

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell (Chairman), Mike Reece, Trudie Timlin Brown, Harry Baumer and Chris Flower
County and District Councillor Daniel Thomas
District Councillor Keith Baldry
Teresa Drew - Parish Clerk

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

157/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs Andrew Hollett, Nirosha Gunatillake, Julie Fuller and Carol Ackroyd.

158/21 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

An application has been received from Mr James Melhuish. RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Melhuish.

159/21 SHDC'S BROADBAND CHAMPION SCHEME FOR RURAL CONNECTIVITY - report from Mr John Mildmay White

Mr Mildmay White gave a brief summary of the SHDC'S broadband champion scheme for rural connectivity. Community champions have volunteered their time to support the broadband initiative. They will work alongside the Council to help identify issues and help their community improve their digital connectivity. Information will be in the next edition of the Holbeton News along with contact details.

More information can be found on South Hams District Council website -

<https://southhams.gov.uk/article/8653/Broadband-Champions-Step-Up-to-Support-Communities>

160/21 REPORTS

(a) Question(s) from members of the public and Councillors

None

(b) County and District Councillor Dan Thomas report:

The Newton Abbot 20mph speed trial has not been supported by population and has been cancelled.

District Councillor Keith Baldry report:

- Is clarifying if the SHDC recent invoice to the Parish Council should have been sent. The invoice is in connection with the water usage at Holbeton Public toilets, for the period between February 2020 and February 2021 of £1,020.41. Cllr Baldry confirmed the water is metered.
- Refuse and waste collection - the service between Christmas and New Year was poor due to staffing problems. It was estimated that 12 - 15 staff would be off, but 25 members of staff were off during this period.
- SHDC will be collating and publishing local initiatives for the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

161/21 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Baumer - Personal Interest in planning application 4492/21/FUL, as he is a neighbour

162/21 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

138/21 Holbeton Reading Rooms walls need waterproofing and repainting. RESOLVED to obtain professional damp survey at a cost of £95.00, prior to work being carried out. **ACTION: Cllr Reece**

138/21 A379 to Bull and Bear, the road surface is deteriorating. Also, on the crest of the hill vehicles are encroaching into the bank, bollards required. Cllr Thomas confirmed that DCC Highways will find it difficult to carry out any work in this financial year. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

142/21 Cllr Sherrell has spoken to the owners of the property at Battisborough Cross where the parish notice board is located. There is no issue with a replacement notice board to be on the end of the property at Battisborough Cross. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

153/21 Play Park Report from Allianz - Allianz Engineering Inspection took place at Holbeton Play Park on 19 October 2021. The wooden slat bridge end platform support has partially detached and the bridge has been removed for safety reasons. RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell to obtain quotes for the necessary repairs. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

154/21 Flooding at Bull and Bear - Cllr Sherrell will speak to the landowner and Cllr Thomas will liaise with Nick Colton, DCC Highways. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

163/21 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 9 November 2021 (as previously circulated). The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

164/21 EXTENSION TO THE 30MPH SPEED LIMIT AT BATTISBOROUGH CROSS - Cllr Gunatillake

- assess the list of speed limits in the parish previously circulated by Cllr Hollett. RESOLVED to discuss at the February 2022 parish council meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

165/21 DISCUSS IF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE A PLANNING POLICY

Cllr Timlin Brown asked why Holbeton Parish Council were not consulted on neighbouring parishes planning applications, which would have an impact on Holbeton parish.

Cllr Baldry suggested that SHDC Planning Departments were contacted and asked what the criteria is, for consulting neighbouring parishes. RESOLVED the Clerk will contact SHDC. **ACTION: Clerk**

166/21 PLANNING

Reference: 4492/21/FUL Proposal: Conversion and extension of redundant agricultural barn to new dwelling house
Site Address: Lusson House, Lusson, Yealmpton, PL8 2JD
Recommendation: Support

Prior to the meeting, it was noted the following two planning applications have been refused:

Reference: 3989/21/LBC Proposal: Listed building consent for side and rear extension
Site Address: 75 Ramsland Cottage, Moorshead Cross To Vicarage Hill, Ford, Holbeton, PL8 1LJ

Reference: 3988/21/HHO Proposal: Householder application for side and rear extension
Site Address: 75 Ramsland Cottage, Moorshead Cross To Vicarage Hill, Ford, Holbeton, PL8 1LJ

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3036/21/CLE Holbeton
APPLICATION NUMBER: 3678/21/LBC Holbeton
APPLICATION NUMBER: 3988/21/HHO Holbeton
APPLICATION NUMBER: 3989/21/LBC Holbeton

DECISION: Cert of Lawfulness (Existing) Certified
DECISION: Conditional Approval
APPLICATION NUMBER :
DECISION: Refusal
DECISION: Refusal

167/21 PURCHASE OF NOTICEBOARD AT BATTISBOROUGH CROSS

As Cllr Ackroyd was not present, the purchase of the noticeboard will be discussed at February 2022 meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

168/21 YOUTH CLUB - Cllr Gunatillake/Baumer

Cllr Baumer had submitted the following report to Parish Councillors, following a meeting on Thursday 11 December 2021:

Three adults, Cllr Baumer, Keith Waters and my wife Di met in the village hall with adolescents from the parish to hear from them what they felt about the opportunities in Holbeton village for young people and what they would like ideally to see.

The event had been arranged with 2 sessions, the first for 12 to 14-year-olds and the 2nd for 15 to 17-year-olds. 5 boys from 4 households attended the first session along with 2 adults. Nobody turned up for the 2nd session. It was clear that the boys attending had discussed what they wanted to say with their friends beforehand. The following is a summary of what we heard.

The sports field is too far away and the football pitch is too small with a goal that is badly rusted and generally dilapidated. The bike track is limited and the long grass makes it difficult to use. The field is unlit and therefore not useable in the winter months.

There is generally a lack of privacy. There is no shelter in or near the village where they can sit and 'hang out' in all weathers.

The play park is geared to younger children and is too small for such games as football.

Whilst they do play on the roads, they feel unwelcomed by some villagers, and the roads are too uneven in places for skateboarding.

We then went on to discuss what they would ideally like to see, summarised as follows.

They would ideally like to see a sports field with a football pitch with 2 goals even if this was relatively small. They would like the goals to be sturdier. Although not critical, it would be good if this area could be levelled. In order to be used in the winter months it would need to be properly lit.

The bike track might be better used if the grass was kept short. It would also be better used if it was suitable for other uses than simply scrambler bikes.

It would help if there was a path directly up to the sports field as the current access makes it too far away.

They would like to see a shelter somewhere in the field, perhaps in the top corner. The key requirement would be to be able to feel some degree of privacy. This could be open but wind and rain proof with chairs or a bench fixed inside it. It should be able to accommodate up to 6 or 7 people and ideally more than one group. They mentioned a similar arrangement in Ermington which is sturdy and vandal proof. If it was to be of any use in winter then it should be lit.

If the surface of a stretch of road down near Brownswell Farm could be made more even that could create a good surface for skateboarding.

Ideally, they would like to have access to other sports or activities equipment. They recognised the need for this to be kept locked up.

There was strong support for a youth club. This could be held in the village hall. Activities mentioned included a pool table, magnet darts, Nerf guns, table tennis, table football, 'Wii' and card games. In view of homework requirements, they would ideally like a youth club to be held on Fridays.

In discussion about a youth club, they understood that in order to make this happen it would require some funding and a significant commitment from one or 2 adults. They felt that if a youth club was set up it would attract enough young people, including older children still at primary school. They thought that older teenagers would be less likely to want to be involved.

168/21 YOUTH CLUB - Cllr Gunatillake/Baumer (continued)

In summary, there was a clear indication that at least the boys present felt there were significant shortcomings with existing arrangements. Key shortcomings of the playing field were its distance from the centre of the village, the lack of lighting in winter, and the limited opportunities for sports activities. There was strong support for a youth club, something which has flourished in the village in the past.

The main limitation of the consultation exercise was that it was only attended by a relatively small number of boys, and we learnt nothing of what teenage girls might wish to see. The lack of any older teenagers was not surprising and says something about their likely interest in improved local facilities.

There is a potential conflict between the teenagers' perceived need for privacy and the opportunity for a shelter to be used by adults and older teenagers for nefarious activities. The logic of this would be to identify a suitable place within the village that is lit at night where there is also shelter.

In the meantime, there is a clear mandate for pursuing the idea of a youth club, including looking for ongoing funding to support it.

Cllr Harry Baumer wish like to thank Keith Waters and Di Baumer as well as the young people and their parents who gave up their time to inform us of their ideas and wishes.

As Cllr Gunatillake was not present, the Youth Club will be discussed at February 2022 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

169/21 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE FROM CLLR BAUMER

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee held its most recent meeting on Tuesday the 7th December in Holbeton Village Hall. The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

The parish wide LED survey. To date no further forms have been returned despite a request in Holbeton News. The total number returned now stands at 64, of approximately 295 distributed (22%). Cllr Hollett has details of those who wish to participate in a bulk buying arrangement for LED bulbs.

- **The River Erme sewage pollution.** A number of those present were dissatisfied with the responses received from Sir Gary Streeter. In particular, the objected to his assumption that the costs of any improvements would have to be borne by customers of SWW when they are reporting sizeable profits.

It was emphasised that any direct action or demonstrations would not be done in the name of the parish council without express advance agreement. Nonetheless, the strength of feeling about this issue within the parish needs to be acknowledged.

A number of things are awaited, including further test results from SWW carried out within the parish; a report from Sir Gary Streeter on his proposed strategic meeting with representatives of SWW and the Environment Agency; a further open meeting with Holbeton Parish Council.

There was strong support for aligning the parish council with other local and national organisations protesting about river pollution from sewage discharges. I already act as an observer on the River Yealm Water Quality Group. HPC has also written to other local councils including Ermington, Ivybridge and Kingston. Although very supportive, neither Ermington nor Kingston seemed keen to form an alliance. I can only find a preliminary reply from Ivybridge Town Council Clerk on the 10th August, and it would be sensible to chase this up.

As previously reported Cllr Dennis Onley from Ermington Parish Council has shared detailed information received from SWW following a Freedom of Information Act request. This has not yet been analysed in detail, but seems to suggest that the great majority of discharges occurred over 3 periods last year, suggesting a fault rather than storm discharges.

Once we have a response from Ivybridge, the parish council will need to consider the feasibility and benefit from a formal Erme-wide river quality alliance. Apparently, such an organisation did at one time exist.

169/21 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE FROM CLLR BAUMER (continued)

- **EV Chargers for the village.** Following a zoom meeting with Rebecca Smith (acting for Sir Gary Streeter) on Tuesday the 2nd November I can report the following.

Firstly, I asked Rebecca if she would contact Gary Streeter to see if he would indeed be willing to support our recommendation to Verto Homes and SHDC's planning authorities that (as and when the new development up Church Hill is approved) the infrastructure for EV charge points should be installed in the 20 public car parking spaces as one of the conditions of approval. It was agreed at last month's meeting that the parish council would write to Gary Streeter asking him to write and support our position on this. I can report that he has agreed to write supporting our stance.

Secondly, in relation to looking at the feasibility and desirability of raising funds to install one or two EV charging points adjacent to the village hall and in the pub car park. I have been in touch with the Energy Saving Trust and have received a couple of publications from them. I have a phone conversation booked for Monday the 13th December with their South of England representative and hope to report back further next month.

- **The accompanying financial report** covers the first 12 months of income and expenditure relating to the Environmental Action Plan and the section 106 income from Creacombe Solar Farm.

It can be seen that all expenditure has been approved by Holbeton Parish Council and delivered through its account. 83% of the Section 106 money has been spent or committed. It is anticipated that the same sum will be available in January 2022.

The subcommittee recommends that the remaining sum is carried forward into 2022 ring fenced for Environmental expenditure. **Holbeton Parish Council RESOLVED to approve.**

- **Cross Park field survey and hedge trimming.** Following problems with the hedge trimming back in August I had contacted Tom Whitlock, one of Devon County Council's ecologists, as had our County Councillor, Dan Thomas. He responded on the 14th October "I will pass on your below bullet points to the highways officer in charge of this area to see what his thoughts are and whether that way of working can be adopted - I will discuss further with him and get back to you. I am sure this can be resolved and a more joined up future way of working adopted. Cllr Bumaer has heard nothing more from him. **RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will speak to Mr Whitlock, DCC.**
- **The proposed carbon audit by farmers in the parish.** This is to be led by Becky Willson, project Manager at Farm Carbon Cutting Toolkit, an independent, farmer-led enterprise. I had emailed her a month ago as she had hoped to start the ball rolling this autumn. Cllr Baumer to date, had no response.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 1 February 2022.

Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change Subcommittee financial report 2021

Income		Expenditure	
£3,646.35	Section 106	£459.15	Environmental library & cupboard
£673.00	Bequest	£153.50	Wildflower area and noticeboard
		£300.00	Bird Boxes project
		£241.78	Meetings, zoom & village hall hire – includes December
		£14.15	Public toilets hand towels
		£104.00	LED survey leaflets
£4,319.35	TOTAL INCOME	£1,272.58	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
£3,056.77	TOTAL UNSPENT INCOME		
		Committed but not yet spent	
		£40.00	Holbeton News sponsorship
		£600.00	Solar panels Flete cricket pavilion
		£673.00	Farm carbon audits
		£454.00	Holbeton All Saints Church conversion to LED lights
		£1,767.00	TOTAL
£1,289.77	TOTAL UNCOMMITTED OR SPENT INCOME	£3,039.58	TOTAL COMMITTED OR SPENT

Cllr Baumer reported that subsequent to his financial report the funding for Holbeton All Saints Church's LED lights had been paid.

170/21 FINANCE

RESOLVED to approve the following:

- (i) Bank balances - Business Account as at 9 November 2021 = £5,000.00
Treasurers Account as at 11 November 2021 = £31,705.75

Business Account as at 9 December 2021 = £5,000.00
Treasurers Account as at 15 December 2021 = £30,891.63

170/21 FINANCE (continued)

(ii) Banked receipt - Bank Interest 09.11.2021 = £0.04 and 09.12.2021 = £0.04

(iii) Grant Request - Project to tidy up / paint inside the phone box at Battisborough Cross. RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will obtain more details about the project. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

(iv) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - November 2021 Salary	£441.56	-	-
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - December 2021 Salary	£441.56	-	-
HMRC	Clerk - November 2021	£13.20	-	-
HMRC	Clerk - December 2021	£13.20	-	-
Mrs M Venton	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - November 2021	£67.50	-	-
Mrs M Venton	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - December 2021	£67.50	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk	SLCC Membership - half the cost with Ermington Parish Council	£85.50	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of hall for meetings	£156.00	-	-
Source for Business (South West Water)	Service at The Allotment, Holbeton, 20 August to 18 November 2021	£220.41	-	-
Cllr Andrew Hollett	Reimbursement for items to clean Holbeton public toilets	£146.97	-	-
Mr M Rawlings	Lengthsman Duties	£130.00	-	-
SCE Electrical Services Ltd	Material and labour for the replacement of LED lights in the parish church	£453.60	-	-
EDF	2 November - 1 December 2021 - Reading Rooms	£63.85	£4.15	£59.70
Colin Campbell	Purchase of Christmas tree for the parish	£105.00	-	-
SHDC	Recharge of water for Holbeton Public Toilets February 2020 - August 2021 - ON HOLD	£1,020.41	-	-

(v) RESOLVED to approve the Financial Statement and Earmarked Reserves.

Financial Statement				
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 December 2021:	£5,000.00			
Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 December 2021:	£30,891.63			
	Total =	£35,891.63		
Less: any unrepresented cheques	001550	-£10.82		
	001551	-£220.41		
	001552	-£67.50		
	001553	-£146.97		
	001554	-£130.00		
	001555	-£13.20		
	001556	-£156.00		
	001535	-£60.00		
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques		£0.00		
	Total Funds =	£35,086.73		
PRECEPT 2021/2022 = £14,375				
An increase of 14.2% or £5.82 on the 2020/21 Band D figure.				
Total uncommitted funds =	£35,086.73	Minus earmarked reserve	£34,400 =	£686.73

(vi) RESOLVED to increase the Precept for 2022/2023 to £15,381.

(vii) Action point raised at internal audit 2020/2021: Parish Clerk Contract of Employment. **ACTION: Cllrs Sherrell and Fuller**

(viii) Review of Clerk's salary - RESOLVED to increase the hourly rate to £14.50 per hour, with effect from 1 June 2021.

171/21 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS

- Transfer of building to the Parish Council - ongoing

- Agree employment of Marion Venton to clean and look after Holbeton Public Toilets and agree Contract of Employment/Job Description/Job Risk Assessment and Parish Council point of Contact for The Pensions Regulator.

ACTION: Cllrs Hollett and Flower

RESOLVED to discuss at February's meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

172/21 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK AND PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllr Reece

No issues raised.

Due to Cllr Reece not being able to inspect the track in the next couple of months, it was RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will carry out inspections. **ACTION Cllr Sherrell**

173/21 PARISH LENGTHSMAN

RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell to meet with Tony Henderson. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

174/21 REVIEW OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE AND ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES

Two quotes have been received, by companies known to the Clerk:

- Quote 1, new website design, development and testing £2,500.
- Quote 2, new website approx. £950, to maintain monthly £40 a month. Backup of website once every two months included in the £40.

RESOLVED to obtain a third quote. **ACTION: Cllr Hollett**

As Cllr Hollett was not present, review of Holbeton Parish Council website and accessibility requirements for public sector bodies, will be discussed at February 2022 meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

175/21 GRANTS FROM YEALM COMMUNITY ENERGY - Cllr Hollett

RESOLVED to discuss at February 2022 meeting, as Cllr Hollett was not present. **ACTION: Clerk**

176/21 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022 - 4 June 2022

Email has been received from a parishioner (29/12/2021) informing the parish council that some parishioners in the village are starting a group to plan a series of events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. Information has been forwarded to them by Diana Baumer.

177/21 REVIEW ANNUAL WILDFLOWER AREA AGREEMENT LICENCE WITH ALL SAINTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - dated 1 January 2021

RESOLVED to continue with the agreement as it has been a great success.

178/21 BATTISBOROUGH CROSS GRASS CUTTING 2022 BY MR W SCARLETT

RESOLVED to agree the following:

1. Eighteen cuts per year
2. £30.00 per cut
3. Invoice HPC after every four cuts
4. Right to review price in "2" above should the price of petrol rise above £1.50/litre for at least a month.

179/21 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Baumer - under the bridge near Mothecombe the highway is in a very poor condition. RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will liaise with DCC Highways. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Clerk reported allotment Plot 7 will be relinquished by the current hirer at the end of February 2022. RESOLVED to itemise on February 2022 agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

180/21 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

SHDC - FOR COMMENT - Draft proposed SHDC Grounds Maintenance layer (to enhance biodiversity on Council green spaces) - no comments made.

181/21 TO CONFIRM DATES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was RESOLVED the next parish council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8 February 2022** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 8 February 2022

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 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.