

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

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

District Councillor Keith Baldry (7.30 pm – 7.40 pm)
Teresa Drew – Clerk

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

118/22 ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from County and District Councillor Dan Thomas and Cllr Julie Fuller.

119/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS - None.

120/22 REPORTS

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas emailed report:

Bids for county locality funding will need to be agreed by Councillors before 25th February, when this year's round will close (until May).

District Councillor Keith Baldry's report:

A request has been made for grant towards repairs to the roof of Holbeton Village Hall fund.

(b) Question(s)

Cllr Ackroyd has received a couple of complaints in connection with cars parking on the Mothecombe road to the beach. Cars being parked on the road towards the sharp bend to Battisborough Cross and down to the entrance to Mothecombe village. The main concern is, emergency vehicles may not be able to get to Mothecombe. Cllr Baldry will liaise with Cllr Thomas. **ACTION: Cllr Baldry**

121/22 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

Youth Club - ACTION: Cllrs Thomas & Gunatillake

Cllr Gunatillake explained how TRAYE (Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement) works. The figure quoted by TRAYE is £2,500, however, their recent accounts show that for each Parish where they provide a Youth Club the upfront cost for them is more in line with £6500 - £8000. The Parish Council would need to commit funds and be expected to pay for the hire of the venue i.e., the village hall. If agreed to work with Yealmpston, it would mean every other week there would be a Youth Club held in the village, with the cost shared between the 2 parishes.

RESOLVED to support the proposed youth club sessions for 2023. Cllr Gunatillake will speak to Cllr Thomas for a grant towards the cost.

ACTION: Cllr Gunatillake

Extension to the 30mph speed limit at Battisborough Cross - Cllr Gunatillake will ask the landowner for their permission to place the signs in their hedge. Three signs to be ordered at a maximum cost of £500 (including VAT). **ACTION: Cllr Gunatillake**

122/22 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 13 December 2022 (as previously circulated).

123/22 PLANNING

Reference: 4030/22/HHO

Site Address: Brownsell Cottage, Holbeton, PL8 1JW

Proposal: Householder application for proposed balcony

Recommendation: Support

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2431/22/FUL Holbeton

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3388/22/FUL Holbeton

DECISION: Application under consideration by officer

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2318/22/OPA Holbeton

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3822/22/CLE Holbeton

DECISION: Cert of Lawfulness (Existing) Certified

Withdrawn

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1345/22/HHO 221345

LOCATION: Westerley, Battisborough Cross PL8 1JT

PROPOSAL: Householder application for two storey rear & side elevations & alterations to driveway entrance

124/22 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer's report

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee meeting on Tuesday the 3rd January was cancelled as it was not quorate. Therefore, there is relatively little for the parish council to consider.

The first 3 items were to be the main topics:

- **Life on the Edge project proposals for Holbeton Parish**

This followed a meeting before Christmas with Rob Skinner, LotE project manager. They require us to finalise our plans by the end of February. So, this will be considered next month. A copy of Rob Skinner's proposals will accompany this briefing, for information.

- **A community compost facility in the parish**

As reported last month a parishioner has come forward to assist in developing the idea. There will be several stages:

- a. Firstly, establishing whether a suitable site can be found. It requires a significant size space. Without this there is no community compost facility.
- b. Having identified a location to seek further advice on details from SHDC. There is information already accessed from their website.
- c. Then to apply to SHDC for funding. If there is no hard standing this is likely to cost £12 - £15K, the cost to be covered from grants. The running costs are helped by having a free service from SHDC in turning the compost using their specialist equipment.
- d. To identify volunteers. If the facility is open just on a Saturday this would make it easier to staff.
- e. Those parishioners wishing to use the facility would pay a small annual membership (maybe £10) and would have access to the facility to take their garden waste and to receive free bags of compost.

Further information will follow next month, after this way forward has been discussed with the climate change subcommittee. RESOLVED Cllr Baumer to approach John Mildmay-White to establish whether the Flete estate could provide a suitable location. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

- **An EV car charger for the village**

The parishioner who has made an offer of a free charger will be attending the next meeting of the Climate Change subcommittee to discuss the proposal. This will be included on next month's parish council agenda.

- **River Erme sewage public meeting Friday 18th November 2022**

At last month's parish council, the following were resolved:

- i) Agree the 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.
- ii) Support John Mildmay-White in his planned Citizens Science group to enhance monitoring in the estuary.
- iii) Support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Water Quality Group.

A copy of the letter is below which will now be sent:

To the Chairs of Ivybridge Town Council, Ermington Parish Council, Modbury Parish Council, Kingston Parish Council

As Chair of Holbeton Parish Council I am writing to ask that the councils bordering the river Erme and its main tributaries should consider together setting up a water quality group along the same lines as neighbouring rivers, especially the River Yealm Water Quality Group (RYWQG).

Some of us have observers on the RYWQG and note the active approach they are taking to establish additional monitoring, to obtain data from South West Water, and to identify the sources of pollution incidents.

In Holbeton, where the Erme estuary (a designated SSSI and Marine Conservation Area) is located, our parishioners have been particularly concerned by the number of sewage discharges that have affected the popular bathing areas. In July 2021 we wrote to our MP asking for help, a letter with around 150 signatures, a quarter of all the residents. Subsequently Gary Streeter has facilitated 2 public meetings with representatives of South West Water. He has indicated that he will confine his support to Holbeton Parish.

Whilst we are very grateful for his help, we believe that a whole river approach is needed in order to tackle the problems the river faces.

At our most recent meeting it was evident that South West Water do not regard the River Erme as their priority, and that they do not feel able to improve the speed of notification of discharges for local bathers. The Environment Agency did not provide any solutions to our current problems.

From that meeting we as a council have decided to invite South West Water to collaborate with us in drawing up a strategic plan to deal with the frequent untreated sewage discharges from their treatment plant in order to at least have a solution to work towards. We hope that by doing this through our MP we may be able to get some meaningful support from South West Water.

We also have a group of Citizen Science volunteers ready to be trained to undertake additional monitoring in collaboration with the Westcountry Rivers Trust.

Of course all the local councils bordering the River Erme are also actively involved in trying to mitigate the existing problems. We believe that it is important to coordinate our efforts and share information and perspectives.

If you are willing to give this proposal a try, we are happy to convene a meeting at a date and time that should be manageable to all council chairs or their deputies. This would be with the aim of agreeing the terms of reference of a River Erme Water Quality Group.

I look forward to hearing from you

Following last month's meeting, a draft letter to Sir Gary Streeter was circulated to Parish Councillors for comments, as no comments were received it, was RESOLVED to send the letter, a copy is attached.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 7th February 2023.

125/22 FINANCE

RESOLVED to approve the following:

- (i) Bank balances of: - Business Account as at 9 December 2022 = £5,000.00
Treasurers Account as at 15 December 2022 = £22,078.81
- (ii) Receipt for December 2022: - Bank Interest (09.12.2022) = £1.14
- (iii) Grant Request: - South Hams CVS - RESOLVED to grant £100.00.
- (iv) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - December 2022 Salary	£515.80	-	-
HMRC	HMRC - December 2022	£31.60	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - @ £13.00 per hour	£tbc	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Monthly maintenance of Parish website - December 2022	£40.00	-	-
Source for Business	Water at the allotments 19 August - 30 November 2022	£81.73	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of the Village Hall for PC meeting January 2023	£22.00	-	-

- (v) RESOLVED to approve Financial Statement

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 December 2022 :	£5,000.00	
Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 December 2022:	£22,078.81	
	Total =	£27,078.81
Less: any unrepresented cheques	001615	-£210.00
	001671	-£80.00
	001673	-£48.00
	001676	-£240.00
	001677	-£515.60
	001678	-£31.80
	001679	-£65.00
	001680	-£40.00
	001681	-£48.00
	001683	-£275.00
	001685	-£50.00
	001686	-£150.00
	001687	-£115.00
	001688	-£81.73
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	Hire of Reading Rooms	£146.00
	Total Funds =	£25,274.68

- (vi) RESOLVED to approve the Holbeton Parish Council expenditure and income 2022/2023 to date.

126/23 BATTISBOROUGH CROSS GROUND FOR THE 2023 SEASON: -

- a) A maximum of eighteen cuts per year.
- b) HPC to be billed after every four cuts.
- c) Invoice to be submitted to HPC Clerk.
- d) Base cost to be £30 per cut subject to the price escalator as noted in e) below.
- e) Above price of £30 per cut to be adjusted as follows: -
 - Petrol price £0 to £1.40/litre £30
 - Petrol price £1.41 to £1.50/litre £31
 - Petrol price £1.51 to £1.60/litre £32
 - Petrol price £1.61 to £1.70/litre £33 and so on

RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will discuss with the number of cuts and ideas to minimize costs with the parishioner, who cuts the grass. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

127/22 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS

Transfer of building to the Parish Council - ongoing.

128/22 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK & PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllrs Reece/Sherrell

No issues raised.

129/22 HOLBETON ALLOTMENT - plot 6

Cllr Ackroyd has approached the next parishioner on the list, who would like an allotment. The parishioner has confirmed they wish to rent plot 6 and will contact the Clerk.

RESOLVED Cllr Baumer to review the allotment agreement, prior to it being issued to the parishioner. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

130/22 VERTO HOMES, CHURCH HILL DEVELOPMENT - S106 SKATEBOARD PROPOSAL

Cllr Sherrell has been asked by Verto Homes about an installation of a skateboard. RESOLVED not to pursue this at the moment.

131/22 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Gunatillake - outstanding Ofsted report for the preschool part of the Primary School.

Cllr Callcut - play park front gate needs to be repaired. RESOLVED Cllr Callcut and the Parish Lengthsman will carry out the necessary repairs. **ACTION: Cllr Callcut**

Cllr Timlin Brown - road at Battisborough in a bad state of repair.

Cllr Reece - Gibb Lane bank and various other banks in the village are not very stable. RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will inform the landowner. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

Currently it costs £5 an hour to use the heating in the Reading Rooms. Clerk to place review of the hire of the Reading Rooms costs on the February 2023 agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Sherrell - a parishioner has asked if a defibrillator could be placed in Mothecombe. RESOLVED to invite the parishioner to the next meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

A parishioner is moving from the village. They have done a lot of work within the village. RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will draft a letter thanking him for his work within the village over many years. **ACTION: Clerk**

132/22 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE:

email from Parishioner - Parish COVID fund being wound up. RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will discuss with the parishioner. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

Devon Wildlife Trust - Free Landmark Tree for Holbeton - Lindsay Mahon from the Saving Devon's Treescapes project has responded to the PCC request for a tree, saying that they only have 3 species of tree available. RESOLVED to ask for a crab apple, as there have been no approaches to date from others requesting a tree to plant. **ACTION: Clerk**

to date the Parish Council have not had anyone requests if they could plant a tree, as per advertised in January 2023 Holbeton News. RESOLVED to ask for a crab apple tree.

133/22 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 14 February 2023** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

John Sherrell

(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 14 February 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?cg=sws>

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

Attachment

Dear Gary

As was agreed at our meeting on the 18th November 2022 we are now asking South West Water through you to join with us as a parish council in collaborating together in developing an agreed strategic plan for the future works needed in order to abolish the intermittent discharges from the water treatment plant in Holbeton.

Having now had two public meetings with representatives of South West Water we understand better some of the reasons for these discharges. These include the lack of separation of surface and foul water systems within Holbeton Village and the occasional blockages at least sometimes due to inappropriate items being flushed into toilets.

Resolving this problem is important to us and our many visitors, especially given that the estuary is such a popular bathing spot within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Marine Conservation Area.

However, we also acknowledge that the river Erme is not South West Water's first priority in resolving the problem of frequent discharges, and that this means it is likely to be some time before the problem will get resolved.

We understand that the new housing development, once approved, will mean an extension of the relatively new surface water drain that runs up to the primary school near the bottom of the village. It is important that such developments are robust and consistent with the longer term requirements.

A strategic plan requires the expertise that South West Water can bring to bear on the problem along with our local knowledge. We would expect it to include details of all the further changes to our system that are required.

We believe that this proposal would have benefits for the community as follows:

- ensuring that piecemeal developments are consistent with the overall strategy;
- getting some aspects of the solution in place earlier (eg making the most of the surface water arrangements for the Church Hill development);
- and reassurance that something is being done about the problem.

It would also have benefits for South West Water:

- 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, vital if we are to get separation of surface water in the village;
- and being seen to collaborate with local communities.

If this approach is acceptable, then we can get started by agreeing the terms of reference and makeup of a collaborative project.

We sincerely hope that South West Water will see this as a further way of managing what for all of us is an important problem that must be resolved in order to help restore the Erme estuary as a place of recreation as well as an unspoilt habitat for wild life in and out of the estuary.

Many thanks for your help

Best wishes

Cllrs John Sherrell, Chair of Holbeton Parish Council and Harry Baumer, Chair of its climate change subcommittee