

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell (Chairman), Mike Reece, Trudie Timlin Brown, Harry Baumer, Chris Flower and Carol Ackroyd

District Councillor Keith Baldry (7.44 pm - 8.15 pm)
Teresa Drew - Clerk

Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s) present: 3

233/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from County and District Councillor Daniel Thomas, Parish Councillors Julie Fuller, Jim Melhuish and Nirosha Gunatillake.

234/21 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

RESOLVED to co-opt Tony Callcut.

235/21 REPORTS

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

Parishioner asked if there could be more dog bins in the village. Cllr Baldry pointed out that there are no funds available to supply and maintain them.

(b) Emailed Report from County and District Councillor Dan Thomas

- Nick Colton DCC Highway confirm that 71 Parishes across Devon have applied for a 20mph limit, but the amount of money Cabinet has set aside (c£100k) is likely to be insufficient for further applications.

Devon stands with Ukraine

Devon's local authorities are supporting local residents who want to provide sanctuary to the Ukrainian refugees who have been forced to flee their homes.

[A new website now hosts the latest guidance and information](#) as it becomes available.

Visit devon.gov.uk/supporting-ukraine for further information

We are now receiving the latest information from the government on the Devon sponsors who have registered, and are carrying out DBS checks on the sponsor families. And Devon's district authorities are using a common approach to assess each sponsor's accommodation, which will help better assess any potential safeguarding risks.

This initial phase of the Homes for Ukraine scheme is designed to supplement the Ukraine Family Visa for people in the UK to support friends and colleagues. We are now seeing several hundred people in Devon being matched and, following permission to travel, we will start to see those families arrive in Devon.

As you will appreciate the situation is evolving quickly, with updated guidance coming through from government daily, but all Team Devon partners are working together to develop a rapid response.

Anyone who is interested in offering accommodation can register their interest via the government website [Homes for Ukraine - Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine](#). The link also contains some frequently asked questions (FAQs) for would-be accommodation providers (sponsors).

Those wishing to offer donations on the ground are advised to make financial contributions, particularly to the [Disasters Emergency Committee](#).

Everything you need to know about the spring booster in Devon

Spring COVID-19 booster jabs have started to be offered to people in Devon at greatest risk of COVID-19 infection, many of whom had their first booster six months ago. The groups eligible for the spring booster are:

- people aged 75 years and older
- residents in a care home for older adults
- people aged 12 years old and over who have a weakened immune system

The best time to have the spring booster is around six months after the previous booster, although the minimum interval is three months. You can find your nearest walk-in clinic on the NHS site finder website or book an appointment via the National Booking System.

Check visitor arrangements at hospitals and care homes

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Devon some hospitals and care homes have taken the difficult decision to restrict visitors in order to protect vulnerable patients, residents and staff.

If you are planning to visit someone in hospital or in a care home, please ring ahead or check their website to find out about visitor arrangements.

Holiday food support continues for Easter

Supermarket vouchers worth £570,000 have been sent to families of 19,000 children in Devon to help them buy food over the upcoming Easter holidays.

This comes from the government's one-off 'household support fund', which was given to councils to distribute. Over the last year £4.7 million has provided nearly 140,000 supermarket vouchers for families who qualify for free school meals; so their children don't go hungry over the school holidays.

Report from District Councillor Keith Baldry

Contact Cllr Baldry if you have issues with brown bins not being emptied, as there is an issue with the shortage of staff.

236/21 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Baumer declared an interest in agenda item 8 planning reference 1061/22/FUL and 4492/21/FUL.

237/21 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

210/21 Holbeton Reading Rooms walls need waterproofing and repointing - heating is not working correctly, RESOLVED Cllr Reece to arrange for the heating to be repaired. Cllr Baumer has sent a copy of the report from Heritage Preservation to Mr Mildmay White as the Reading Rooms are owned by the Parish Church. Portable Appliance Testing to be carried out week commencing 18 May 2022. ACTION: Cllr Reece

210/21 A379 to Bull and Bear, the road surface is deteriorating. On the crest of the hill vehicles are encroaching into the bank, bollards required. Cllr Thomas has confirmed that DCC Highways will find it difficult to carry out any work in this financial year.

210/21 Play Park Repairs - Site meeting took place on 12 April 2022. RESOLVED to produce an action list for the Lengthsman. ACTION: Cllr Ackroyd

210/21 Youth Club - replacement goal posts for School Field - £170 has been raised by parishioners towards the purchase of replacement goal posts. Cllr Thomas will make a grant of £400. Cllr Sherrell will arrange purchase of the goal posts. ACTION: Cllr Sherrell

213/21 Extension to the 30mph speed limit at Battisborough Cross - Cllr Thomas will ask Nick Colton DCC Highways what the current costs will be for the speed limit extension. ACTION: Cllr Thomas

Cllr Gunatillake had circulated an email with ideas for a 20 mph signs and location. A quote of £35 plus VAT for each sign has been received. Steel poles for the signs may also be required.

216/21 Purchase of noticeboard for Battisborough Cross - waiting for the wall of the property to be repointed where the noticeboard will be placed. Once this work has been completed a notice board will be purchased. ACTION: Cllr Ackroyd

238/21 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 8 March 2022 (as previously circulated). The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

239/21 TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

Cllr Baumer asked if the Clerk and or Parish Tree Warden can be notified if there is any work on TPO's within the parish. Cllr Baldry will enquire if any future applications could be emailed to the Clerk and tree warden. **ACTION: Cllr Baldry**

240/21 PLANNING

Reference: 0962/22/ARC Site Address: West St Marys Cottage, Fore Street, Holbeton, Devon, PL8 1NE
Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 4 of planning application 3678/21/LBC
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 4492/21/FUL Site Address: Luson House, Luson, Yealmpton, PL8 2JD
Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) Conversion of redundant agricultural barn to new dwelling house along with associated works and erection of detached car port
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0616/22/HHO Site Address: Lawnfield, Holbeton, PL8 1JH
Proposal: Householder application for the construction of an open-air swimming pool with associated equipment
Recommendation: Object

- not an environmentally friendly construction
- use of chemicals (Chlorine) to maintain the pool
- visibility
- no shallow steps to enter/exit the pool

Standing Orders were stood down - 8.05 pm

Parishioner - why are they putting in a planning application when they can have a pop-up wild camping for 28 days. Plans were not shared with residents in Luson. There was loud music during the time the wild camping was operating last summer. Green metal gates should have been removed after the last pop up in 2021, and were not removed.

Parishioner - concerned that the pop-up camping is going to be a start of something else and the highway in the area is not able to deal with the traffic.

Standing Orders were reinstated - 8.20 pm

Reference: 1061/22/FUL Site Address: Brownstone, Henna Mill To Luson, Yealmpton, PL8 2JB
Proposal: Pop up wild camping site to operate for 12 weeks per year
Recommendation: Object

- not sustainable due to traffic
- Parish has an increase in tourist traffic
- if agreed by SHDC, to prohibit the size of groups, playing of music and no groups of minors

Planning Decision

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3059/21/FUL Holbeton DECISION: Conditional Approval

240/21 YOUTH CLUB - Cllr Gunatillake

Cllr Gunatillake emailed a report to Chairman prior to the meeting, stating that she has received some interest from a small number of individuals keen to help with this enterprise. But is still finding it difficult to find out what the local regulations are with regard to starting a group such as this and is planning a small meeting in May to discuss this further. There was a very generous offer of some financial contributions to the initiative from one very kind Parishioner.

241/21 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 5th April in Holbeton Village Hall. The minutes of the March meeting were approved and are attached with this briefing.

- **The parish wide LED survey.** Andrew Hollett has written a piece for Holbeton News 'tip of the month' on the savings that can be made by those who still have halogen lights, demonstrating the benefit from making the full transition. By the time this is published he plans to have built a light box and have this available.
- **Net Zero Future Visions.** Holbeton is one of the 5 parishes that have agreed to take part in this art project organised by the Sustainable Earth Institute of Plymouth University. We are being asked to take 2 photos of places in the parish that exemplify what that place will look like when the country has reached 'Net Zero'. We were promised that there would not be a need for significant work on the part of our representative. This has not proved to be the case, and a long and difficult questionnaire has already been completed and returned.

The problem is identifying a suitable place for the artist, and the subcommittee felt that rather than doing this we should invite the artist to come and have a look round the parish. Some of the ideas as to how things might be different when the UK achieves net zero are: more local collaboration within the community, with the ability to manufacture common items locally; maybe a local farmers' market; fewer cars, that are capable of operating driverless; changes in farming practices.

RESOLVED to support this approach.

- **Hedge and verge trimming.** Finally, we have had a response from Tom Whitlock, the DCC ecologist following a face to face discussion at a meeting where he was one of the speakers. It appears that the designated verge that is described as needing an early cut 'for visibility purposes' at Luson Cross is rather generous. The DCC website states: "Road verges are a vital refuge for wildlife including many plants, birds, mammals and insects. Sensitive management is required if we want to maintain verges as wildflower habitats. We are encouraging communities to work together to manage their verges for wildlife."

A site visit by Nick Colton &/or whoever is responsible for identifying such locations has been requested to avoid unnecessary cutting of environmentally sensitive verges whilst maintaining road safety. I have had the following response from Tom Whitlock:

Hi Harry

Thank you for the below email.

Very helpfully(!) the location of Devon's special verges are found on another online map - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/environmental-maps>. They can be found under the 'non-statutory' designated sites tab in the top right hand corner. As discussed, when we met in Yealmpton, the special verge criteria used to designate new special verges is being reviewed and updated - I will let you know when this process happens.

In terms of the designated visibility splays - I believe those are the areas shown on the maps in my previous email. From speaking to Nick Colton, DCC only cuts visibility splays in Holbeton with the locations shown on the second map.

I am happy to have site meeting to discuss onsite with you and other interested parties - I unfortunately do not have much availability until the end of April. Are there any dates which suit you the week commencing the 25th April at all?

Thanks again Harry - I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards, Tom

RESOLVED to support this way forward.

- **The wildflower area outside the Reading Rooms** has been mown and re-seeded.

241/21 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE FROM CLLR BAUMER
(continued)

- The DCC pension fund manager (Mark Gayler) has been sent the resolution passed at the last parish council meeting regarding the urgent need to divest itself from investments in fossil fuels. His response was perhaps entirely predictable:

Dear Cllr Baumer,

Many thanks for your email.

The Devon Pension Fund takes the issue of climate change very seriously. You can find out more about how we are dealing with climate change through our website: <https://www.devonpensionfund.org.uk/investments/climate-change/>

You will also be please to know that we invest through the Brunel Pension Partnership who are widely recognised for their work on climate change and won the 2021 Investment and Pensions In Europe award for climate related risk management.

Best wishes, Mark

The subcommittee took issue with a central argument of the pension fund against disinvestment: "A key focus of the net zero commitment is on achieving real economy emissions reductions. That means we want to engage with the companies we are invested in and seek reductions in their emissions, not just disinvest. Disinvestment may make us look good, but is likely to have less impact on achieving real reductions in emissions across the global economy."

- **Government consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review - an opportunity to stop 'off-roading' in the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).** Likewise a response on behalf of the parish council has been made to the consultation. Details of the response have been shared with the subcommittee and are available on request.
- **Funding request from the Flete Field Lab CIC for water testing kits for the Holbeton Brook.** This organisation is supported by the Flete estate and has already received funding from Devon Environment Foundation (£9,570) to support research activities with Plymouth University.

They are applying for £1,280 from the parish council's section 106 environmental fund to support a study that is being carried out in collaboration with the Westcountry Rivers Trust

It will include bacterial and eDNA testing (the latter a scientific tool to augment or replace conventional ecological survey methods for the detection of species of interest) as well as basic testing of water going into Holbeton Brook.

This also includes payment of £180 to Westcountry Rivers Trust for training up 'citizen scientists' to sample the watercourse.

The aim is to provide baseline information on local species biodiversity, including of microbes, with a view to assessing the impact of the introduction of fungi and biochar (a term describing any organic material that has been carbonised under high temperatures of 300-1000°C, in the presence of little, or no oxygen. This process, called 'pyrolysis', releases bio-oils plus gases and leaves a solid residue of at least 80% elemental carbon which is termed biochar) on biodiversity in local farmland.

The information should also provide some local information about the relative contributions of agricultural runoff and the water treatment works on water quality.

A condition of the funding will be to provide the subcommittee with an impact report, including what the money was spent on and what was achieved, after 6 months. The money has to be spent within 12 months of the grant.

The applicants have provided the required supporting documentation. A copy of the completed application form is appended.

The subcommittee supported the application. It supports action 17a of the council's Environmental Action Plan (to monitor and promote the health of the Erme estuary) and 33 (encouraging biodiversity within the parish). **RESOLVED to support the application.**

241/21 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE FROM CLLR BAUMER (continued)

- **The request for assistance with upkeep of the All Saints Churchyard from Graham Price.** Once again the parish council has received a request for funding towards the maintenance of the churchyard. The subcommittee noted that this request highlights "work that is continuing to be undertaken in the upper churchyard to promote a wildlife habitat: this includes a new pond, wild flower areas and the installation of bird boxes. A bug hotel (as advised by CPRE) should be installed by the time of..." Informally, a further request for funding the planting of a suitable small tree has been suggested.

It is proposed that the work of the upkeep should be supported by the section 106 funding, on the proviso that a report detailing the work to promote and improve the environmental biodiversity of the graveyard should be made to the subcommittee at the end of the year 2022, indicating what external advice has been sought and given on additional ways to increase the biodiversity. **RESOLVED to support this proposal up to the sum of £200 as well as funding the £500 initially requested for mowing the older parts of the churchyard from the parish council.**

- **Section 106 funds from Creacombe Solar Farm.** The 2022 money has not yet been transferred and an email has gone to the company holding the assets. It should be noted that both the funding for the Flete Field Lab and the upkeep of the churchyard can be afforded from last year's section 106 budget.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 3rd May 2022.

242/21 FINANCE

RESOLVED to approve the following:

- (i) Bank balances - to note the bank balances of: - Business Account as at 9 March 2022 = £5,000.00
Treasurers Account as at 10 March 2022 = £27,262.65
- (ii) Banked receipts - to note receipts for March 2022: Bank Interest (09.03.2022) = £0.04
Allotment Rent = £7.33
- (iii) Grant Requests: *Project to tidy up / paint inside the phone box at Battisborough Cross - RESOLVED to grant £200.*
Maintenance of All Saints Churchyard 2022 - RESOLVED to grant £500.00. ACTION: Clerk
- (iv) To resolve to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - March 2022 Salary	£465.09	-	-
HMRC	HMRC	£19.00	-	-
Mrs M Venton	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - March 2022	£60.00	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of Holbeton Village Hall for PC meetings	£48.00	-	-
eDF	Reading Rooms, Church Hill, Plymouth = 2/2/22- 1/3/22	£33.72	£1.61	£32.11
Flete Estate	Annual Rent - Battisborough Cross Recreation Field, Kingsgate Orchard, Allotments, Playground for the period of 25/03/2022 to 24/03/2023	£100.00	-	-
Mrs D Baumer	Reimbursement for wildflower seeds	£28.00	-	-
South Hams District Council	Providing 2021/22 Payroll Service for Parish Clerk	£120.00	£20.00	£100.00
Devon Association of Parish Councils	Membership fee for 2022/23	£137.89	-	-
Mr W Scarlett	Cutting grass at Battisborough Cross - 25th January, 25th February, 7th & 25th March 2022. Three cuts at £30 per cut and one £32	£122.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Parish Clerk	16 x 2 nd class stamps	£10.88	-	-

242/21 FINANCE (continued)

(v) Approve Financial Statement

Financial Statement			
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 March 2022 :	£5,000.00		
Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 10 March 2022:	£27,262.65		
	Total =	£32,262.65	
Less: any un-presented cheques	001573	-£19.00	
	001574	-£60.00	
	001575	-£48.00	
	001577	-£115.00	
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques		£0.00	
	Total Funds =	£32,020.65	
PRECEPT 2021/2022 = £14,375			
PRECEPT 2022/2023 = £15,381			
Total uncommitted funds =	£32,020.65	Minus earmarked reserve	£34,400 = -£2,379.35

(vi) Review Holbeton Parish Council expenditure/income to date

242/21 VERIFICATION OF BANK STATEMENTS AND RECONCILIATIONS

Cllr Timlin Brown verified bank reconciliations; no issues were raised.

243/21 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS

- Transfer of building to the Parish Council - waiting for a response from SHDC re. Western Power and the responsibility for the electricity supply.

- 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: Cllr Flower

244/21 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK AND PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllrs Reece/Sherrell

No issues raised.

245/21 PARISH LENGTHSMAN

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

246/21 WEST COUNTRY TRUST

Chair of Governors was not able to make this week's meeting. Rob Haring, Head of the West Country MAT is collating the responses of the recent public consultation about their (sudden) policy to disband Local Governing Boards, and apparently this should be available soon.

Cllr Ackroyd raised concern that due to Holbeton Primary School being small it will be difficult to have a voice. RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will discuss with Cllr Gunatillake to write a response. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

247/21 UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Prior to the meeting, the link to the updated website was circulated. RESOLVED to go live with the new website.

248/21 REVIEW OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE PROTOCOL

RESOLVED to make no amendments.

249/21 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Baumer - food fund is expected to be extended, and if so, an article will be in the next edition of the Holbeton News.

250/21 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

- AONB = Life on the Edge
- Email from Parishioner = Ukraine - Reset Communities and Refugees - The UK's Community Sponsorship Hub - SHDC and DCC have designated teams in place and the Parish Council will support them.
- Devon County Council - Hedge and Verge Maintenance, Holbeton. RESOLVED Cllrs Sherrell and Baumer will have a meeting with a representative from DCC. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell/Baumer**

251/21 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - FORMAT AND DATE

RESOLVED to invite a representative from the AONB to give a talk on Life on the Edge. **ACTION: Clerk**

252/21 TO CONFIRM DATE AND VENUE FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was RESOLVED the Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 4th May 2022** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.00 pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

John Sherrell
(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 4 May 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.