MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell (Chairman), Mike Reece, Andrew Hollett, Trudie Timlin Brown, James Pengelly,

Carol Ackroyd and Julie Fuller

Teresa Drew - Parish Clerk

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

062/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from County Councillor Daniel Thomas, District Councillor Keith Baldry, Parish Councillors Harry Baumer, Chris Flower and Nirosha Gunatillake.

063/21 REPORTS

Questions from the public and Councillors

Cllr Hollett asked Cllr Thomas at a recent parish council meeting, if the parish council would be disadvantaged by him being a County and District Councillor and he answered no, because he would have more time. When Cllr Thomas is absent from a parish council meeting, the council is missing a County and District Councillor and personally he does not believe Cllr Thomas should be a County and also a District Councillor.

Parishioner - the new recycling scheme is a disaster, it has not been thought through, is not working and is not suitable for the South Hams. The parishioner's property is at the end of a lane in Holbeton and is often missed, even prior to the COVID pandemic. A sign would be beneficial to aid service providers that there are properties up the lane. The parishioner also asked what happens if a parishioner is not able to place their recycling boxes and bins outside their homes. Cllr Ackroyd pointed out, SHDC will provide assistance if parishioners need help.

Cllr Hollett has recently contacted Cllr Baldry as brown bins are often not emptied in the parish. Also, the new recycling service should have included the collection of batteries and print cartridges, which is currently not being done.

Cllr Pengelly pointed out the work carried out by South West Water near Holbeton Primary school needs to be completed.

Cllr Ackroyd pointed out that when horse riders exit the bridleway near the roundabout near Hollowcombe a splay is required to aid visibility.

A parishioner asked if it would be possible to engage a specialist to assess the response from South West Water in connection with the Holbeton sewage works.

064/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

065/21 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

044/21 Village Play Park Safety Concerns - to install the standard height of the cladding on slide. Two posts to be replaced under guarantee by Earth Wrights - Cllr Sherrell has contacted Earth Wrights and is waiting for a date when they can carry out the repairs.

044/21 Hedge slip near Gibb - Flete Estate will assess the situation, as DDC has confirmed it is their responsibility.

059/21 Holbeton Reading Rooms walls need waterproofing and repointing. RESOLVED that Cllr Reece will ask Mr M Rawlings for a quote and liaise with Flete Estate. Cllr Ackroyd will try and source a grant for the work. **ACTION: Cllr Reece**

065/21 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY (continued)

Feedback from Cllrs Thomas and Sherrell site visits:

044/21 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 - Eastern Town potholes are too great for a crew to fix as potholes. Cllr Thomas has Nick Colton DCC Highways to look at other options to repair.

044/21 Parking on the corner of Garden Close and Fore Street

044/21 White lines urgently required at junction by Holbeton post office and Battisborough Cross at junction to Mothecombe - Holbeton Parish will have junctions remarked after April 2022. Although this is a bit of a wait, it will be the whole of the parish so will include Battisborough Cross.

024/21 Drains to be addressed opposite Church top gate, Vicarage Hill, outside the Dartmoor Union and Gibb drains/gulleys - these are 'in hand' to be cleaned out.

044/21 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 - The road from Flete Western to Bull and Bear has been dusted on the patches identified in the hot weather by ClIr Hollett. A total resurface is not currently possible at an estimated cost of £500 000. We are working on possible solutions that would involve the bollard work at the same time

060/21 Flooding at Alston - Nick Colton DCC Highways is liaising with the those who live in the area to secure quotes to provide pipes.

066/21 APPROVAL OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 13 July 2021 (as previously circulated). The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

067/21 PLANNING

Planning Application recommendations:

Reference: 2764/21/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building consent for single storey garden room and single storey utility room (resubmission of 1116/21/LBC)

Site Address: 69 Ford End, Ford, Moorshead Cross, Holbeton, PL8 1LJ

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 2762/21/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for single storey garden room and single storey utility room (resubmission of 1115/21/HHO)

Site Address: 69 Ford End, Ford, Moorshead Cross, Holbeton, PL8 1LJ

Recommendation: Support

PLANNING DECISIONS

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1523/21/CLB Holbeton LOCATION: Ivy Cottage Holbeton PL8 1LU

PROPOSAL: Certificate of lawfulness for proposed works to a listed building - repairs to conservatory and changing internal

doors

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 4226/20/FUL Holbeton LOCATION: Keaton Farmhouse Holbeton Devon PL8 1HL PROPOSAL: Provision of agricultural/equestrian building

DECISION: Refusal

068/21 HOLBETON SEWAGE WORKS

Cllr Hollett reported the attached letter has been sent and Cllr Baumer has had a telephone conversation with Sir Gary Streeter. See minute reference 072/21 for more information.

069/21 UPDATE ON HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL LOGO

RESOLVED to remove agenda item until Cllr Hollett has further information.

070/21 UPDATE ON HOLBETON JOG TRACK - SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

The track will be completed by September 2021.

071/21 FINANCE

RESOLVED to approve the following:

(i) Bank balances - Business Account as at 9 July 2021 = £5,000.00 Treasurers Account as at 13 July 2021 = £33,593.46

(ii) Banked receipts for July noted as - Bank Interest (09.06.2021) = £0.04

Donation from The Holbeton Harriers for jogging track = £500.00

Legacy from C B Bray and G F H Pearce = £673.00

Holbeton School Association re. Holbeton jogging track = £2,185.00

(iii) Grant Request: None

(iv) RESOLVED to set up an Amazon Business account to claim back VAT on items purchased for Parish Council

(v) To resolve to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Nett
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - July 2021 Salary and working at home allowance	£441.76	-	-
HMRC	Parish Clerk	£13.00	-	-
Mrs M Venton	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - July 2021	£67.50	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of main hall for Holbeton Climate Change Sub-Committee	£48.00	-	-
	Meeting 6 July 2021 and Holbeton Parish Council Meeting - 13			
	July 2021			
EDF	Reading Rooms 25 June – 23 July 2021	£7.97	£0.38	£7.59
Mr M Rawlings	Lengthsman Duties	£155.00	-	-
Mr W Scarlett	Grass cutting at the Battisborough Cross playing fields on	£100.00	-	-
	the following days: - 2, 16, 23 July and 10 August 2021			
	the following days: - 2, 16, 23 July and 10 August 2021			

(vi) Update on points raised at Alison Marshall internal audit:

- 1. In addition to the parishioner who kindly maintains the Parish Council website, the Clerk also to have access ACTION: Clerk DONE
- 2. Co-opting Policy to be prepared and circulated to Parish Councillors for approval ACTION: Clerk DONE
- 4. To assess Lloyds Bank online banking ACTION: Clerk
- 5. Review Reserve List and agree ACTION: Parish Councillors DONE
- 6. Parish Clerk Contract of Employment to be confirmed ACTION: Cllrs Sherrell and Fuller

Financial Statement					
	CE 000.00				
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 July 2021:	£5,000.00				
Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 July 2021:	£33,593.46	C20 E02 44			
	Total =	£38,593.46			
Less: any unpresented cheques	001485	-£333.34			
, ,	001487	-£67.50			
	001503	-£230,00			
	001503	-£67.50			
	001504	-£8.23			
	001505	-£49.86			
	001506	-£18.12			
	001507	-£42.00			
	001508	-£13.40			
	001509	-£100.00			
	001510	-£69.00			
		-£998.95			
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques					
Cllr James Pengelly allotment rent	£11.50				
Clir M Reece allotment rent					
Mr Frampton allotment rent	£11.50	0.45.00			
		£45.00			
	Total Funds =	£37,639.51			
An increase of 14.2% or £5.82 on the 2020/21 Band D figure. Total uncommitted funds =	£37,639.51	Minus earmarked reserve	£34,400	=	£3,239.51
	Holbeton P	arish Council			
Reserve List	Date: Agreed at	July 2021 meeting			
£25,000,00		expenditure will be needed to re e for like) including matting, deli			ce. Cost of replacing
£2,000.00		ts - will become owned by the po hanging facilities - £2,000	arish council and we	have an aspiration to make	them unisex, disabled
£200.00	3. The allotments	- water pipe leaks.			
£5,000.00	4. The Reading Ro	oms - damp problems which may	require major expe	nditure.	
S106 money	5. Maintenance an				
Church Hill, Holbeton Development	The community orchard				
		ne recreation field			
	Playing field at	Battisborough Cross.			
£200.00	6. Holbeton Villag	e hall - internet access for Paris	sh Council meetings		
£2,000.00		ternal events such as fire, flood st, these are relatively unlikely			I advice may be re

072/21 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cllr Baumer emailed the following report:

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee held its most recent meeting on Tuesday the 3rd August in Holbeton Village Hall.

As I am away for the parish council meeting Andrew Hollett has kindly agreed to present this briefing.

• The parish wide LED survey, planned for October, will be briefing volunteers shortly before the survey. An information sheet explaining what energy companies mean by green energy will be made available to households.

Parish Councillors are asked to consider putting themselves forward to help with the survey.

• The River Erme sewage pollution. I emailed the letter to Sir Gary Streeter and spoke to him on the phone on the 20th July. It had been signed by around 150 residents, or one third of the adult population of the parish. He had undertaken to pass on our questions to SWW and the Environment Agency (EA).

On the 3rd October, a few hours before the subcommittee meeting, a response from the EA had been emailed. The subcommittee considered that whilst running to 3 pages, it gave very little concrete information. Its 3 factual responses were that nobody had reported any problems to them, that between 2015 and 2020 they had asked SWW to increase the capacity of the holding facility at Holbeton, and that this year they plan to inspect the Holbeton Waste Water Treatment Works. A response from SWW is awaited.

I have attended the most recent zoom meeting of RYWQG on the 2nd August. They plan to seek information about sewage discharges into the River Yealm since 2016 under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004. There are also a number of volunteers monitoring aspects of the water quality in the river and estuary, directed by the charity The Westcountry Rivers Trust. These cost £25 for a year's monthly tests at one site. At this meeting it was stated that SWW are now legally obliged to take on extra work that results from new housing developments.

I will continue to attend these meetings as an observer.

I have heard from the Flete Estate that SWW has approached them asking permission to undertake water quality tests from their land. It was agreed that this could go ahead as long as the Flete Estate was given copies of all test results.

RESOLVED the parish council will fund test kits at £25 each, up to a maximum of 10 sites, with a view to approaching the Westcountry Rivers Trust and agreeing suitable sites along the Erme, in collaboration with the Flete Estate.

- The environmental tip of the month for September will be advice on packaging.
- The botanical survey of Cross Park field has been completed. It shows no reduction in the number of different plants in the field, hedgerow and triangle at the entrance. Some from 1986 had disappeared, and other new ones are now visible. The report contains advice on the future management of the field to encourage even more biodiversity. A copy will be sent to the Flete Estate. Copies of the report and plant species list are available on request.
- SHDC's 'Better Lives For All' 20 year strategy for consultation. This continues until the 1st of September. It comes across as a cheerful and somewhat bland and complacent view of the South Hams. There is a lack of serious consideration of some of the areas problems such as its polluted rivers, poorly maintained roads, poorly insulated and heated homes, poor mobile and broadband reception, overcrowded beaches and other tourist spots. This probably reflects its limited role, with its main focus being planning and waste disposal (currently with continuing problems and a lack of any advance consultation with parish councils about the recent changes).

It describes the consequences of greenhouse gas emissions as "the average summer temperature in Devon will increase and extreme weather will become more frequent by the end of the 21st century." These consequences are not something to expect in many decades to come: they are already being felt. Overall, the focus on the climate change emergency, humanity's largest ever challenge, does not feel nearly central enough in this vision.

Many of the problems facing the South Hams need external support and funding in order to have any hope of creating a good future. It is all very well to say (page 27) "Play Your Part, increase the energy efficiency of your home". This is not going to happen without major national investment. There needs to be a greater emphasis in this vision on lobbying those in a position to make the necessary changes happen.

Whilst investment to "boost the visitor economy" (page 30) seems laudable, in Holbeton parish we feel that the number of visitors to our popular beach is already causing significant problems. These problems need to be better understood by SHDC before trying to attract even more visitors.

Curiously, there is no mention of the town (apart from a brief mention of Ivybridge and Totnes) and parish councils, nor any focus on reducing its own running costs. The SHDC vision makes no reference to PriceWaterhouseCooper's report to the County Councils Network envisaging the abolition of District Councils.

The mechanism for feedback is confined to a number of questions, mostly with a yes/no answer.

The parish council is asked to consider feeding back its comments as a short agreed narrative, based on the above, via the two district councillors. RESOLVED Cllrs Hollett and Baumer will respond.

- SHDC's 'How Do You Feel About Re-wilding?' consultation. This closed on the 5th August. It asked for comments on its plan to "increase rewilding on a small proportion of this land, 10Ha for a biodiversity led approach, and 3.5Ha for wildflower meadows. The majority of the land, (36 Ha approx) such as active play spaces and football pitches will need to be kept short." Whilst the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee supports the rewilding of land owned by SHDC, this seems to be of limited relevance to Holbeton Parish.
- Peninsula Transport's "Shaping The Future of Transport Across the South West" consultation. This is open for responses until the 17th September.

This organisation states that it is the "Sub-National Transport Body" for Cornwall, Devon and Somerset's local authorities and 2 "Local Enterprise Partnership areas". As such, it acts as an intermediary between these local authorities and government.

It is one of 8 regional transport bodies set up by central government following the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016. The best known of these is Transport for London. Apart from this, the only statutory body is Transport for the North, the others in effect operating in shadow form. This information comes from a campaigning organisation called <u>Transport Action Network</u>.

The document is well laid out over 10 pages of typescript with suitable illustrations and largely avoids clichés and jargon. It has plenty of facts and includes a breakdown of the different proposed strategies to support the development of different aspects of transport (page 11). It includes specific targets for 'technical studies' to be delivered over the next 12 months.

There are few details of the proposed future developments, so for example the encouragement of cycling is mentioned once on page 5, under the heading of improving health and wellbeing. The significantly higher risks to cyclists need to be tackled in order to make cycling safer and overcome the natural reluctance to travel by cycling. The rural nature of the region with the typically high banks along narrow lanes without sensible speed limits presents a particularly difficult barrier. The larger roads also need significant attention, with for example the A379 into Plymouth from its dormitory villages to the east being in places seriously unsafe to cycle along and a pathway that is not cycle friendly.

Rural communities with extremely poor public transport could be transformed by electric car sharing schemes, which need capital expenditure on the infrastructure and at least initial support to establish these outside towns and cities, where these schemes are progressing. These are capable of reducing car ownership and provide more flexible transport than infrequent bus services. As has happened with the roll out of broadband and mobile reception, if the particular needs and additional costs for villages are not considered they will lag further behind important carbon reduction transport initiatives.

It is proposed to ask the Transport Action Network to comment on the above as the basis for a narrative response to the consultation, to be considered next month's parish council meeting. RESOLVED to agenda item. **ACTION Clerk**

• The SHDC consultation on a shared electric car scheme in collaboration with <u>Co Cars</u>, a local firm that operates shared car schemes. This closes on the 24th August.

Local residents, businesses and community organisations are being asked for their views on establishing a community-led electric car and bike club for the South Hams via a short <u>online survey</u>. This could provide relatively cheap access to a community shared electric car for those living in and near Holbeton village. Members of the subcommittee will be knocking on doors to highlight the scheme and encourage people to complete the survey.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 7^{th} September 2021.

073/21 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS - TRANSFER OF BUILDING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL - update

SHDC have asked Western Power to instal an electricity meter. The Director of Assets at SHDC has informed Cllr Thomas, that Holbeton Parish Council can either wait for this to happen or request the transfer now, with historic liabilities underwritten by the District. RESOLVED to wait for the electricity meter to be installed.

074/21 REVIEW HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Financial Regulations were reviewed, with no amendments.

075/21 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK AND PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllr Reece

Cllr Reece reported damage to a sign.

076/21 REVIEW LOCATIONS OF BATTISBOROUGH CROSS AND HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

Cllr Hollett suggested moving the defibrillator currently situated at the entrance to Holbeton Village Hall, to the wall of the public toilet building, when SHDC has handed the building over to the parish council. Discussion ensued and it was RESOLVED to move the defibrillator, when the toilet building has been handed over to the parish council.

RESOLVED not to move the Battisborough Cross defibrillator.

Cllr Reece will arrange defibrillator training towards the end of the year.

077/21 REVIEW OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE AND ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES

RESOLVED to obtain two quotes to update the website. Further discussion to take place at the next parish council meeting. **ACTION:** Clerk

078/21 REVIEW DRAFT HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CO-OPTION POLICY

RESOLVED to adopt the policy.

079/21 REVIEW OF PARISH LENGTHSMAN ROLE

RESOLVED to place on next month's agenda. ACTION: Clerk

080/21 PLAY PARK AGREEMENT

RESOLVED to continue with a 12 month South Hams District Council inspection from 1 September 2021, at a cost of £210 plus VAT.

081/21 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Pengelly reported on the purchase of a new noticeboard at Battisborough Cross. RESOLVED to purchase a nine A4 notice board with a heading. Costs to be discussed at next month's meeting. ACTION: Clerk

A smart meter was installed in the Reading Rooms on 1 August 2021 by EDF.

Cllr Ackroyd - the waste bin is not being emptied in the Community Orchard by SHDC. RESOLVED that the District Councillors to be asked if SHDC could include the bin.

Cllr Sherrell reported that Cllr Gunatillake has asked if the extension of 30 mph speed limit at Battisborough Cross, could be included on next month's Parish Council meeting agenda. Also, the possibility of setting up a Youth Club in the village.

ACTION: Clerk

082/21 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

- DCC = Funding available to help Devon's communities reconnect, rebuild and recover
- SHDC = Planning Validation Checklist Consultation
- DCC = National bus strategy & consultation
- SHDC consultation: Better lives for all
- SHDC consultation: We're Listening Influence Decisions for South Hams
- DCC = National bus strategy & consultation
- letter from Mrs Chapman ref signage at Brent Hill The request to provide signage to properties on Brent Hill is a District responsibility, Cllr Thomas will discuss with officers.
- Letter from Gary Streeter ref EV charging points to be discussed at next month's Parish Council ACTION: Clerk

Report from parishioner Mr P Hearn - <u>Dementia Friendly Parishes Around the Yealm</u> - There are 42 currently active families living with dementia within the 5 parishes (3 in Holbeton) that are being supported by DFPAY. All support groups are hoped to start face-to-face meetings again in September, Covid restrictions allowing. We have managed to hold all group meetings using the Zoom app, normally every fortnight, with the new carers group meeting monthly. Organisers of a Car Boot Sale to be held on Sunday 15 Aug 13-1700 hr at the SW Composting Site, Stamps Hill, Brixton, PL8 2DB, have kindly agreed to sponsor the charity. The charity is represented on the Prime Minister's Task and Finish Group for Rural Dementia, and on The CAA Air Transport Group.

Four Rivers Alliance - The epidemic has restricted somewhat the activities of this group. The good news is that a grant of £10K has been provided by the National Lottery 'Awards for All' scheme. The grant has allowed the group to employ a Project Support Worker on a part time basis. The group is looking for a volunteer to be a note taker at the meetings that are held every 6 weeks.

083/21 TO CONFIRM DATES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was RESOLVED the next parish council meeting will take place on Thursday 23 September 2021 in Holbeton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The	meetina	closed	at 9	20 nm
1116	meerma	ciosea	ui z	.20 0111

John Sherrell
-----(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

n) Date: 23 September 2021

Dementia Friendly Parishes Around The Yealm



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

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

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: - $\underline{\text{https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit}}$ - click on what you would like to report, from the drop-down menu.

Sir Gary Streeter

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA Please reply to: Cllr John Sherrell, Holbeton Parish Council

Chair

Great Prideaux Farm

Membland, Newton Ferrers PL8 1HP

email: j.sherrell@btinternet.com

Date:

Dear Sir Gary

Thank you for obtaining a response from Susan Davy, the CEO of South West Water, which Gillian Banner has shared. It is shocking to discover that there are so many discharges of untreated sewage into the river Erme from Holbeton village's water treatment plant and other sources upstream.

Gillian has already briefed you on the very large number of reported "sewer storm overflow" spillages from the Erme on the Rivers Trust website, and we now understand that some of these in 2020 were due to a leaking valve at the Holbeton site last winter, raising the question as to the adequacy of monitoring &/or maintenance. The SWW letter also confirms the continuing problem of sewage leaks into the estuary when there is 'heavy rain'.

Whilst the problem of sewage discharges into rivers is by no means confined to the river Erme, our beautiful and important estuary lies not only within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty but is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Marine Conservation Zone.

Having said this, for any river it is not only disgusting but is also a hazard to health for those accessing the estuary where many of us and our visitors bathe.

You may be aware that there are also reports of significant sewage discharges further up the river Erme. At Ermington in 2020 there were a total of 15 spillages totalling 58 hours from 2 locations. The sewage treatment works at Ivybridge had 164 spillages in 2020 totalling 2,908 hours (or 4 months of continuous discharges!).

On the other side of the river Erme Kingston's sewage has suffered significant spillages in 2020. However the overflow is not discharged into the river Erme but into a small neighbouring watercourse that enters the sea at Westcombe Beach. We are aware of similar problems with the river Yealm.

The Holbeton sewage treatment plant is referred to by SWW as a 'Waste Water Treatment Works'. This is something of a misnomer. Instead of treating the sewage at the plant as was originally the case, tankers now remove the sewage each day to be treated elsewhere, presumably in Plymouth. It is in effect now acting as a holding facility. Through the gates it appears generally dilapidated, full of weeds, with a skip across the entrance and a large pipe that presumably serves the tankers.

Since the housing developments in Holbeton Village at Masons Yard in 2009, and we understood also earlier at Easterntown, the sewage works no longer has the capacity to treat the village's domestic sewage. South West Water must have been aware of the problem for this time, during which it has singularly failed to take effective action to stop discharges. Indeed, in response to the new application for the development of 14 houses up Church Hill in Holbeton village it states that it can cope with the extra sewage that will inevitably arise.

The SWW CEO's response leaves many questions unanswered. We ask that you further question South West Water as to:

- 1. How long ago did these sewage discharges start occurring?
- 2. When did the sewage treatment works cease and the tanker arrangement first instigated?
- 3. Why have the Waste Water Treatment Works' discharges into the Erme estuary continued to occur more than a decade after they knew that it no longer had the capacity to treat the village's sewage?

- 4. Why have they stated that they can cope with a further 14 new houses in the village not to mention the 2 other housing developments in the village that have already occurred when they knew that the treatment works had insufficient capacity?
- 5. When did they find that the valve was leaking, when was it repaired, and what proportion of the 2020 sewage discharges was due to the leak?
- 6. How many, and for how many hours, have discharges into the Erme estuary occurred since the valve leak was remedied?
- 7. Why did the valve start leaking in the first place?
- 8. What remedies do they propose for the village that will altogether stop raw sewage discharges into the estuary?
- 9. Why are the discharges at the other works further up the River Erme happening and what are they doing about those?
- 10. Why were none of the residents of Holbeton (or elsewhere), whose health has been put at risk by these discharges over such a long period, informed of the problem?

It also appears to us that the Environment Agency, a government funded organisation responsible for protecting the environment, should be asked to account for the unacceptable present situation. We would request that the EA is asked the same questions as SWW, as well as:

- 1. What measures if any have they required SWW to put in place to service and maintain the neglected looking works?
- 2. What are their priorities for sorting out the sewage problems that seem to be happening in so many of the region's rivers?
- 3. What remedies are they proposing to resolve Holbeton's problems, where does our problem lie in their priority list, and when is our remedy anticipated to occur?

Thank you for your help and interest in this problem, and please could you respond to Holbeton Parish Council at the above address, who will ensure that your reply is disseminated to parishioners.

Name, address	Signature

Yours sincerely