

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 11 JUNE 2019 AT 7.30 PM IN THE READING ROOMS, HOLBETON

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell, James Pengelly, Harry Baumer, Julie Fuller, Chris Flower, Andrew Hollett, Trudie Timlin-Brown and Debbie Knight

Also present: District Cllr Dan Thomas (until 8.50pm), County Cllr Richard Hosking (from 9.10pm), Mrs Shirley Timothy (taking minutes), SHDC Cathy Aubertin & Guy Pedrick (for agenda item 3), 2 x Parishioners

17/19 Apologies

The following apologies were received by the Parish Council in advance of the meeting:

Cllrs Mike Reece, Carol Ackroyd, District Cllr Keith Baldry & Parish Clerk Mrs Teresa Drew, Police – A. Potter

18/19 Members Code of Conduct

Members were invited to declare any personal, disclosable or pecuniary interests (DPI) including the nature and extent of such interests that they may have in items to be considered at the meeting. They were also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Parish Clerk within 28 days of the change.

Cllr Baumer declared a personal interest in Minute No 12/19 at Item 5 of the Agenda.

19/19 Future of Holbeton Public Toilets

The Chairman welcomed Cathy Aubertin (Head of Environmental Services Practise at South Hams District Council) and Guy Pedrick (Assets Senior Specialist) to the meeting. Mrs Aubertin summarised that the matter had been considered and it was proposed by SHDC that the toilets would be closed on 30th September 2019. This had happened with several other public conveniences in the area, some of which had been taken under the control of their Parish Councils. Mr Pedrick confirmed that a visual inspection of the building would have to be undertaken and then it could be “sold as seen”. Cllr Knight highlighted that there were some damp issues with the building.

Cllr Fuller asked what would happen to the building if the Parish Council did not take up ownership? Mr Pedrick confirmed that the District Council (DC) would sell the land and building by public auction. Cllr Flower advised that Yealmpton’s public convenience had been sold by auction a few years ago. Mr Pedrick confirmed that the DC would pay up to £1,000 for conveyancing. Cllr Baumer asked whether work would be done by the DC to ensure it was sold/transferred in full working order? Mrs Aubertin advised that there was no money available for repairs, other than to keep it running until 30 September ahead of closure.

Dist Cllr Thomas stated that both Dist Cllr Baldry and himself had supported keeping the toilets open and would stand to do whatever was possible to keep it going.

Cllr Hollett asked what was the projected annual cost of keeping the conveniences open? £5k was suggested although it was uncertain how this was broken down. Mrs Aubertin offered to obtain a quote for contract cleaning that would be very competitive. It was agreed that Mrs Aubertin should ascertain this cost and inform the Parish Council.

The Chairman raised the question of Liability Insurance and whether it would be covered under the current insurance which would need to be clarified, and also the Parish Council would have to undertake the payment of water and electricity after September if they were to adopt the building. Dist Cllr Thomas suggested that, if the Parish Council were to cover the payments on the building after 30th September, whether SHDC would need to sell the building until March 2020?

On leaving the meeting, Cllrs thanked Mrs Aubertin and Mr Pedrick for attending.

Afterwards, Cllr Hollett raised the point that there was nothing to stop SHDC going ahead and selling the building after 30 September, and the Parish Council should be prepared for all possibilities. Cllr Baumer suggested that by offering to pay the running costs after 30 September demonstrated the Parish Councils commitment to keeping the toilets open, as a long-term asset for the community. It was suggested that it may be sensible to obtain a building survey to ascertain whether there were any concerns with damp/general maintenance of the building.

In conclusion it was agreed to discuss this again at the next meeting.

20/10 Reports

- a) Police report – In giving their apologies Andy Potter reported a dog was out of control on 11th May and words of advice were issued to the dog's owner.

- b) District Council report - Dist Cllr Thomas advised that since the last meeting, South Hams had held its annual meeting. At that meeting appointments to Council positions and committees took place. Cllr Rosemary Rowe was elected as Council Chairman for the year. Cllr Judy Pearce (Con) was elected as Council Leader for 4 years to replace Cllr John Tucker who did not stand for re-election to SHDC. The political composition of the Council is 16 Conservatives, 10 Liberal Democrats, 3 Green Party and 2 Independents. Cllr Julian Brazil (LD) was elected as Chairman of Development Management, Cllr John Birch (LD) as Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny. Cllr Baldry had been invited and accepted a place on the Executive with the Environment portfolio. He would remain Leader of the Opposition. He would not accept collective Executive responsibility and retained the right to oppose decisions where he considered it necessary. Out of the newly elected Council 10 of the 31 councillors were new, including himself. There continued to be an extensive programme of training. At this week's Executive meeting the main item was Climate change. SHDC declared a Climate Change emergency. An action plan would be developed and South Hams would work with other Devon Councils including Devon CC and Plymouth to address the emergency.

- c) Questions from the public – The Chairman welcomed Mr Green to the meeting. Mr Green confirmed that the AONB Partnership would be holding a meeting that Friday, 14th June at Chillington, where everyone was welcome (details could be found on their website). Another forthcoming event for AONB was the "Life on the Yealm" project planned for September/October. It was hoped the 5 communities of the Yealm (Newton Noss, Yealmpton, Wembury, Brixton and Holbeton) would join together to learn about how to look after the wildlife in their areas, e.g. projects including bug hotels, maintaining verges – until June 2020 when there would be an assessment. The aim was to work towards being "Wildlife Community of the Year" where similar ventures could then be replicated throughout the Country.

Cllr Baumer asked Mr Green if he was aware of any restrictions relating to Cypress hedging bordering a field as he was concerned that some had been planted recently in the vicinity of Luson. Mr Green was uncertain although suggested Cllr Baumer send him the details of the problem for him to look into.

- d) County Councillor report – During his report County Councillor Hosking confirmed that he is still waiting for the final sign off re parking restriction on the road to Mothecombe and that as soon as this occurs the enforcement team would be in attendance at Mothecombe to help uphold the parking restrictions there.

21/19 Past Subject Matters for the purpose of report

04/19 Improvement of signage at Nethcombe due to safety concerns – County Cllr Hosking confirmed he had spoken to Nick Colton who felt there was already adequate signage on that junction.

05/19 Footpaths – Cllr Sherrell confirmed that Joe Clarke would continue as Footpath Warden for the Parish, and would try to catch up with work over the summer months. Cllr Knight highlighted that the footpath leading from Efford House towards the Barn Owl Barn, and also Back Lane from Holbeton to Ford were the worst and in need of urgent attention. Cllr Timlin- Brown offered to assist and would liaise with Mr Clarke.

506/19 Manhole drain cover below Brownsell needed repairing – Cllr Pengelly confirmed he had spoken to the Environmental Agency who would not accept liability. It was therefore suggested that it could be Highways responsibility. Cllr Pengelly would look into this further.

06/19 Bus stop sign – County Councillor Hosking confirmed he had put forward a formal request for the repairs to take place

06/19 Smaller gulley pot sucker lorry to access Vicarage Hill and Gibb – County Cllr Hosking confirmed he had put forward a formal request for the drains to be cleared, having discussed matters with Nick Colton.

06/19 £1500 Highway Grant (£500 for pump refurbishment & £750 for maintenance of roads and lanes in the parish) – work to clear the gutters and drains liable to flooding would be underway the following week. Dennis Curtis had been contracted to undertake this work; some may include manual work with pick/shovel.

06/19 Holbeton Playpark Insurance – The Chairman read a copy of Cllr Ackroyds email. If the Parish Council was to adopt the insurance liability for the play park, they would need to keep record showing that it was being inspected weekly for the insurance to be valid. Mr Green suggested that, at Newton/Noss PC, as well as weekly inspections, they had assigned South Hams to also undertake a more thorough annual inspection, to help reduce any liability. Cllr Baumer asked whether any training would need to be undertaken to conduct such inspections? During the ensuing discussions it was agreed that the Chairman would seek a checklist for the weekly inspections, to ascertain how much time this would take an individual. This may need to extend to the Bike Track, Orchard and possibly Battisborough Cross Recreation Field. This could potentially run alongside the ROSPA checks.

06/19 Signage at Bull & Bear stating no HGV's – Cllr Knight confirmed she had approached Nick Colton but he had rejected this idea.

10/19 Section 106, Joint Article to be written for publication – It was agreed to raise this again at the next meeting.

12/19 Blocked passing place at Lusson – County Cllr Hosking confirmed that paperwork had been obtained and it was not clear whose responsibility the passing place was, only that a small strip of the road was shown as highway; the Councils responsibility stopped at the highway. Cllr Hosking agreed to send a copy of the Highways plan to Cllr Baumer. Cllr Baumer highlighted that this had historically been used as a passing place for many years and it had never been maintained by the owner of the adjacent field. Cllr Baumer had taken legal advice; he suggested if someone had fly tipped there the Council would be liable to remove so why would it not take responsibility for clearing this hazard? County Cllr Hosking confirmed that if the obstruction impinged on the highway then the Council would take action. Otherwise it would be a civil matter. He would reserve comments pending advice from solicitors. He would feedback any further information at the next meeting.

22/19 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting dated Tuesday 15th May 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were subsequently approved; this was proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Hollett.

23/19 Waste Recycling in the South Hams

Dist Cllr Thomas read an email from Dist Cllr Baldry claiming that recycled waste was either being exported, incinerated or put into landfill. Cllr Hollett disagreed that having watched a TV program on the subject, most was being sent abroad – indeed he was very concerned about how and where was it being disposed of. Mr Green said he had seen waste being separated at the recycling depot but Cllr Hollett suggested that better clarity was required via South Hams. Dist Cllr Baldry had suggested that no recycling goes to landfill although Dist Cllr Thomas agreed to establish more clarity for the next meeting. He said he would also discuss this with his group.

24/19 The Mildmay Colours – Update

Cllr Flower had received an email confirming The Mildmay Colours had been registered as an asset of community value; the application had been approved on its merits. The Chairman thanked Cllr Flower for undertaking the application on behalf of the Parish Council. It was understood that the pub was currently closed and it was uncertain what the owner's intentions were as they had moved out. The application now meant that if it were put up for sale, the Community would have an opportunity to purchase prior to it being put on general sale. Cllr Flower advised he would update the Parish Council if he received any further news.

25/19 Planning

The following planning applications were circulated to the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting:

- a) 1435/19/FUL – Erection of Cow Shed at Fursdon Farm Bungalow, Dunstone, PL8 2EN
The Parish Council supported the application

- b) 1128/19/FUL – Renovation of Holiday Cottage including extension into an existing covered garage and dormer additions to the roofs at Carswell Farm, Holbeton, PL8 1HH
The Parish Council supported the application

Planning Decision(s):

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0402/19/FUL

LOCATION: Pentire Church Hill Holbeton Devon PL8 1LN

PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing garden room and erection of a new timber framed garden room

DECISION: Refusal

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1096/19/LBC

LOCATION: Mothecombe House The Flete Estate Offices, Mothecombe PL8 1LA

PROPOSAL: Listed building consent to include minor external paving alterations; alterations to form a ground floor WC; repairs to internal wall plaster and internal pipework; alterations to create two bathrooms at first floor level from three existing bathrooms.

DECISION: Conditional Approval

26/19 Financial Matters

The list of proposed payments was summarised by the Chairman for consideration by the Parish Council and approval was given; this was proposed by Cllr Hollett and seconded by Cllr Flower.

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Nett
Mrs T Drew	Clerk – May 2019 Salary	£393.50	-	-
HMRC	PAYE	£0.80	-	-
Mrs T Drew	Reimbursement – 12 x 1st class & 12 x 2nd class stamps	£15.72	-	-
Mrs T Drew	Reimbursement for the purchase of England flag and Inglefield clips	£98.97	£16.50	£75.52 + postage £6.95
Holbeton Village Hall Fund	Hire of hall for the Annual Parish Meeting – 21 May 2019 Grass cutting Battisborough Cross	£13.00	-	-
Mr Scarlett	The Allotments – Holbeton	£100.00	-	-
South West Water Business	Grass cutting & strimming – play park. Clearance of vegetation to stream at Brownswell Farm, Holbeton for 100 metres – 2 hours work	£96.85	-	-
Mr M Rawlings – Lengthsman		£130.00	-	-

RECEIPT(S) - Bank Interest (09.05.19) - 0.21

GRANT REQUEST(S) – None

Treasurers Account Balance as at 10 May 2019, £20,411.26

Business Account Balance as at 9 May 2019, £5,000.00

Internal Audit – the Certificate of Exemption AGAR 2018/19 Part 2 & Section 2 Accounting Statement 2018/19 was circulated prior to the meeting. The papers were approved by the Parish Council.

27/19 TTRO 1930668 – Proposed temporary road closure at Moorshead Cross & Wonnell Barn

A road closure had been proposed for 2 September 2019; the Chairman reported strong feelings of concern amongst the farming community due to poor access for their large vehicles/trailers/ articulated milk tankers along alternative, narrow country lanes. The work was planned to take approximately 6 weeks with a diversion directing vehicles around through Membland rather than Dunstone. County Cllr Hosking offered to check that other roads leading vehicles away from the diversion would also be clear of closures, e.g. Creacombe.

28/19 Approve Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations

The Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Code of Conduct's content had not changed since the 2016 edition, although it had now been reviewed. These documents were adopted by the Parish Council; this was proposed by Cllr Baumer and seconded by Cllr Fuller.

29/19 Section 106

In the absence of Cllr Ackroyd, it was agreed to raise this item at the next meeting.

30/19 Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

31/19 Parish Councillors Reports

- a) Cllr Hollett summarised his attendance at a “Good Councillor Course” recently which he had attended with Cllr Timlin-Brown and recommended this to other Councillors. Cllr Hollett also noted that some Councils were now “live streaming” their meetings and this might be something the Parish Council could consider in the future.
- b) Cllr Baumer said that money would be available in relation to Yealm Community Energy, and it might be worth informing Parishioners should anyone have an energy efficient schemes.
- c) Cllr Baumer asked whether the Parish Council would consider it appropriate to make a plan of lane names in the Parish as a part of its cultural heritage? He said he was happy to pursue this idea, and could use Holbeton News to ask the local people for any information they may have. The Parish Council supported the idea.
- d) Cllr Knight confirmed she was available after the meeting to take new/updated photos of Councillors for the Parish Council website or they could forward their own to Lance Howarth.
- e) Cllr Knight advised she had received some comments of complaint regarding the erection of a large, replacement shed at a property owned by Mr Henderson. It was agreed that Cllr Knight should inform them that any objections should be raised with the Planning Dept at South Hams District Council.
- f) Cllr Knight stated that a coffee jar had been removed from the cupboard inside the reading rooms, resulting in the Book Club having to padlock the door. It was also noted that there was a disgusting amount of cat faeces littering the rear courtyard. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the owner of the cat, at the B&B.
- g) Cllr Pengelly noted his concern regarding the condition of the bollards on the pavement outside the Dartmoor Union which were becoming hazardous. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the owners at the South Sands Hotel, enclosing a photograph of the bollards.
- h) Cllr Pengelly noted that there continued to be drainage issues with a drain outside Mr M Rawlings property; it had been camera surveyed previously and the blockwork was believed to have partly collapsed. It was agreed that the Clerk contact South West Water to help progress matters.
- i) The Chairman noted that some school parents had raised concerns about the industrial sized bin located outside the school gates where it was becoming hazardous to children/parents when it was being emptied at the start of the school day. Cllr Knight had previously suggested to SHDC that bin collections take place before/after the school drop off times, and felt if the school contacted SH’s they may take heed to such advice. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the school and ask them to contact SHDC direct.
- j) Cllr Hollett confirmed he would be taking on the position of Treasurer for the Village Hall at their forthcoming meeting next week.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.53pm.

John Sherrell

SIGNED:

Cllr John Sherrell

Chairman of Holbeton Parish Council

DATED: 9 July 2019