

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2023 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

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

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas (8.30 pm - 9.00 pm)
District Councillor Keith Baldry (7.30 pm - 8.30 pm)
Teresa Drew - Clerk

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

153/22 ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Nirosha Gunatillake and Julie Fuller.

154/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Callcut - personal interest in agenda item 6

Cllr Reece - personal interest Holbeton Village Hall committee member agenda item 8

155/22 REPORTS

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas report:

New Chief Executive

Last week was Donna Manson's first full week as Devon County Council's new Chief Executive. Donna has set out her first impressions of the county and the council, and her focus on engagement in a message to our staff and Members:

"I firmly believe that the people in our Council and our communities are our greatest asset."

Budget

Councillors recently agreed a budget that will see increases in spending on services that support vulnerable children, young people and adults, in response to rising demand for those services.

DCC will be spending 18.5 per cent more on children's services, and 8.8 per cent more on adult social care services. Overall, the Council is budgeting to spend 10.5 per cent more on services than last year. But, to help pay for it, the average Band D householder will see the County's proportion of their council tax bill increase by £1.49 a week. The fact is though, the council tax rise, plus funding received from the Government, will not balance the budget book. Spending this much on priority services to meet growing demand without national support means having to make savings in the region of £47.5 million from elsewhere in order to balance the books.

Sadly, there appears to be no rush from County to support communities with 20mph limits, nor indeed is general support of communities a priority as locality budgets are slashed again, **now down to £5000 per councillor**. Likewise, the spending allocated on highways will mean that capital projects will be few and pot hole repairs will be a constant challenge. Opposition amendments to the budget to spend a modest amount of reserves to rectify these important issues were defeated by the ruling Conservative majority.

Parents voice frustration with Children's Services

Parents delivered DCC a strong message last month in protest over failings within services that support children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Members of the Devon SEND Parents and Carers for Change (DSPCC) group shared their experiences and delivered a letter. "We feel increasingly frustrated by the continual and relentless institutional failings evident within Devon County Council's Children's Services," they wrote. "We all have individually raised our concerns, whether that was to a professional, a SEND caseworker, or by making a formal complaint to Devon County Council."

155/22 REPORTS (continued)

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas report:

Julian Wooster, DCC Interim Director of Children's Services, and Donna Manson, Chief Executive, took time to meet, listen and talk to many of the parents. "We accept that there have been significant problems across the whole system in Devon and that the experience of many parents has not been good," said Julian. Extra resources have been identified in our budget to strengthen our SEND casework team and to help us compete with other local authorities to recruit and retain experienced staff. "But," said Councillor Andrew Leadbetter, Portfolio Holder, "We know that this won't be easy and there are no quick fixes."

New photo ID rules for voters

The Government has introduced new rules meaning you need to show photographic identification (photo ID) when voting in person at a polling station. This is a national change implemented as part of the [Elections Act 2022](#). Voters will need an accepted form of photo ID for the local district and city council elections taking place on Thursday 4 May. [The deadline for people to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate is Tuesday 25 April 2023.](#)

District Councillor Keith Baldry report:

Reminded parishioners they need to register and have photo ID for voters unless you are postal voting. This is the Government new ruling, which means you need to show photographic identification (photo ID) when voting in person at a polling station, part of the Elections Act 2022. Deadline for people to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate is Tuesday 25 April 2023.

Cllr Baldry enquired if anyone had seen the street cleaning machine within the parish. Councillors confirmed the machine has not been seen in the village. RESOLVED the Clerk to email Cllr Baldry with a request for the machine to come to Holbeton.

ACTION: Clerk

(b) Question(s)

- Cllr Thomas - Luson House planning application Planning Officers comments - Notwithstanding the comments by the Parish Council the re-use of an existing barn for incidental use and incorporation of air source heat pumps and solar panels is welcomed and will support the Council's objective of reducing carbon emissions in accordance with the Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement (2022). The specification of the roof lights has not been submitted but are shown as low profile on the plans. To reduce the cumulative impact of the solar panels and roof lights on the roof a condition can be used to ensure the solar panels are low profile.

Given that the building is sited within the domestic garden of Luson House, the design of the development and the addition of a swimming pool, roof lights and solar panels are not substantial reasons for refusal.

Discussion ensued it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council will liaise with the owners.

- Cllr Baumer - enquired about whether SHDC food waste collection was being reinstated. Cllr Baldry has asked for a breakdown of costs from SHDC, as he has been informed that it is costly to run the food waste collection scheme. The revised SHDC recycling system is working successfully, only 4 complaints in connection with brown bin collections has been received. **ACTION: Cllr Baldry**

- Cllr Ackroyd - raised concern on parking issues and blocking of roads, during the time of Holbeton primary school drop off/pick up and suggested reinstating the school bus. Cllr Thomas suggested the Parish Council formally asks school for their Transport Policy. RESOLVED the Clerk will contact the school. **ACTION: Clerk**

- Cllr Ackroyd pointed out there were redundant road signs scattered around the parish. Cllr Thomas suggested the Clerk contacted DCC Highways. RESOLVED the Clerk to contact Nick Colton DCC Highways to request a sweep of the parish to collect redundant road signs. **ACTION: Clerk**

156/22 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

Youth Club - the following emailed report was received from Cllr Gunatillake - waiting to hear back from Jacqui Hodgson of TRAYE about start date and other financial contribution required from HPC. As it stands, to start the Youth Service in Holbeton every fortnight TRAYE are asking for £2,500 per annum plus a further amount yet to be decided by TRAYE Trustees. As soon as more information is available, I will inform Councillors.

Extension to the 30mph speed limit at Battisborough Cross - the following emailed report was received from Cllr Gunatillake. Slow down signs - need to clarify the diameter and shape of the posts, that Cllr John Sherrell has very kindly agreed to provide, then the appropriate fixings can be designated, and the signs manufactured. John Mildmay White has agreed for the signs and posts to be placed on the hedgerow side of the road leading down to the beach.

Car parking on the Mothecombe road to the beach - **ACTION: Cllr Baldry / Thomas**

Defibrillator at Mothecombe - Cllr Sherrell confirmed the new defibrillator will be mounted on the wall outside the schoolhouse in agreement with owner of the building. The defib will be free of cost, on the proviso the two defibrillators which require replacement will be renewed next year by the same company. RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will sign the memorandum. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

157/22 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 14 February 2023 (as previously circulated).

158/22 LETTER FROM THE OWNERS OF SCOBBISSCOMBE FARM, HOLBETON IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

The content of the letters was circulated prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued and it was RESOLVED the council will report a possible planning breach. **ACTION: Cllr Clerk**

159/22 PLANNING DECISIONS

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0297/23/ARC Holbeton
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

LOCATION: Bugle Rocks Battisborough Cross PL8 1JX

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0119/23/VAR Holbeton
DECISION: Conditional Approval

LOCATION: Luson House Luson Yealmpton PL8 2JD

160/22 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee meeting took place on Tuesday the 7th March.

The main topics under consideration were:

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

Since last month's report I have been in contact with John Mildmay-White and am sorry to report that he does not feel the old Fountain Forestry site (Moorshead Wood) is suitable for a community composting site.

He does not rule out an alternative site becoming available in the future. I did discuss alternative sites but to no avail. I have thanked Barry Pitts on behalf of the council for his assistance and enthusiasm.

Chris d'Avray from Newton and Noss has found a farmer willing to have his land used for a community compost site. Whilst this would require a 2 to 3 mile car journey for Holbeton parishioners, it is nearer than the recycling centre in Ivybridge and likely to be cheaper than paying for brown bins to be emptied. Further information will be provided in due course.

- **An electric vehicle (EV) car charger for the village**

Last month the parish council supported further exploration of this proposal.

I was invited to a meeting of the village hall management committee on the 6th March along with the parishioner offering a suitable charger. Unfortunately, I was chairing the AGM of the film club, but the parishioner did attend. Subsequent to that I received a copy of an email from Christine Tarrant, Chair of the village hall committee, to the parishioner. She wrote:

"Thank you for your informative presentation to the Holbeton Village Hall trustees yesterday evening. Food for thought. As you heard we agree in principle but we have a some concerns. I have contacted the parish Clerk, and asked when EV it will next be on their agenda. I will hopefully be able to attend."

I also had some feedback from another member of the village hall committee, who said that they are supportive, but feel that there are a number of details to be resolved.

I have been in touch with Christine and have encouraged her to attend this meeting, the EV charger forming part of the agenda through this report. Just to remind councillors:

The council considered an ideal location for an EV charger is next to the village hall. This would operate through an existing app (CoCharger) that allows sharing of a privately owned charger. The village hall has a 3 phase electricity supply, which would mean being able to deliver 22 kWatts rather than the usual 7kWatts from domestic electricity supplies. This would allow the full charge of an EV in 3 to 4 hours instead of around 9 hours.

The purpose and benefit of this charger would be to support those in the village who would like to change to an electric car but have no off road space. They would be able to book the charger through the app and maintain the car's charge using the public facility.

Standing Orders Stood Down - 8.00 pm.

A parishioner who was representing the Holbeton Village Hall committee stated that the committee wish to work with the council on this idea, but a few concerns has been raised:

- *has a feasibility study been carried out*
- *a carpark space will be used*
- *would like to see a business proposal from the Parish Council to understand how it will be run and what it would mean to host the facility*
- *insurance and regulator issues need to be explained*
- *would it be financially viable for the hall*
- *where would the equipment be installed*
- *poor internet access at the hall*
- *is the facility for parishioners use only*

Cllr Baumer - valuable points raised by the Village Hall committee; the Parish Council is not sure what the usage would be at the present time. The idea is support parishioners who would like an electric car but have nowhere to charge it. The idea would be to have a booking system.

Cllr Ackroyd enquired whether this facility would be profit making for the hall and whether there will be running costs? Cllr Baumer replied that there would be a cost to install the recharging facility and an ongoing running cost, for which the parish council would need to find funding.

Cllr Baldry pointed out that whilst SHDC are keen to see EV chargers in village hall car parks they are relying on Devon County Council as there is no funding for SHDC to assist with installing recharging facilities. Some SHDC car parks have had recharging facilities installed.

Standing Order Reinstated - 8.30 pm.

Follow up from the River Erme sewage public meeting Friday 18th November.

The following had previously been resolved by Holbeton parish Council:

- i) *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. This was sent in January 2023, and the letter forwarded to SWW.*

At the last parish council meeting we were awaiting a response from Southwest Water to our letter. Vicky Garner, Community and Partnership Manager, has agreed to an initial meeting, hopefully to take place on Tuesday the 21st March. She wrote:

"I think we have got to a place at our end where we have a surface water drainage 'plan' as a starting point and agreement from a colleague to attend an initial meeting".

After discussion I have suggested that 4 people attend representing the parish and the new Church Hill housing development. These are John Mildmay-White, Cllrs Harry Baumer, John Sherrell and a representative from Verto Homes.

The meeting will take place in Holbeton.

- ii) *Support John Mildmay-White in his planned Citizens Science group to enhance monitoring in the estuary. There is no further development to report. However, I am aware that John now has a group of parishioners that have met a couple of times as a local action group relating to the Erme estuary's problems. I attended part of the second meeting by invitation.*
- iii) *Support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Water Quality Group.*

You will recall that at a meeting on the 26th January in Modbury representatives from all relevant councils (Ivybridge, Ermington, Holbeton, Modbury, Kingston and Ugborough) agreed to the formation of a River Erme Water Quality Group, set up along the lines of the River Yealm group.

There is to be a second meeting of the group on the 23rd March in Modbury, led by Cllr Ann Turner of Modbury Parish Council.

Meanwhile there is a meeting of representatives from the 5 river groups in the South Hams on Saturday the 18th March, the Sustainable South Hams Rivers Assembly. I and Ann Turner will be attending. You have received invitations to attend by Jane Nichols of Sustainable South Hams.

- **A stand at this year's Yealmpton Show**

The 5 Parishes Environmental Alliance is having a combined stand at the event on the 26th July.

There was a meeting of the 5 parishes' representatives at the end of February. We had some discussions on the intended purpose for the stand.

This was also discussed at this week's climate change subcommittee. As well as informing the public of the work already going on in each parish, we wish to identify people who would like to volunteer and put them in touch with their local group.

We have identified a suitable small marquee for the event. Matt Chown, District Councillor, has kindly agreed to support the stand up to £500. This will be donated to Holbeton Parish Council, and from it my initial outlay of £193 will be repaid. Two parishioners are designing a banner to be displayed at the event. There will be a second meeting of the 5 parishes group later this month.

- **Application for a Meet The Bees event to be held in the parish in May**

The funding request to the section 106 fund is mainly for the fees for an invited speaker Brigit Strawbridge, who last spoke here in 2014. The total requested is £423.00. The two application forms (attached) cover both an evening talk in the village hall and a practical session the next day. The Climate Change subcommittee strongly supported the application.

RESOLVED to approve the application.

- **Application for insulation to a section of flat roofing to be replaced in the village hall**

This request is for £4,000 to cover the installation of insulation to the roof above the Green Room in Holbeton Village Hall. The total cost of the work is £20,500. Last summer a sum of £1,500 was approved for insulating the roof above the kitchen in the hall.

The thickness of insulation board being requested is now SHDC's Planning standard for new builds, so is not at all exceptional.

There were however a number of problems with the application. The climate change subcommittee considered that the application as it now stands cannot be approved. However, it is recommended that the concerns should be communicated to the applicants, and they should be invited to submit an amended application having addressed these concerns.

RESOLVED the Holbeton Village Hall Committee will address points raised by the Parish Council and resubmit the application. **ACTION: Holbeton Village Hall Committee**

- **A thermal camera for the parish**

A parishioner has suggested that a thermal camera could help parishioners to identify the main sources of thermal leak from their homes. He has drawn attention to the device being offered by one of the electricity suppliers to their customers. These cameras are used attached to a smartphone and are operated in cold weather with the property heated to demonstrate the main sources of heat loss.

There are often simple changes that can make a difference, such as drawing curtains and/or closing shutters.

The device, an FLIR ONE Edge Pro, currently retails for around £570. It can be attached to smartphones using Android or iOS software and is detachable.

Users do need a little training in operating the device and the parishioner concerned is happy to undertake such training and become the local adviser and assistant for thermal imaging houses. It would seem sensible to defer purchase until later in the summer. This would give the parishioner time to become proficient.

RESOLVED for an application to be submitted for a grant. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

Holbeton litter pickers

Cllr Ackroyd has proposed that the parish recruits local walkers to go for their walks with a simple litter picking kit consisting of a grabber, a bag, a pair of gloves and a high visibility jacket. These can be bought for £25 but possibly be found cheaper when purchased separately.

Plymouth City Council provides advice for local litter picking schemes (attached to the email). A similar scheme in Plympton has around 50 to 60 individual volunteers. The subcommittee strongly supported the idea, assuming that Cllr Ackroyd is prepared to oversee the litter pickers.

RESOLVED to the Clerk to investigate, how to obtain litter picking equipment from a contact in Ermington. **ACTION: Clerk**

- **Holbeton Environmental library**

The library lacks a readily accessible home.

The Mildmay Colours has kindly agreed to hold around 6 books from the library at a time on the understanding that they will not be liable for any books that fail to return.

The PCC will be considering agreeing to All Saints Church holding the rest of the library books on the same understanding. This has the advantage of being open daily and being a place unlikely to attract book thieves. The result of their deliberations will be reported in due course.

• **The landmark tree**

A crab apple tree has now been planted in the new part of the churchyard. If there is any dedication planned for the tree, then this will be reported in due course.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 4th April 2023 in the Holbeton Village Hall.

161/22 FINANCE

RESOLVED to approve the following:

(i) Bank balances of: - Business Account as at 9 February 2023 = £5,000.00
 Treasurer's Account as at 15 February 2023 = £19487.83

(ii) Receipt for February 2023: - Bank Interest (09.02.2023) = £2.55

(iii) Grant Request: - None

(iv) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - February 2023 Salary	£515.60	-	-
HMRC	HMRC - February 2023	£31.80	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - @ £13.00 per hour - February 2023	£65.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Monthly maintenance of Parish website - February 2023	£40.00	-	-
Parish Clerk	Reimbursement for 2 nd class stamps	£7.79	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of function rooms - 7 & 14 & 21 March 2023	£62.00	-	-
Mr Rawlings	Lengthsman and grass cutting	£100.00	-	-
Flete Estate	Annual Rent - Battisborough Cross Recreation Field, Kingsgate Orchard, Allotments, Playground for the period of 25/03/2023 to 24/03/2024	£100.00	-	-

(v) Approved Financial Statement

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 February 2023 :	£5,000.00	
Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 February 2023:	£19,487.83	
	Total =	£24,487.83
Less: any unrepresented cheques	001615	-£210.00
	001691	-£40.00
	001693	-£100.00
	001698	-£31.60
	001699	-£515.80
	001700	-£40.00
	001701	-£42.00
	001702	-£50.59
	001703	-£20.00
	001704	-£38.60
	001705	-£131.75
	Total Funds =	£23,267.49

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

162/22. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REQUIREMENT: 2.2 Every six months and at each financial year end, a member other than a cheque signatory shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the Council.

RESOLVED Cllr Timlin Brown will verify bank reconciliations. **ACTION: Cllr Timlin Brown**

163/22 REVIEW HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT YEAR ENDING MARCH 2024 AND STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

RESOLVED to approve the revised documents.

164/22 CORONATION BIG LUNCH

A road closure for the lunch is being organised. Application for the road closure in the village has been submitted to Devon County Council.

165/22 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS

- Transfer of building to the Parish Council - ongoing.

166/22 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK & PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllrs Reece/Sherrell

No issues raised.

167/22 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Baumer - raised concern about camping in the parish.

Cllr Reece - the streetlight on Gibb Lane has been reported to DCC, as it is switched on all day. The dehumidifier in the Reading Room does not seem to be working properly. Situation will be monitored.

Cllr Callcut - repair work in play park will be carried out on Friday 17 March, by Cllr Callcut and the Lengthsman.

Cllr Timlin Brown - a request from parishioners, could a 20 mph speed restriction be introduced in Ford.

168/22 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE: -

South Devon AONB - South West Water Consultation - Water Resources Management Plan 2024 & SDCP meeting minutes.

Election Nomination Information

Hedgehog Highway Project

AONB - South West Water Consultation - Water Resources Management Plan 2024 & SDCP meeting minutes.

Local Elections - 4th May 2023

As the local elections will be on Thursday, 4 May 2023 all current councillors will stand down and elections will be held to replace them. The deadline of delivery by hand of nomination papers to the Returning Officer is 4pm on Tuesday 4th April 2023. If any parishioners would like to stand as a Parish Councillor and require information, please contact the Clerk.

Election For the local elections on 4th May, the deadline to register to vote is Monday 17th April, and the deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April. You will need to be registered to vote, and this can be done on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

You will also now need to show photo ID to vote, such as a passport or driving licence. You can check what ID is accepted on the electoral commission website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/iam-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023

169/22 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 11 April 2023** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

John Sherrell

(Holbeton Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 11 April 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.