/20 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

Parishioner - Nethcombe Lane incidents - discussion ensued and it was resolved Cllr Hosking and Nick Colton DCC Highways will assess signage in the area. **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

**219/20 TO CONFIRM DATES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IN MAY 2021**

The **Holbeton Parish Council Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Wednesday 5 May 2021** at **7.00 pm** followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting**, remotely via Zoom.

At the Annual Parish meeting, Cllr Harry Baumer will give a talk on the work to date of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change Sub-Committee.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

*John Sherrell*

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(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 5 May 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.