

# **MINUTES OF HOLBETON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2023 AT 8.00 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL**

## **Councillors in Attendance:**

Cllrs John Sherrell (Chair), Mike Reece, Harry Baumer, Nirosha Gunatillake, Tony Callcut

## **Other Attendees:**

T Drew (Parish Clerk)

Parishioners present: 0

## **WELCOME**

Cllr Sherrell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **1. APOLOGIES**

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas

## **2. CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 May 2022 confirmed and signed by Cllr Sherrell.

## **3. ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr Sherrell wished to thank County, District and Parish Councillors for their support and hard work during the past twelve months. Also, to Keith Baldry who has stood down as District Councillor who has been extremely helpful during his time as District Councillor.

Cllr Sherrell wished to thank Carol Ackroyd, Trudie Timlin Brown, James Melhuish, Chris Flower and Julie Flower who have stood down as Parish Councillors. Their help and advice and been invaluable.

The Parish Council has dealt with many parish matters during the year, in addition to 28 planning applications.

Significant funding enabled the parish council to purchase new play equipment for the play park. The parish council have worked with SWAST (South West Ambulance Service Trust) and Flete Estate to purchase a new defibrillator for Mothecombe.

Cllr Harry Baumer was thanked for his hard work in chairing the Climate Change Sub-committee and arranging regular meetings including those with South West Water, Environment Agency and Sir Gary Streeter MP. The sub-committee are now working hard with South West Water and the River Erme Water Quality Group. The sub-committee have also provided funding for the wildflower at the church, village hall roof repairs, wild bird winter seed mixes at Orchard Farm, electric mower for Holbeton Cricket club and the event "Meet the Bees".

Cllr Sherrell also thanked everyone for coming and if anyone would like to become a Parish Councillor to contact him or a Parish Councillor.

## **4. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **Devon County Councillor Report - Cllr Dan Thomas**

#### **New Chief Executive**

March was Donna Manson's first full month 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. As a result of her appointment - and many other changes of personnel at senior levels, the County is now undertaking a comprehensive Governance review. This will deal with the massive Special educational Needs and Disabilities budgetary shortfall as well as the Council's scrutiny functions and how it deals with other partner bodies.

#### **Budget**

As a result of the recent budget, in 2023/24 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. The average Band D householder will see the County's proportion of their council tax bill increase by £1.49 a week to pay these increases. 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.

#### **20mph schemes**

4 applications were passed and begun in 22/23, with around £100k allocated. With over 100 parishes having expressed interest, County has given itself a 25 - 30 workbook of jobs before all parishes are satisfied.

#### **Children's Services**

This area, worryingly, continues to have an official rating of 'Requires Improvement'. Parents delivered DCC a strong message during the year in protest over failings within services that support children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Significant problems and delays are occurring across the County. I would urge parents who feel that they are not receiving a timely or appropriate level of service should contact me for support.

#### **Pot Holes**

These remain a huge issue across the County. The good news is that DCC has doubled the number of pothole teams, introduced weekend working and extended working hours across the network. That resulted in up to 2,200 potholes being repaired each week.

#### **Local Issues**

I have been delighted to support the Parish from my locality budget this year and will be happy to continue to do so next financial year.

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## **District Council Report**

### **Annual Report**

During this year we made successful recommendations from the Sustainable Locality Fund for payment to various community projects; we would always look to support Holbeton Parish in 2023/24 if asked. The South Hams share of Council Tax agreed for 2022-23 will be increased by £5 pa for a band D property. The South Hams share of Council tax is less than 10% of the total Council tax bill. The main elements are County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner.

In November 2022, after nearly 18 months of constant demands from opposition parties, the administration at SHDC finally saw sense and brought the waste and recycling collection service back in house. As a direct result, collection rates have improved hugely, with a tiny proportion of collections reported as missed. It is true that many are still on the old service, and some are receiving a co-mingled collection but it is also a fact that things are very much better than they were under the failed privatisation. Garden waste is now being collected from residents who have opted in to the £49 per year subscription, which is working well. We continue to negotiate with Senior Officers at SHDC to finally resolve the ongoing public toilet saga, and hope that a final resolution is now in sight.

**5. SPEAKER** - Edna Petrie a Trustee from Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm (Wembury, Brixton, Yealmpton, Holbeton, Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo) was welcomed by Cllr Sherrell. Unfortunately, Maxine who was due to give the talk was unwell. Edna talked about the unique charity set up by local people in 2012. It is the first organisation in the country to unite five parish councils in a pledge to make a difference.

Edna has been with the project since its conception, and it has been a charity since 2019 which helps with grant applications. To enable the project to operate it costs approximately £35,000 a year to operate and currently assisting 37 families. There is one paid employee and many volunteers. There are cost implications with hiring of halls. There is a diary sheet which can be seen on the website - <https://www.dementiayealm.org/>

The organisation works closely Plymouth University. Zoom was used a lot through the COVID situation and is still used in certain circumstances. Every Thursday there is a reading group run by Edna and Peter Hearn and there are many other groups e.g., craft, walking, gentle exercise group.

### **6. QUESTIONS**

Cllr Calcutt asked if a mini bus could be provided? Edna pointed out this has been looked into.

### **7. REPORTS FROM PARISHIONERS**

None.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

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**Chair**

Date: .....