

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell (Chairman), Harry Baumer, Tony Callcut, Carol Ackroyd, Mike Reece, Nirosha Gunatillake and Trudie Timlin Brown

District Councillor Keith Baldry (7.30 pm - 8.15 pm)

Teresa Drew - Clerk

Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s) present: 4

087/22 ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from County and District Councillor Dan Thomas and Cllrs Chris Flower, Julie Fuller and Jim Melhuish.

088/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

089/22 REPORTS

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas emailed report:

Grave budget warning from Devon County Council leader -

Deep cuts to Devon's vital local services are inevitable unless the Government provides more support, county council leader John Hart warned today.

Mr Hart said he fully agreed with new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak that the country faced a "profound economic crisis".

But he urged Mr Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt to use the extra time they now have to produce their economic recovery plan to ensure the balance between tax rises and spending cuts was fair and equitable. And that local government is not singled out for cuts.

"I have been a county councillor for more than 30 years and leader of Devon County Council for nearly 14 years during which time we have been through the austerity years and the pandemic," said Mr Hart.

"But our financial situation has never been so bleak as it is now.

"Before the summer we revealed a black hole in our finances for this year due to surging demand for help and support for vulnerable children and adults, the continuing costs of the pandemic and the dramatic rise in costs and inflation.

"We have been working hard to find savings in this current financial year but it's like filling the bath with the plug out as demand for our services and our costs keep escalating.

"On top of that we now calculate that - as things stand - we face a £75 million shortfall in our budget for next year."

Mr Hart said a report from the National Audit Office had revealed a 53.7 per cent cut in Government funding for local councils between 2010 and 2020. Devon's core funding from the Government had reduced by 72 per cent in real terms in the 11 years up to 2021/22.

089/22 REPORTS (continued)

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas emailed report:

"Despite that, this council has maintained help and support for the young, the old and the vulnerable by becoming more effective and efficient," he said.

"When other councils were closing libraries to save money, we kept all ours open. We maintained a youth service in every district. We've seen a steadily reducing number of potholes on our roads. We've ensured communities weren't cut off by subsidising bus services. We maintained our farms estate to give aspiring young farmers a chance to begin a career in farming.

"And we've helped to drive economic growth by overseeing infrastructure improvements on the A380 in South Devon and the North Devon link road, re-opening the Okehampton railway line and other stations and investing in improving high-tech skills through developments like the new training centre at Exeter Airport and support for work hubs for start-up businesses and small companies across the county.

"We've done all that without large-scale staff redundancies and we've kept council tax as low as possible. And we've done it all while committing to be net zero carbon by 2030.

"I am proud of that legacy. But all of the work we do will be under threat if we have to make drastic cuts across all our services to balance the books as we are required to do by law. However that will be the reality if the Government doesn't act to protect local government."

Mr Hart said Devon was not just calling for financial support and doing nothing to help itself.

The council had already put a freeze on staff recruitment in non-frontline areas, delayed planned investment in IT and infrastructure projects, cut its heating and lighting bills, squeezed all external contracts, stopped some routine road maintenance and reduced winter gritting routes as well as reviewing its school transport contracts and public transport subsidies.

Devon MPs were being briefed so they could champion the county's case at Westminster and the authority was working with the County Councils' Network and the Local Government Association on national lobbying.

"We are here to do the very best for local people and to protect and support the most vulnerable and those in real need" he said.

"We will do everything in our power to continue to do this and find new ways to do things better and more sustainably.

"But, quite obviously, a bankrupt council can do none of these things and we have no choice now but to make savings that will inevitably hurt some people."

District Councillor Keith Baldry's report:

Recycling & Waste Collections – the takeover by SHDC has worked well.

Please report brown bins that have not been emptied and they will be dealt with. If you wish to pay for the brown bins to be emptied, effective from March 2023, please subscribe as soon as possible.

089/22 REPORTS (continued)

(b) Question(s)

Parishioner – family friendly village but over the last two years children have played in Masons Yard and recently a sign has been placed forbidding them to cycle, skateboard or use scooters in the car park. The children do not have anywhere to play on their skateboards or scooters. Some residents have even driven vehicles at them. Would it be possible to look at what can be done so children can play outside. Speed limit change from 30 mph to 20 mph, speed bumps, signs stating that children are playing, alternative area to play e.g., the school playground. The playing field is too far away. Something is needed to ensure that children can play outside in the village for their mental health. Parishioner is happy to help.

Another parishioner pointed out that the sign has gone up in Masons Yard as there was concern for safety of the children when they are playing and exiting in the yard.

A third parishioner pointed out that delivery vans are driving at excessive speed through the village.

Cllr Ackroyd pointed out, there is an issue with safeguarding at the school playground and if a child is injured it will be the school's responsibility.

Discussion ensued on reducing the speed in the village and where children could play safely.

Cllr Baumer pointed 20 mph is too fast for some parts in the village, the Parish Council has mentioned placing signs around the village in connection with reducing speed.

Parishioner will write an article in the parish magazine, to ascertain what parishioners think about raising funds to reduce the speed limit in the village.

Cllr Sherrell will also liaise with Cllr Thomas on the cost implication to reduce speed in the village. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

090/22 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

Youth Club – Cllrs Thomas and Gunatillake to attend a face-to-face meeting at the end of November in Staverton which is being held by youth workers based in Totnes called TRAYE, (Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement). **ACTION: Cllrs Thomas & Gunatillake**

Extension to the 30mph speed limit at Battisborough Cross – Signs being sourced. **ACTION: Cllr Gunatillake**

091/22 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 11 October 2022 (as previously circulated).

092/22 PLANNING

Standing Orders stood down at 2012

Owner of property, The Lodge, Mothecombe, explained why the extension was necessary and what insulation would be installed.

Standing Orders reinstated at 2020

Reference: 3346/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for single storey side extension

Site Address: The Lodge, Mothecombe, PL8 1LB

Recommendation: Support

092/22 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 3347/22/LBC

Proposal: Listed building consent for single storey side extension,

Site Address: The Lodge, Mothecombe, PL8 1LB

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 3501/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for proposed single storey entrance porch extension

Site Address: Seadrift, 5 Keaton Barns, Holbeton, PL8 1HL

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 3388/22/FUL

Proposal: New ground mounted photovoltaic panels

Site Address: Efford House, Holbeton, PL8 1JR

Recommendation: Support

Planning Decision

Reference: 3303/22/TCA

Decision: Notification to Undertake Works

093/22 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee held its most recent meeting on Tuesday the 1st November in Holbeton Village Hall. Cllr Harry Baumer reported as follows:

River Erme sewage public meeting Friday 18th November. We have now had emails from SWW and the Environment Agency, both of whom are intending to attend the meeting in All Saints Church (the village hall was already booked) starting at 7pm, with the intention of finishing at 9pm. The proposed arrangements for the evening are as follows:

The meeting will be chaired by John Sherrell. Suggested introduction to include: Welcome. There are representatives from other organisations, particularly council representatives bordering the Erme. Outline of structure of the meeting. The focus of the meeting is the treatment works for which SWW are responsible. Although the problem is nation-wide and there are also issues relating to agriculture and privately owned treatment systems, these are not the subject of the meeting. The council wishes for the focus to be mainly on the future and what SWW can commit to doing to rectify the problem for Holbeton Parish. From the HPC perspective the outcomes we wish for are to get clarity on SWW's intended actions to rectify the problems relating to the Erme; for HPC to be involved in commissioning a specific plan put together by a suitably qualified expert that looks at the problems for the village and comes up with a scheme that will fully tackle the problems; and the message to SWW, EA & our MP of the strength of feeling there is in the community.

There will be 4 speakers: myself, with a brief (5 minutes) resume of the main issues and history including the importance of the Erme estuary; the original letter to our MP; the meeting last September; and our response to SWW's consultation on their draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan. I will not mention the SWW bacteriological survey as this does not relate to their area of responsibility.

EA, Clarissa Newell, Area Environment Manager

SWW representative, Anthony de Burgh

Gary Streeter, MP on the national perspective.

It is not intended that any questions shall be allowed until all the speakers have had their say. Each speaker will be given 10 minutes, with the plan to stop them at 15 minutes. There should then be an hour for questions, maybe from Holbeton Parish Councillors first.

Questions from the floor should be brief, and questioners asked to say who they are. John Sherrell to decide who to answer each question, and not everyone should be asked to speak in all replies. This is to avoid time wasting by SWW and the EA.

Both organisations have asked for a list of questions 'so that they feel prepared'. Too many written questions can result in long winded talks and little opportunity for questions afterwards, and little achieved. The proposed list for the EA:

1. What are the EA's expectations of SWW in relation to the Erme estuary's water quality?
2. How do the Erme estuary's features of being one of the most popular sites for bathing, as well as its SSSI and Marine Conservation Zone status influence the EA's priority for getting SWW to clean it up?
3. How has the EA's budget changed over the last decade, and how has that affected the EA's ability to be effective in getting SWW to take action in relation to the river Erme?

And for SWW:

1. Does SWW now measure volumes of discharges into the Erme?
2. In the most recent year for which there are figures for both, what was SWW's overall profit and how much did SWW spend on projects (excluding maintenance) to improve their sewage treatment facilities?
3. What are SWW's future plans (with timescales) for taking effective remedial actions to stop the sewage discharges into the Erme, including the treatment works upstream?

I have advertised the meeting in Holbeton News. There will be posters in the village shop and Mildmay Colours. I have already invited the following to the meeting: Ermington and Kingston Parish Councils, Ivybridge Town Council; members of the River Yealm Water Quality Group. I would like to invite a representative from Westcountry Rivers Trust and Surfers Against Sewage. I believe that others may be inviting the local press.

RESOLVED the Parish council agrees the arrangements above and for the hire of the church for the meeting to pay £50.

- **Revised application for winter bird seed.** Joe Clarke has responded to the parish council's offer (as outlined in his email reproduced at the end of this briefing). He proposes reducing the number of guided walks from 4 to 2 on the grounds of cost. **RESOLVED to accept the revised proposal.**
- **Space in the Holbeton News.** The Holbeton News has agreed to HPC's proposal to secure 4 sides within the magazine as a trial arrangement for 1 year. They would prefer that we paid for this in a single sum (£240) and I have invited them to send an invoice to our Parish Clerk via myself.
- **Community Composting.** With the withdrawal of the brown bin collections many parish councils are considering setting up a community compost. There are 3 main options for Holbeton to consider if we want some form of local community composting:
 - Community composting run by volunteers within the parish. This would have the advantage of being close for transporting material. One difficulty would be maintaining a task force of volunteers.
 - A commercial compost runs as a business. The advantage would be good access to compost at a reasonable price and a local business opportunity.
 - Joining forces with neighbouring parishes. Newton Ferrers/Noss is negotiating a site at Collaton Cross and is keen to have Yealmpton and Holbeton join in. There is no clear timescale for this to get started. With 3 parishes it should be easier to maintain volunteers, but Collaton is somewhat further for most parishioners to have to go with garden waste.

RESOLVED the parish council supports the commercial process.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 6th December 2022.

From: Joseph Clarke To: harryluson@gmail.com Date 17/10/2022 22:13:09

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your email.

I have considered the conditions which you applied to this agreement and unfortunately, I cannot make it work as it stands.

As you understand, the purpose of the bird seed project is primarily to support wildlife and concords with our South Devon AONB action plan and target bird species. I have added in the opportunity for community engagement on two bird walks to enhance the work that we are

already voluntarily undertaking on the farm for the benefit of wild birds and which also complements the work we have done through the Holbeton Bird Box Project. You have nevertheless asked me to do four of these but in reality, it is asking too much of me and others and would in the end actually cost me near enough the same amount of money to put on the community bird walks as I have applied for in my application for the wild bird seed project.

These bird walks need to be guided by an ecologist or suitably knowledgeable individual and in order to secure an ecologist either payment or goodwill is necessary. As part of my application, I obtained sufficient goodwill to be able to provide two days of walks to the community. To put on four community engagement days, in addition to the good work that we are already voluntarily committing to with the project, is unrealistic and unachievable. Each day takes time and effort to organize and coordinate, which is all undertaken on a voluntary basis and is not reflected in any costings. In addition, an ecologist delivering a 3 hour morning bird walk and discussion would charge at least £40 per hour plus the cost of their fuel to come and deliver such a session. A total of four sessions amounts to a whole series of community engagement sessions that in themselves would require funding of at least £600 (and, in my experience, it would actually cost much more if you approached many other ecology firms or individuals). If we took into context the additional administration time and resources that realistically goes into making such opportunities come about then it is probable that to deliver 4 bird walk sessions it would truly cost in excess of the original funding requested. I have discussed it with my ecologist and he simply doesn't have time to commit to this number of sessions. He already commits a huge amount of additional voluntary time and effort to similar causes, not least recent work in our own Parish supporting our Bird Box Project as well as offering extra time to several local farmers and landowners with projects to enhance nature recovery in the Parish. I believe that when we are taking the lead on initiatives, we should be sensitive and grateful to people's capacity to extend their goodwill.

I entirely respect how you wish to make use of the funds available to you as a group committed to local action on Climate and Ecology. I hope you see that these projects have value for wildlife and people and will certainly be carried out in a way that will engage the local community. At Orchard farm we will be engaging the community in other aspects of our nature recovery work in due course and this will add further value to the extra community engagement that you are seeking but each project has to be realistic and achievable in order for it to succeed.

I would be grateful, therefore, if you could consider the application on the basis of the 2 community bird walks that I have proposed rather than adding in extra conditions which I cannot meet. I hope that this work is still deemed to be of good value to the Climate Change and Ecology Subcommittee and Parish Council.

Please extend my thanks to all those people who have already given their support for the project and I am sorry that I cannot deliver the additional community engagement days that you have asked for. I hope that you can understand my perspective and that on further review we might still be able to go ahead and implement the good work intended for wildlife in the Parish in due course.

094/22 FINANCE

RESOLVED to approve the following:

(i) Bank balances: - Business Account as at 10 October 2022 = £5,000.00
Treasurers Account as at 13 October 2022 = £36,807.02

(ii) Banked receipts for October 2022: Bank Interest (10.10.2022) = £0.21

(iii) Grant Requests: - Battisborough Playing Field - purchase of a gate is not now necessary.

Parish Christmas tree to place outside The Mildmay Colours on the patio area. RESOLVED Cllr Reece will arrange for the purchase of a Christmas tree and for it to be delivered the first week in December. **ACTION: Cllr Reece**

Parishioners Grant Application for Winter Bird Seed - October 2022 parish council meeting it was resolved the council supports the proposal and the applicant will host at least 4 open days, for which parishioners will not be charged. Applicant has asked that 2 rather than 4 community bird walks are hosted. *See minute reference 093/22.*

094/22 FINANCE (continued)

(iv) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - October 2022 Salary	£515.80	-	-
HMRC	HMRC - October 2022	£31.60	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - 21 & 29 September, 5, 12 & October 2022 @ £13.00 per hour	£65.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Monthly maintenance of Parish website - September & October 2022	£80.00	-	-
Rhino Play	Play Park equipment	£12,450.00	£2,075.00	£10,375.00
Mr A Hollett	Toilet paper for the Public Toilets	£22.99	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk	1st and 2nd class stamps	£13.04	-	-
Mr M Rawlings	Lengthsman Duties	£100.00	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall Fund	Hire of hall - 1 November & 8 November 2022	£48.00	-	-

(v) Approve Financial Statement

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 10 October 2022 :	£5,000.00	
Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 October 2022:	£36,807.02	
	Total =	£41,807.02
Less: any un-presented cheques	001615	-£210.00
	001645	-£358.50
	001656	-£48.00
	001658	-£489.80
	001658	-£26.00
	001659	-£31.60
	001660	-£30.97
	001661	-£130.00
	001662	-£20.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	None	£0.00
	Total Funds =	£40,462.15

(vi) A review took place of the Holbeton Parish Council expenditure and income 2022/2023 to date.

(vii) Financial Regulations requirement: Cllr Fuller verified bank reconciliations, no issues raised.

(viii) RESOLVED to agree the budget for 2023 - 2024 - see attached.

095/22 DISCUSS PRECEPT FOR 2023 - 2024

Discussion took place and it was RESOLVED to confirm the precept at the December's parish council meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

096/2022 PLAY PARK AUDIT BY ALLIANZ

RESOLVED Cllrs Ackroyd and Callcut will assess the recommendations. **ACTION: Cllrs Ackroyd & Callcut**

097/22 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS

Transfer of building to the Parish Council - ongoing.

098/22 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK & PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllrs Reece/Sherrell

No issues raised.

099/22 REVIEW FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION SCHEME

No amendments made.

100/22 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Callcut - hedge laying training will be taking place in the community orchard

Cllr Ackroyd - pet garden in the village is not in a good state. Cllr Ackroyd will clear two beds in the garden and turf the area.

Cllr Sherrell - parishioner has asked for the hedge to be trimmed in Vicarage Hill on the right-hand side going up. The hedge to be built up which has collapsed going towards Gibb, and a gulley to be cleaned out opposite the Village Shop.

ACTION: Cllr Sherrell

101/22 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE:

Avian Influenza Outbreak

Churchyard competition winners announced

Email from Parishioner - regarding children playing in Masons Yard

102/22 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 13 December 2022** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

John Sherrell

(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 13 December 2022

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

Dementia Friendly Parishes Around The Yealm



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.

HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL EXPENDITURE		Budget 2022/23	Spend Year to Date (including VAT)	Underspend/ Overspend	Budget 2023/24	Spend Year to Date (including VAT)	Underspend/ Overspend
Codes from Spreadsheet	1. Property Running Costs						
RR1	Electricity	350	231.35	118.65	600		600.00
RR2	Maintenance/Repairs/Sundries	50	192.00	-142.00	300		300.00
RR3	Insurance	450	406.06	43.94	450		450.00
RR4	Fire Inspection/Portable Appliance Testing	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00
	Total	850	829.41	20.59	1350	0.00	1350.00
	2. Admin Running Costs						
AD1	Clerk Salary	6500	3874.50	2625.50	7200		7200.00
AD1a	Clerk's Home Allowance	140	150.28	-10.28	312		312.00
AD2	Payroll Services South Hams District Council	200	120.00	80.00	200		200.00
AD3	Subscriptions/Memberships	150	137.89	12.11	150		150.00
AD4	Training/Travel/Office Equipment Purchases & Repairs/Postage/Document Purchases	350	130.28	219.72	300		300.00
AD5	External Audits	180	304.90	-124.90	180		180.00
AD6	Website	500	1460.00	-960.00	500		500.00
HMRC	HMRC - Clerk	150	284.04	-134.04	400		400.00
PE	Parish Election	100		100.00	300		300.00
ICO	ICO - Date Protection Certificate	35	35.00	0.00	35		35.00
	Total	8305	6496.89	1808.11	9577	0.00	9577.00
	3. Land Running Costs						
CM1	Maintenance of grounds e.g. grass cutting, strimming & lawn mower & servicing of equipment	3000	1698.00	1302.00	3000		3000.00
CM2	Recreation purchases	200	13240.45	-13040.45	200		200.00
CM3	Christmas tree for Parish	100		100.00	200		200.00
FLETE	Rent of land	100	100.00	0.00	150		150.00
AA1	Allotments - water usage, reimbursement of rent etc	500	147.68	352.32	250		250.00
	Total	3900	15186.13	-11286.13	3800	0.00	3800.00
	4. Community Running Costs						
CHRCYD	Churchyard	500	500.00	0.00	500		500.00
P3	P3	200	51.14	148.86	200		200.00
DEFIB	Defibrillator running costs	150		150.00	150		150.00
HVH	Hire of Holbeton Village Hall	300	432.00	-132.00	500		500.00
DCC & SHDC GRTS SPEND	Spend against grants received from Devon County Council and South Hams District Council	200		200.00	200		200.00
GRTS SPEND	Holbeton Parish Council - Grants / Donations	150		150.00	150		150.00
YC	Youth Club	0		0.00	1250		1250.00
PT	Public Toilets - cleaning/maintenance	1500	617.09	882.91	1500		1500.00
	Total	3000	1600.23	1399.77	4450	0.00	4450.00
	5. S137 Grants/Donations						
S137	S137 - power of last resort that allows Councils to spend limited money on purposes for which they have no power	20	470.14	-450.14	20		20.00
	6. Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Emergency						
S106 Creacombe	Holbeton Parish Council - Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Emergency	1000	4455.50	-3455.50	1000		1000.00
	Total	1020	4925.64	-3905.64	1020	0.00	1020.00
	Total Expenditure	17075	29038.30	-11963.30	20197	0.00	20197.00
	HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL INCOME	Precept = £15,381			Precept = £xxxx		
AA2	Allotments - rents and water	300	85.75	214.25	200		200.00
P	Precept	15831	15381	450.00	15831		15831.00
RR	Hire of Reading Rooms	200	322.00	-122.00	350		350.00
P3	P3	0	850.00	-850.00	0		0.00
BI	Bank Interest - Business Account	3	0.76	2.24	3		3.00
VAT Refund	VAT Refund	1500	1270.83	229.17	1500		1500.00
GRTS	Grants/Misc Money Received	200	1139.40	-939.40	200		200.00
IC	Insurance Claim	0		0.00	0		0.00
S106 Creacombe	Creacombe Solar		4997.11		4000		4000.00
	Total Income	18034	24046.85	-1015.74	22084	0.00	22084.00