

## MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllrs John Sherrell (Chairman), Harry Baumer, Tony Callcut, Mike Reece, Chris Flower and Trudie Timlin Brown

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas (7.30 pm - 8.15 pm)

Teresa Drew - Clerk

**Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s) present:** 0

### 103/22 ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from District Councillor Keith Baldry, Cllrs Julie Fuller, Carol Ackroyd, Nirosha Gunatillake, and Jim Melhuish.

### 104/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Baumer - Luson House, planning application reference: 3839/22/HHO (agenda item 6) - personal interest.

### 105/22 REPORTS

**County and District Councillor Dan Thomas report:**

#### Winter holiday food support for low-income families in Devon

Families in Devon on low-incomes, whose children receive free school meals, will get support this winter to help them buy food during the holidays.

Before the end of this term each eligible child will automatically be sent a £45 supermarket voucher to use during the Christmas holiday and February half-term break to replace the meals they would have had at school during the day.

It's the equivalent of £15 per child per week of the two school holidays.

If families were expecting to receive the vouchers, but haven't, please get in touch with our team as soon as possible by emailing [freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk) or calling 0345 155 1019. Or if households didn't previously qualify for free school meals but income has recently reduced or stopped, apply via our website.

#### Donna Manson confirmed as Council's new Chief Executive

Following on from ratification at Full Council, Donna Manson has formally been offered the post as our new Chief Executive. We look forward to welcoming Donna to Devon County Council in February.

Donna Manson has been Chief Executive of Scotland's largest rural authority, The Highland Council, since 2018, where she led the authority in developing an ambitious, sustainable, and connected vision for Highland during a time of immense change and challenge.

## County and District Councillor Dan Thomas report: (continued)

### Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Consultation

The decarbonisation of transport is a crucial part of DCC's response to the climate emergency. The Devon electric vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy aims to help all residents and visitors overcome some of the barriers to EV adoption and increase access to suitable infrastructure.

The EV charging strategy will form part of a suite of documents that will feed into the emerging Local Transport Plan 4. The Strategy will also be instrumental in leveraging funding from Government for new electric charging infrastructure.

Devon County Council is holding a public consultation to collect the views of the public, local businesses and wider stakeholders on the Strategy until 16 December 2022.

Go to [www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/devon-electric-vehicle-charging-strategy/](http://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/devon-electric-vehicle-charging-strategy/) to have your say.

### District Councillor Keith Baldry's emailed report:

1. SHDC budget 2023-24. The Executive has taken the first stage in the process of creating the District Council Budget for the next financial year. The forecast budget gap is £195,616. We await the details of the Finance Settlement from Westminster and also what we can expect from New Homes Bonus. It is hoped this information will be available before the end of the financial year. Next stages are a meeting on 19 January of all non Executive Members to make recommendation to the Executive on the Revenue and Capital budget. Dan Thomas will chair this meeting. On 26 January the Executive recommend final budget proposals. 16 February Full council approve final budget proposals and set SHDC share of the Council Tax. The major part of households council tax is of course DCC and Police. SHDC is less than 9% of the total.
2. Motor Home/Camper vans overnight parking. We have decided to make permanent the trial of Motor Homes parking for 1 or 2 nights in 6 car parks in the District. The facility is restricted to vehicles with on board lavatories. Cost £10 per night. The availability has brought income to local businesses, especially hospitality. The sites are Longmarsh Totnes, Cattlemarket Kingsbridge, Modbury, Park and Ride Dartmouth and Leonards Road Ivybridge.
3. Recycling and Waste. Bringing back in house continues to be successful. Thanks to the hard work of the waste team. We have moved from daily collection failures to failures being very rare.

### (b) Question(s)

Cllr Sherrell asked Cllr Thomas what the cost implications would be to reduce speed in the village. Cllr Thomas gave an approximate cost of £10,000. Discussion ensued and it might be more cost effective to wait until the Church Hill development commences. Cllr Thomas also suggested writing to the Head Master of Holbeton Primary School to enquire if their transport management plan has an aspiration of a speed limit outside the school of 20 mph.

### 106/22 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

*Youth Club - Cllrs Thomas and Gunatillake attended a face-to-face meeting at the end of November in Staverton held by youth workers based in Totnes called TRAYE, (Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement). The plan is to attempt to start a Youth Club in conjunction with Yealmpton as soon as possible. Cllr Thomas will assign money from his locality grant to assist with the costs. ACTION: Cllrs Thomas & Gunatillake*

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

### 107/22 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 8 November 2022 (as previously circulated).

## 108/22 PLANNING

Reference: 3822/22/CLE

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing Use of land as domestic garden

Site Address: Luson House, Luson, Yealmpton, PL8 2JD

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 3839/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for alteration & renovation works of existing barn; provision of new outdoor swimming pool, pergola, pool house & associated hard landscaping; demolition of modern agricultural building with associated landscaping (resubmission of 4527/21/HHO)

Site Address: Luson House, Luson, Yealmpton, PL8 2JD

Recommendation: Object

- noise from the swimming pool area
- not an ecofriendly pool
- vague statement for the use of an energy heat pump, which is considered inadequate for the planning application
- support the use of solar panels
- not an environmentally friendly construction
- use of chemicals (Chlorine) to maintain the pool
- improve plans for insulation
- concerns for exterior lighting

### TCA Planning Application sent to Parish Tree Warden:

Reference: 3882/22/TCA

Proposal: T1: Ash - pollard to 4-5m from g/l due to dieback

Site Address: Hillside Cottage, Church Hill, Holbeton, PL8 1LN

DECISION: Tree Works No Objection Raised

### Planning Decision

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3501/22/HHO

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2305/22/FUL Holbeton

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3346/22/HHO Holbeton

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3347/22/LBC Holbeton

DECISION: Conditional Approval

## 109/22 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 6th December in Holbeton Village Hall.

### River Erme sewage public meeting Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Report as follows:

The meeting was held in Holbeton All Saints Church. 88 people attended, of whom 53 live in Holbeton parish, plus the 4 visiting speakers.

There were 2 speakers on behalf of South West Water, 1 speaker from the Environment Agency and our local MP Sir Gary Street.

We had over an hour for questions, having restricted the time for presentations.

Unfortunately, the first speaker from SWW spoke too fast to be comprehensible, delivered an overview of SWW's plans and did not appear to have addressed the questions we had put to them in advance.

We did not achieve the aim to get clarity on SWW's intended actions to rectify the problems relating to the Erme. This suggests that they do not have any timetable for action, and we were told that we were not their priority. The River Dart and (?) Teign were their immediate priorities. Their forward plan stretches ahead to 2050, when I certainly do not expect to be around!

We achieved some of the aims of the meeting:

- To give those attending time to ask questions &/or make comments.
- To give all representatives a message on the strength of feeling in the community.
- To get an agreement from Gary Streeter that he will forward our detailed proposals for a joint collaboration with SWW to put together a strategic plan that will eventually abolish the sewage discharges.

The need for a separated surface water drainage system is clearly a key aspect of the solution for the increasingly frequent and heavy downpours we can expect. Further storage tanks &/or ponds may also be needed.

The SWW speaker suggested that discharges when there is no rain can be the result of blockages, sometimes due to wet wipes and other similar products. When this happens the concentration of sewage is much higher. A different problem, this requires different solutions.

It was suggested that we should explore the use of reed beds to assist in the treatment of sewage: this also needs to be followed through.

A strategic plan would have the benefits for the community:

- Ensuring that piecemeal developments are consistent with the overall strategy
- Getting some aspects of the solution in place earlier (e.g., making the most of the surface water arrangements for the Church Hill development)
- Reassurance that something is being done about the problem

For South West Water there would be the benefits:

- Potential sharing of some costs
- Having local knowledge of the whereabouts of existing drainage, some of which is very ancient
- Getting the support and cooperation of the village
- Being seen to collaborate with local communities

A number of questions came from those using the estuary and beach for swimming, surfing, etc. They expressed frustration at the difficulty of getting up to date information about when sewage discharges have occurred. Surfers against sewage provide information, but this can be a day or two later.

The responses from SWW did not provide any reassurance about their ability or willingness to provide solutions to the problem: one suggestion was not to swim when it has rained recently!

The Environment Agency is reducing the amount of water quality monitoring it carries out, and made no offer to help with this problem.

As a result of the meeting John Mildmay-White is collecting a number of volunteers to be trained to provide monitoring of water quality in the estuary as a way of getting more up to date information for users, as well as providing extra information on discharges. He is doing so in collaboration with the Westcountry Rivers Trust.

The problems for the estuary not only come from the SWW's Holbeton waste water treatment plant. Their treatment works upstream, notably at Ermington and Ivybridge, contribute to the estuary's water quality. Representatives from Ivybridge, Ermington and Modbury attended the meeting, and there is an interest in getting a whole river approach to the problem, as exists for the Yealm. Cllr Ann Trainer from Modbury is keen to get an Erme river water quality group together.

I have now had a response from SWW to my email sent thanking them for their attendance. The emails are appended at the end of this briefing.

RESOLVED the following were agreed:

- a) contents of a letter to go to Sir Gary Streeter asking SWW to join with the parish council in developing an agreed strategic plan for works to abolish the leaks from their Holbeton Treatment Plant. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**
- b) Support John Mildmay-White in his planned Citizens Science group to enhance monitoring in the estuary.
- c) Support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Water Quality Group, writing to the relevant councils asking for involvement in such a group. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

The Parish council resolved to support the proposals above.

- **Community Composting.** Last month the parish council was asked to consider its preference for community composting, the alternatives being:

- Community composting run by volunteers within the parish.
- A commercial compost run as a business.
- Joining forces with neighbouring parishes e.g., at Collaton Cross.

Since the Erme estuary sewage meeting a parishioner has come forward and offered to help get a volunteer run community composting system started. This will need a considerable amount of work in order to get the finances and volunteers, as well as a suitable site. It would seem sensible for a willing councillor to take the lead in supporting this individual.

- **Life On The Edge.** Rob Skinner, the project manager for this large scale project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, attended last week's climate change subcommittee meeting and explained the scope and purpose of the project.

They are keen to support a number of individual projects within the parish. Ideas included:

- Looking at ways to discourage the use of pesticides in gardens in the parish. Collaboration with the Garden Society.
- Arranging a bug watch during the summer of 2023 in which all residents will be asked to look out for invertebrates, some more rare than others, and photograph and report them.
- Approaching the village school to see whether they would like input from individuals with special knowledge of aspects of natural history.
- Training volunteers to undertake regular weekly butterfly watching walks over a 6 month period round the same route they have chosen (so called butterfly transects), to provide information for a national dataset.

The subcommittee will work to refine and add to these ideas, thereby creating a portfolio of activities that should include anyone interested. There is some funding from LotE to support projects.

- **A landmark tree for the parish.** Lindsay Mahon from the Saving Devon's Treescapes project recently wrote to the parish council asking us to consider planting a free Landmark Tree, possibly in memory of Queen Elizabeth II or to mark the coronation of King Charles III.

The PCC has said that it would like to have a small tree planted in the newer area of the churchyard. **RESOLVED** to obtain a tree for the newer churchyard and place an article in the Holbeton News asking parishioners if they would like an additional tree to be planted. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

**Appendix: correspondence with Vicky Garner, Pennon, Community and Partnerships Manager**

From [harryluson@gmail.com](mailto:harryluson@gmail.com)

To "Garner, Vicky"

Date 24/11/2022 21:08:05

Subject: Holbeton Parish Council meeting 18th November

Hi Vicky

I want to thank you for your help in making available speakers for our open meeting last Friday in All Saints Church, Holbeton. In all it was a very well attended, with a large number of questions from the floor.

I would also like to thank both Anthony and Dave for coming out on a dark winter's evening for our meeting and doing what they could to address our parishioners' questions.

Whilst both your speakers were clearly there to help us get answers to our questions, I am not convinced that Anthony made the right decision to give his talk. He apologised that he had only been in post for 3 to 4 months.

He arrived with a long presentation to deliver, and proceeded to give his talk at such speed that it was not possible to follow what he was saying. Maybe I missed it, but it appeared that his slides presented an overview of South West Water's plans rather than any focus on our estuary, and did not appear to have answered our questions.

Would it be possible to have a copy of his slides to view at more leisure.

It was fortunate that Dave Pateman was on hand to answer questions, which he proceeded to do for just over an hour.

The feedback that I have received to date was that the organisation of the evening was very good and the large numbers of parishioners, many with pertinent questions, attested to the strength of local feeling, but that SWW's contribution was disappointing. I am concerned that the evening has not done as much as it might to enhance South West Water's reputation locally.

Both your speakers took notes and Dave undertook to provide answers to some questions. It would help if he was able to report on the answers he had said he would provide. I am aware that John Mildmay-White has already emailed Dave asking about the plans for the Church Hill development land drain.

Holbeton Parish Council and the Flete estate believe that it would be in both our interest and that of SWW to collaborate on a strategic plan to provide solutions to the problems that currently exist in relation to our estuary. We will write formally in due course via Gary Streeter to request this.

Best wishes

Harry

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From "Garner, Vicky"  
To "[harryluson@gmail.com](mailto:harryluson@gmail.com)"  
Date 06/12/2022 15:26:37  
Subject: SWW present  
Hello Harry,

Thank you for your email. Apologies for the delay in you receiving my response. I'm having a problem with the email sending to you. Originally it was sent back to me saying it was undeliverable and I assumed it was due to the size of the powerpoint presentation. So I resent the presentation after compressing the images in the presentation and taking out one or two, but I've just received another message to say that this message to you has also failed to be delivered.

So I've removed the powerpoint in the hope that you at least receive the message below that I've been trying to send.

I can perhaps try sending the powerpoint via We Transfer if that works for you?

My original message is below.

Thank you for feeding back to me and I'm sorry that the meeting didn't quite live up to hopes.

Usually I would attend such a meeting, but as you know, this was arranged via Sir Gary Streeters office with our Public Affairs team and it was arranged for the night of my sons 16th birthday, before I was involved in the conversation. As manager for the area it was right that Anthony attended, but as he is new to the business I did request Dave join him as support and I would have hoped that this would have worked well as a combination. Dave has been with the business a good length of time.

My understanding (in preparing Anthony's presentation and brief) was that he had a 10 minute presentation (which was made using Powerpoint) to answer 3 specific questions and then the majority of the evening was to be questions (hence Dave's presence and my preparation of a wider brief for them.)

The Powerpoint was intended to cover the 3 questions you sent (extract from your email):

The questions we have for Anthony to address in his short presentation are:

1. Does SWW now measure volumes of discharges into the Erme? We understand that the EA defines a significant discharge by its volume, whereas to date this is not measured.

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 understand from chatting to Dave that he has been in conversation with one or two meeting attendees following the meeting and I hope that this has picked up anything outstanding.

I have attached the Powerpoint presentation (minus some of the background images as it was just too big to send) as you requested. I have left the notes beneath as without them it's a bit scant. It may be that the file is too big to send via email. If that is the case I can We Transfer it if that works for you?

I wonder if perhaps early in the new year it would be worth me coming up to discuss how we continuing building on this relationship?

With best wishes,

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From [harryluson@gmail.com](mailto:harryluson@gmail.com)

To "Garner, Vicky"

Date 07/12/2022 12:57:57

Subject: Re: SWW present

Hi Vicky

thank you so much for your persistence in getting back to me!

My gmail account sits in Google Drive, which was full of other files that were preventing me from receiving emails (unbeknown to me!). Apologies for the extra work this has meant for you.

It would be a good idea to talk through how to build on the event of the 18th November, and the New Year a good time to do that.

In the meantime, would it be possible to use we transfer for the powerpoint presentation? I have used this before and it seems a good way of doing it.

Best wishes

Harry

## **110/22 FINANCE**

RESOLVED to approve the following:

Bank balances: - Business Account as at 9 November 2022 = £5,000.00

Treasurers Account as at 15 November 2022 = £36,807.02

(ii) Banked receipts for November 2022: - Bank Interest (09.11.2022) = £0.53

(iii) Grant Requests: - Citizens Advice South Hams - RESOLVED to grant £150.00.

**110/22 FINANCE (continued)**

(iv) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - November 2022 Salary	£515.60	-	-
HMRC	HMRC - November 2022	£31.80	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - 26th October, 2nd 9th 16th and 23 November 2022 @ £13.00 per hour	£65.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Monthly maintenance of Parish website - November 2022	£40.00	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of hall for PC meetings December 2022	£48.00	-	-
Mr A Hollett	Reimbursement for the purchase of toilet rolls for the village public toilets	£38.89	-	-
Holbeton News	Sponsorship of the Climate Section of Holbeton News, December 2022 - November 2023 inclusive, £20 per month x 12 months	£240.00	-	-
SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks)	Membership of the society	£88.50	-	-
Mr M Rawlings	Remedial works at Holbeton Reading Rooms	£275.00	-	-
Mr W Scarlett	Cutting grass at Battisborough Cross playing fields - 29 September, 10 and 11 October, 25 November 2022	£128.00	-	-
PCC Holbeton	Hire of All Saints Church for meeting with South West Water on Friday 18 November 2022	£50.00	-	-
Colin Campbell	Purchase of village Christmas tree	£115.00	-	-

(v) RESOLVED to approve Financial Statement: -

Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 November 2022:

£5,000.00

Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 November 2022:

£22,497.65

**Total = £27,497.65**

Less: any un-presented cheques

001615	-£210.00
001656	-£48.00
001666	-£31.60
001669	-£22.99
001671	-£80.00
001672	-£100.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	None
	£0.00

**Total Funds = £27,005.06**

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

(vii) RESOLVED to ask DB Computer Repairs to carry out website alterations, to enable the printing and downloading of documents off the Parish Council website at a maximum cost of £400. **ACTION: Clerk**

(viii) RESOLVED Penny Clapham to be the Internal Auditor for 2022/2023

**111/22 CONFIRM PRECEPT FOR 2023 - 2024**

RESOLVED by all Parish Council the precept of £16,150, for 2023/24. Clerk to inform SHDC. **ACTION: Clerk**

**112/22 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS**

Transfer of building to the Parish Council - ongoing.

**113/22 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK & PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllrs Reece/Sherrell**

No issues raised.



**114/22 REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:**

- Annual Wildflower Area Agreement Licence with All Saints Parochial Church Council
- Protocol on the filming and recording of Parish Council Meetings

RESOLVED to make no amendments.

**115/22 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Reece - remedial work has been carried out at the Reading Rooms.

Cllr Callcut - Play Park volunteers have produced a works programme.

Cllrs Baumer and Reece - the height of the swings in the play park has been resolved.

**116/22 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE:**

- Free Landmark Tree for Holbeton - Devon Wildlife Trust
- Offer of a free Cyber Security Talk
- Notification of external auditor appointment for the 2022-23 financial year for the 5 year period until 2026-27, Holbeton Parish Council - appointed auditor will be PKF Littlejohn LLP
- SAR Exercise - March 2023

**117/22 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE**

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 10 January 2023** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

*John Sherrell*

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(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 10 January 2023

**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?cq=sws>

SHDC website: - <https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit> - click on what you would like to report, from the drop-down menu.