

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2023 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell (Chair), Mike Reece, Harry Baumer, Tony Callcut, Stephen Brown
County / District Councillor Dan Thomas
Teresa Drew - Clerk

Parishioners: 1

024/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from Nirosha Gunatillake.

025/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Reece - committee member of the Holbeton Village Hall.

026/23 REPORTS

(a) County / District Councillor Daniel Thomas

Monitoring visit to Devon children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the monitoring visit to Devon children's services on 18 and 19 April 2023. This was the fifth monitoring visit since the local authority was judged inadequate in January 2020. His Majesty's Inspectors for this visit were Steve Lowe and Sarah Canto.

Areas covered by the visit Inspectors reviewed the progress made in the quality and impact of services for children in care, with a particular focus on the following areas of concern identified at the last inspection:

- *Permanence planning for children.*
- *The quality and timeliness of life-story work.*
- *The assessment of children looked after placed with parents.*
- *Strategic oversight and grip on areas for improvement and oversight by senior leaders, including case audits and supervision.*

*This visit was carried out in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. Headline findings The quality of social work practice across Devon **remains inconsistent**. Most children in care experience delays in securing permanent homes. This is for a variety of reasons but is mostly due to social workers lacking the confidence, professional curiosity and guidance required to understand children's needs and plan for their futures. Weak management oversight through supervision, insufficient challenge by independent reviewing officers, gaps in recording and poor care planning are often the root cause of these delays. Quality assurance through auditing still lacks sufficient impact in driving improvements in practice and has required a significant restart.*

026/23 REPORTS (continued)

County / District Councillor Daniel Thomas

Foster Care Fortnight - fostering communities



Foster Care Fortnight™ is The Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and demonstrate how foster care can transform the lives of everyone it touches. It is a national campaign supported by fostering services, like Fostering Devon, up and down the country. This year it's taking place from Monday 15 May to Sunday 28 May.

The goal of Foster Care Fortnight (www.fosteringdevon.org.uk/fostering-a-child/foster-care-fortnight/) is to support fostering services to highlight the need for more foster carers of all backgrounds and life experiences. We also use it as an opportunity to highlight the fantastic work of our current foster carers and use it as a platform for them to share an insight into their experiences. The theme for this year is Fostering Communities.

Please do get involved this year by sharing stories of your fostering communities by using the hashtags #FosteringCommunities and #FCF23 on social media. Remember to tag @fosteringdevon on Instagram and Facebook!

District Council Report

New Executive appointed at Full Council

Cllr Julian Brazil has been appointed as Leader of the Council for the four-year term from 2023/24 to 2026/27 and, with effect from May 25, he has made the following appointments to the Executive:

- Cllr Dan Thomas (Deputy Leader, with specific responsibility for Planning; Corporate Performance Oversight; Organisational; and Community Development);
- Cllr John McKay (Lead Executive Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity);
- Cllr John Birch (Lead Executive Member for Economic Development; Commercial Strategy; and Governance);
- Cllr Denise O'Callaghan (Lead Executive Member for Housing; Environmental Health; and Licensing);
- Cllr Victor Abbott (Lead Executive Member for Community Services; Operations and Leisure);
- Cllr Jacqi Hodgson (Lead Executive Member for Waste and Community Composting (working with the Leader)); and
- Cllr Nicky Hopwood (Lead Executive Member for Customer Service; Improvement; IT; and Digital Services (working with the Deputy Leader)).

Cllr Hodgson is leader of the Greens and Cllr Hopwood leader of the Conservatives - while this certainly isn't a coalition, it's evidence that we are determined to bring all parties together for the good of the people of the South Hams.

026/23 REPORTS (continued)

Community Ownership Fund Round 3

The Government have recently announced the launch of Round 3 of the Community Ownership Fund. The window for applications opened on 31 May and will close on 12 July.

The Community Ownership Fund provides capital and revenue grants to support community groups take ownership of community assets and amenities at risk of being lost such as community centres, parks, pubs and post office buildings.



This round of funding has also made changes to make it easier for voluntary and community groups to apply for funding to acquire assets and run them for the benefit of the community. The changes include:

- Reducing the match funding requirements for capital funds
- Increasing the amount of funding available from £250,000 to £1m
- Allowing town and parish councils to bid for funds in the same way as community groups

More information can be found [at www.gov.uk/government/news/more-cash-to-rescue-community-assets-through-expanded-government-fund](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-cash-to-rescue-community-assets-through-expanded-government-fund).

Planning Training

Pat Whymer (Head of Development Management at SHDC) has offered planning training at 6pm on the night of Thursday 20th July. It will last approximately 2 hours and will cover (amongst other topics) reasons why you can object (and reasons why you shouldn't!) to an application, Construction Management Plans, Class Q applications and other Permitted Development. Councillors from Sparkwell, Yealmpton, Holbeton, Newton & Noss, Brixton and Wembury are invited: we will use the Community Centre in Yealmpton (PL8 2HF) as venue. It would be useful if you could let Teresa know if you plan to attend - I thoroughly recommend it as a very useful session. If you have any specific areas, you would like covered which aren't mentioned, please let me know.

(b) Questions from the public and Councillors

Cllr Sherrell asked Cllr Dan Thomas if the potholes at Eastern Town and up Brent Hill which are a major issue, could be addressed. RESOLVED the Clerk to email Cllr Dan Thomas. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Callcut pointed out that there are blocked drains within the village. Cllr Thomas advised that there is a rolling plan to deal with the cleaning of drains, which can be viewed on the Devon County Council website.

027/23 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY

Youth Club - Cllr Gunatillake

30mph speed limit signs at Battisborough Cross - Cllr Sherrell

*Litter picking - Clean Our Patch is a local community organisation run by two volunteers, who organise litter picks across the city of Plymouth and help local villages. They also put together some helpful information and advice to be considered before anyone starts litter picking. To find out more about Clean our Patch, where they currently work and how to get involved, their Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/CleanOurPatch/> Also, South Hams District Council can assist with picking up bags of rubbish for a litter pick. Clerk to consult with the parishioner who raised the idea of litter picking in the parish. **ACTION: Clerk***

028/23 APPROVAL OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 16 May 2023 (as previously circulated). The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

029/23 PLANNING

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0482/23/HHO Holbeton LOCATION: Westerley 5 Battisborough Cross PL8 1JT
 PROPOSAL: Householder application for two store rear & side elevations, alterations to driveway entrance & provision of separate storage unit (resubmission of 1345/22/HHO)
 DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1087/23/ARC Holbeton LOCATION: Lawnfield Holbeton PL8 1JH
 PROPOSAL: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 (Planting Plan) of planning consent 2587/22/HHO
 DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

030/23 FINANCE

(i) Bank balances - to note the bank balances of: - Business Account as at 9 May 2023 = £5,000.00
 Treasurers Account as at 9 May 2023 = £28,996.82

(ii) Banked receipts - to note receipts for April 2023: - Bank Interest 09.05.2023) = £2.84
 1st Precept payment from SHDC = £8,075.00

(iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - May 2023 Salary	£ 360.20	-	-
HMRC	HMRC - May 2023	£ 187.20	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - @ £13.00 per hour - May 2023	£39.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Monthly maintenance of Parish website - May 2023	£40.00	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of function rooms - June 2023	£tbc	-	-
Source for Business	Service at The Allotments, Holbeton	£20.16	-	-
Holbeton Cricket Club	Grant towards electric mower - S106 grant	£319.00	-	-
B Strawbridge	Fee for bee talk and tutorial at Mothecombe Gardens - S106 grant	£585.00	-	-
Mr M Rawlings	Lengthsman duties	£370.00	-	-
BHIB Council Insurance	Parish Council insurance renewal	£414.77	-	-
Mr A Hollett	Purchase of toilet cleaner and cleaning sponges	£19.14	-	-

(iv) RESOLVED to approve Financial Statement

Financial Statement			
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 May 2023 :		£5,000.00	
Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 9 May 2023:		£28,996.82	
	Total =	£33,996.82	
Less: any unrepresented cheques	001700	-£40.00	
	001729	-£210.00	
	001730	-£17.99	
	001731	-£49.13	
	001732	-£110.00	
	001733	-£78.00	
	001734	-£40.00	
	001735	-£489.80	
	001735	-£26.00	
	001736	-£74.90	
	001737	-£8.77	
	001738	-£380.00	
	001739	-£48.00	
	001740	-£106.00	
	001741	-£4.40	
	001742	-£31.60	
	001743	-£8.95	
	001744	-£261.60	
Deposit	500053	£12.00	
	Total Funds =	£32,023.68	

030/23 FINANCE (continued)

(v) Parish Councillors reviewed the Holbeton Parish Council expenditure/income to date

(vi) Grant Requests - Holbeton Parish Church - £500 towards the upkeep of the churchyard = RESOLVED to grant £500.00.

Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change Sub-Committee - eco banner made from wood and paper for Yealmpton Show 2023 stand display = RESOLVED to grant £164.00.

(vii) External Audit - the Clerk confirmed documents have emailed to PKF Littlejohn LLP and available to view on the parish council website

31/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee meeting took place on Tuesday the 6th June.

The report from Cllr Baumer is as follows:

The main topics under consideration were:

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

- i) *The meeting with representatives from South West Water on the 21st March 2023 to consider how to get the most from a proposed new surface water drain extending the existing from the school to part way up Vicarage Hill.*

The revised minutes from that meeting were sent to me on the 18th May after a long delay. I am adding a copy of those minutes to this briefing. The most important statements in those minutes are

1. An estimate by SWW of the cost of the installation of a new surface water drain between the school (where an existing drain stops) and somewhere up Vicarage Hill would be between £400,000 and £500,000.
2. SWW would expect the developers to bear this cost. They would contribute something towards the additional costs of linking important sources of surface water into the new drain including existing gulleys.
3. Together this could reduce the amount of water entering the sewage system during heavy rain, and SWW would as part of its initial survey produce a figure estimating by how much this would help.
4. When and if the Church Hill development gets the go ahead SWW will begin a survey including looking at the possible properties whose surface water could be separated. The parish council would assist in explaining to residents why this is being done, and that there would be no compulsion to comply with a request to have their property's surface water reconnected.
5. The earliest date when the new drain would be installed is summer 2024, ideally in the school holidays.
6. SWW should by now have done an initial survey of existing services to ensure that these are functioning fully.
7. The £1.2 million to improve the water quality at Mothecombe beach will include works at Ivybridge and Modbury. They have not at this point allocated money to Holbeton.

I will be writing to SWW on behalf of the parish council and Flete estate to ask for their findings from their initial survey above (6).

RESOLVED Clerk to email County Councillor Dan Thomas to ask what the relationship is between the planning department and South West Water about the surface water drain in Holbeton village. **ACTION: Clerk**

31/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE (continued)

ii) *Support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Water Quality Group.*

Neither I nor John Sherrell was able to attend the third meeting of the group on the 10th May in Ugborough, led by Cllr Ann Turner of Modbury Parish Council. This meeting was to clarify the role that local councils would have in advance of the anticipated larger meeting on the 22nd May. Half those attending were Modbury councillors.

The meeting at the Watermark in Ivybridge on the 22nd May was well attended. At this meeting John Mildmay-White and a team of activists presented their detailed proposals for the structure of a River Erme action organisation, which they termed "Wild About The Erme". This envisaged a series of committees overseen by a small steering group. This group did not include any councillors, and the role of councillors was left to those of us attending to consider.

The focus of the main meeting was clearly to develop more monitoring of the river and to analyse this alongside the published data to improve the picture of what is happening in the Erme. There was also a plan to improve publicity about the river and to consider interventions in the catchment area to help the situation. There was little discussion about the plans at the end, when those leading the various break out meetings summarised the outcome.

Our table was in a corridor and there were no chairs. So, there were a series of impromptu conversations.

Ann Turner had produced a 2 page poster that sets out draft proposals for the councils group. I have added some comments and suggestions to that document, and am attaching them.

Parish Councillors considered the suggestions and decided these should be submitted to the Erme Water Quality Group.

I am not able to attend the next meeting of the Erme Water Quality Group on the 21st June as I am away that day. Cllr Sherrell hopes to attend.

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

Last month the parish council resolved to consider proceeding with a feasibility study that would also consider an EV charger in the car park of the Mildmay Colours.

The climate change subcommittee considered that such a facility could have great benefits for the village and that a feasibility study should consider all potential options for an EV charger, including the new car park that will be built with the Church Hill development.

The feasibility study is likely to take some time and should not be expected until next year.

It is hoped that much of the capital funding could be supported by the section 106 environmental fund, which currently has £4,556 available. By next year this could have become enough to finance the installation.

RESOLVED the parish council supports this approach.

• **A stand at this year's Yealmpton Show on the 26th July**

The 5 Parishes Environmental Alliance is continuing to hold meetings to plan this event. Most of the locality fund grant of £419 from Matt Chown, then District Councillor, that we hold has been spent.

An eco banner made from wood and paper has been ordered. I have bought satin paper for posters and Velcro hooks to attach these to display boards. I will send invoices to Teresa for payment.

I will be attending the stand for much of the day, and I will have a free pass. All parish councillors are invited to attend the event for part of the day, depending on availability: please let me know if you wish to attend. Those who attend the stand should have their entrance fee to the show reimbursed.

RESOLVED the parish council to fund these from the section 106 environmental fund.

31/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE (continued)

- **Holbeton Environmental library**

The library is now in All Saints Church, located at the rear of the church on the pew under the tapestry. All books now have bookplates inserted.

- **South West Water report on Mothecombe beach**

I have received a copy of this report. It is a very large file and goes into much detail on the likely factors affecting water quality at Mothecombe beach. I have created a much shortened version comprising 2 pages of an executive summary, which is attached. If anyone wishes to have a copy of the full report, please let me know and I will send it via WeTransfer.

- **The Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy Consultation**

This was launched in May. The consultation closes on the 30th of June. The Strategy will help communities and organisations across the Southwest better understand the risks their area might face in the future, as climate change increasingly affects the UK. It will also help them to adapt to these changes, thereby improving their preparedness and resilience and ensuring community safety.

The consultation will allow the public to read the draft Climate Adaptation Strategy documents and provide feedback before the Strategy's launch later in 2023.

Anyone interested in reading the Strategy and providing feedback can go to www.climateresilient-dcios.org.uk to view the draft and fill in the questionnaire.

As with so many strategy documents this one is long and involved. I was not proposing going through the whole thing and preparing a response. **RESOLVED to inform parishioners via the HPC Facebook page.**

- **Energy efficiency upgrades available for low-income households without mains gas**

This new Home Upgrade Grant Scheme version 2 (HUG2) aims to deliver energy efficiency and low carbon heating improvements to low-income households living in poorly performing homes. It is open to households whose homes are not heated by gas (i.e., dwellings that use oil, LPG, coal, solid fuels or electricity for heating purposes), have an Energy Performance Certificate of D, E, F or G and who are on a low income. To fulfil the low income criteria, applicants must either live in an eligible postcode area or have a total household income of £31,000 or less before tax.

All those supported through the scheme will receive a whole house energy improvement plan which can be used to carry out further, self-funded measures in the future. It does not say how much will be available to individual households. More information can be obtained via the Energy Saving Devon website (assuming that low income households have internet access). **RESOLVED to advertise this initiative locally.**

- **Up to date accounts for the climate change subcommittee**

I am attaching a spreadsheet with up to date accounts for consideration.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 4th July 2023.

32/23 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS

- Transfer of building to the Parish Council - an electricity meter to be connected

- On the 7 June 2023, in the men's toilet waste in sink

- Review of hourly rate of Contractor - currently £13 p/hr. **RESOLVED to increase the hourly rate to £15 p/hr with effect from 1 June 2023.**

033/23 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK AND PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllrs Reece/Sherrell

The bike track needs to be strimmed. RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell will arrange for the area to be strimmed. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

No issues with the monthly checks on the three parish defibrillators.

034/23 DB COMPUTER REPAIRS

RESOLVED to pay the increase of £5.00 on the monthly charge for maintenance of Holbeton Parish Council website and Facebook. The monthly charge will be £45.00 with effect from 1 July 2023.

035/23 ESTABLISHING A DEVON AIR AMBULANCE COMMUNITY LANDING SITE AT BATTISBOROUGH CROSS

Unfortunately, the representative from Devon Air Ambulance was unable to attend the meeting, but will be present at July 2023 parish council meeting.

The landlord raised two things that need to be addressed as the field is on a lease and it has a permitted use clause, so there will need to be an additional clause and there needs to be an indemnity insurance.

036/23 REVIEW DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No issues raised.

037/23 REVIEW RESERVE LIST

The reserve list was discussed and updated. The list can be viewed on the Parish Council Accounts Spreadsheet available on the website.

038/23 REVIEW UPDATED FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION SCHEME

RESOLVED to adopt the updated freedom of information and publication scheme.

039/23 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Callcut - matting under the swing has been repaired in the play park. A parishioner has asked if the steps to the slide could be made wider and a hand rail installed. RESOLVED to discuss with Rob Seklua at SHDC to ascertain which company can be consulted to carry out repairs. **ACTION: Cllr Callcut**

Cllr Sherrell - smashed glass was found around the slide, which has now been removed.

040/23 HEALTHIER, CLEANER, SAFER: SETTING A 20MPH DEFAULT SPEED LIMIT

Formally approved at the April 2023 meeting, minute reference 176/23. RESOLVED Clerk to complete the document and send to Devon County Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

Documents can be seen on the Holbeton Parish Council website.

041/23 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Email from parishioner in connection with safety and security at The Dartmoor Inn - Cllr Sherrell has contacted the owners and left a message.

042/23 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE

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

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

John Sherrell

(Holbeton Parish Council Chair)

Date: 11 July 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.