

## MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllrs John Sherrell (Chair), Mike Reece, Harry Baumer, Nirosha Gunatillake  
Tony Callcut, Stephen Brown, Carol Ackroyd

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas  
Teresa Drew - Clerk

**Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s):** 3 Police Representatives  
Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) - Kerry McCabe Service Manager  
1 Parishioner

**079/23** Councillors were asked to co-opt parishioners Andrea Larmour, Shirley Timothy and Martyn West.

RESOLVED Andrea Larmour, Shirley Timothy and Martyn West to be co-opted on to Holbeton Parish Council and the Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed. Councillors were also passed the "Notification of Parish/Town Council Member Interest Declaration of Interest" form for completion. **ACTION: Cllrs Larmour, Timothy, West**

Cllr Larmour and West declined to have parish council email addresses and agreed their personal email addresses could be listed for contact. Cllr Timothy agreed to have a Holbeton Parish Council email address. **ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Timothy**

### **080/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies from District Councillor Tom Edie.

### **081/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Reece - personal interest as council representative on Holbeton Village Hall management committee.

### **082/23 REPORTS**

#### **(a) County & District Councillor Daniel Thomas**

Repairs have been carried out on a road within the village. Cllr Thomas has been contacted by a parishioner, who is not happy with the repairs, but unfortunately the road will not be completely resurfaced.

#### **(b) Questions from the public and Parish Councillors**

Police - two reports of incidents of people smuggling at Mothecombe. If there are any suspicious activities, please report them to the police.

"Who Dares Win" a TV show will be filming on 22 September at Mothecombe beach.

Police patrols have taken place in the village during the evenings, but nothing suspicious seen.

The police have a large area to cover, so please report anything of concern. There are a lot of agricultural burglaries taking place in East Devon

Cllr Ackroyd is finding it difficult to arrange Chapter 8 training for a prospective Lengthsman and clarification on who covers the insurance for them. Cllr Thomas will seek advice from DCC. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

## **083/23 TOTNES RURAL AREA YOUTH ENGAGEMENT (TRAYE) PROJECT IN HOLBETON**

Cllr Gunatillake introduced Kerry McCabe Service Manager from TRAYE who has set up youth clubs over the last two years in rural areas. The team have been trained and the clubs covers ages from 8 - 19 years old. They so provide one to one support.

The youth club at Holbeton will commence on 2 October 2023 and will be held every other Monday evening at the village hall. The alternate weeks, a youth club will be held at Yealmpton.

A meet and greet session will be held on 25 September 2023, refreshments will be provided and it will be an opportunity for a question and answer session. All youth club sessions are free, equipment is provided but it would be helpful if there is storage available, as often equipment is donated items from the local area. They try to ensure the same youth workers run the club so there is consistency.

There will be access to trips (which are often funded), that give the opportunity for young people to mix.

## **084/23 ERECTING SPEED SIGNS REQUESTING VEHICLE DRIVERS TO DRIVE AT 20 MPH - Cllr Baumer**

There was a protest at a Devon County Council (DCC) meeting to look at proposal to turn 30 mph to a 20 mph. But DCC are not looking at progressing this at present.

Cllr Lamour asked if speed zone areas could be assessed and increased. Cllr Thomas stated this would be looked at when the speed limit is being assessed. Cllr Sherrell suggested it may be practical to look speed zones when the Church Hill development commences.

Parishioners from Lusson and Ford have contacted the parish council raising concern about the speed of traffic.

It was agreed that additional non statutory road signs to emphasise the need for vehicles to slow down in Holbeton Village, Ford and Lusson should be installed. Resolved that Cllr Baumer will liaise with Cllr Gunatillake to produce specific proposals. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

## **085/23 PAST SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY**

Youth Club - see minute ref 083/23.

## **086/23 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

RESOLVED to approve and sign the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 8 August 2023 (as previously circulated). The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

## **087/23 PLANNING**

### ***Standing orders were stood down at 2020 hours***

The applicant discussed the reasons for their planning application (Ref 2548/23/ARM). Difficult to work out the style of the design to ensure it is in keeping with the area, but they hope the proposed design works with the area.

Cllr Baumer had no problem with the concept and reason for the planning application, but the details do not work well. Energy efficiency needs of the building needs to be addressed and additional solar panels facing south rather than east would be beneficial. Cllr Baumer passed to the applicant his written comments for consideration.

### ***Standing orders were reinstated at 2035 hours***

## 087/23 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 2548/23/ARM

Site Address: Land At Sx 600 507, Yealmpton

Proposal: Application for approval of all matters reserved following outline approval reference 2318/22/OPA for provision of agricultural worker's dwelling

Recommendation: Support with the following comments - the applicant to maximise the energy efficiency of the building. The parish council request that the landscape officer reviews the acceptability of the building's visibility.

Reference: 2860/23/ARC

Site Address: The Lodge, Mothecombe, PL8 1LB

Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 (Slates) of planning consent 3347/22/LBC

Recommendation: Support

### Planning Decision

APPLICATION NUMBER : 0868/20/ARM Holbeton

PROPOSAL : Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 25/1720/15/O

for the construction of 14 no. dwellings, provision of community car park, allotment gardens, access and associated works including access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping (Resubmission of 0127/19/ARM) and the discharge of outline conditions (12/1720/15/O) 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

DECISION: Conditional Approval

The parish council resolved to hold an open meeting with the developers and SWW to discuss details of their plans for building the development.

The following planning application was ratified:

Reference: 2139/23/FUL

Proposal: Provision of new pedestrian access route to Meadowsfoot Beach. Works to include Installation of new mass concrete steps & handrail at NorthEast end of existing concrete sea defence structure, raised concrete path & handrail between proposed new steps & existing slipway & widened concrete path & handrail at South West end of existing concrete sea defence structure

Site Address: Meadowsfoot Beach, Mothecombe

### Planning Decision

APPLICATION NUMBER : 0788/23/HHO

DECISION: Conditional Approval

## 088/23 FINANCE

(i) Bank balances - to note the bank balances of: - Business Account as at 9 August 2023 = £5,000.00  
Treasurers Account as at 11 August 2023 = £24,409.47

(ii) Banked receipts - to note receipts: - Bank Interest (09.08.2023) = £3.70  
SHDC 2nd precept payment 23/24 = £8,075.00

(iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - August 2023 Pay and working at home allowance	£474.20	-	-
HMRC	HMRC - August 2023	£118.60	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - @ £13.00 per hour - August 2023	£60.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Monthly maintenance of Parish website - August 2023	£45.00	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of function rooms - September 2023	£77.50	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk	Purchase of 2 <sup>nd</sup> class stamps	£15.00	-	-
Source for Business	Water at the allotments	£68.78	-	-
Mr W Scarlett	Cutting grass at Battisborough Cross playing field - 17 July, 3, 15, 22 August and 1 September	£155.00	-	-
South Hams District Council	Annual insurance and inspection fee for Brent Hill play area 2023/24	£264.60	£44.10	£220.50
Mr M Rawlings	Lengthsman Duties - cutting grass at play park x 4, drain and verge clearance	£160.00	-	-

## 088/23 FINANCE (continued)

(iv) RESOLVED to approve Financial Statement

<b>Financial Statement</b>		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 August 2023 :	£5,000.00	
Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 11 August 2023:	£24,409.47	
	<b>Total =</b>	<b>£29,409.47</b>
Less: any unpresented cheques	001756	-£164.00
	001766	-£70.00
	001767	-£25.20
	001774	-£136.60
	001774	-£42.00
	001778	-£19.95
	001780	-£76.79
	001781	-£252.00
	001782	-£26.00
	<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£28,596.93</b>

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

(vi) Parish Councillors reviewed spending against budget 2023/2024

(vii) Grant Request - Dementia Friendly Parishes Around the Yealm - RESOLVED to grant £500. **ACTION: Clerk**

## 089/23 LKP LITTLEJOHN LLP EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The Clerk reported that the external auditor LKP Littlejohn LLP had audited the Holbeton Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

On the basis of their review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). In their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Information on the external audit can be viewed on Holbeton Parish Council website.

**090/23 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 Timothy will verify bank reconciliations for Holbeton Parish Council two bank accounts. **ACTION: Cllr Timothy / Clerk**

## 091/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee meeting took place on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> September.

The main topics under consideration were:

- **Follow up from the River Erme sewage public meeting Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022**
  - i) *The meeting with representatives from South West Water on the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*

On the 18<sup>th</sup> July I had a reply to my email asking for them to provide their report on the survey of existing drainage as agreed in March, and on their undertaking to facilitate a request for DCC to clean the gullies in Holbeton:

**091/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer  
(continued)**

This had attached a survey report on the existing surface water drainage system by Pell Frischmann that was dated the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023. It was of note that recommendations 2 and 3 require a significant input from South West Water.

Accordingly, I emailed SWW on the 9<sup>th</sup> August as agreed at the last parish council meeting:

*"Hi Charlotte & Vicky*

*following our parish council meeting last night, I am emailing you on behalf of Holbeton Parish Council to ask what South West Water is planning to do with the recommendations (especially 2 & 3) of the Pell Frischmann report of the 26th April that you kindly sent me.*

*They have identified what seem to be significant defects in the surface water and the combined sewerage systems and are recommending actions to be undertaken.*

*I look forward to hearing from you.*

*best wishes"*

Having received no reply, I sent a follow up email on the 12<sup>th</sup> September:

*"Hi Charlotte & Vicky*

*are you in a position to respond to my last email?*

*I am sure that you are aware that the Church Hill development now has full planning approval, so at some point we will need to reconvene a meeting to take the surface water project forwards in collaboration with the developers.*

*Best wishes"*

I have had a reply:

*"Hello Harry,*

*Charlotte is on leave this week but I know she was having conversations internally before she left so we will need to wait until she is back.*

*That's good news about the planning permission. I did not know. But agreed, we will need to fix another meeting. I hope that Hazel might be able to attend this one.*

*I appreciate most council work is done in the evening but is there any potential for day time meetings on Teams?*

*Thanks V"*

I would suggest that we hold a meeting with the developers before arranging a 3 way meeting with SWW. **RESOLVED the parish council will arrange a meeting with SWW and developer of the Church Hill development after the open meeting.**

ii) *Support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Parish and Town Councils Group.*

I attended a meeting held in Ermington Reading Rooms on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. There was an Environment Agency representative as well as councillors from all the parishes in the catchment area and Ivybridge Town Council.

It is hoped that we will be able to get copies of all the permits with South West Water as some of these were agreed a good number of years ago and may no longer reflect the needs of the local population. These may also shed light on the mismatch between what is understood to form part of the agreements - namely the definition of a significant overflow as being in litres - and the information provided by SWW, which only publishes the duration of storm overflows. At her request I have provided the EA representative with written evidence (a copy of the slides provided by SWW) that our meeting was told last November that it is not possible for SWW to provide the information that would determine which overflows are significant.

The group is also interested to know what the reaction of the EA is to the report they commissioned from SWW on the factors contributing to the pollution of Mothecombe beach.

If necessary, we will seek the information through a Freedom of Information request.

**091/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer  
(continued)**

The WATER group is well advanced in preparations for designated Bathing Beach status at Coastguards Cottages. They now have evidence of more than 100 bathers and paddlers there on 2 consecutive days this summer. The public consultation is well advanced. Details of how to respond have been passed to all the relevant councils and Sir Gary Streeter is to be asked to provide written support for this initiative. The deadline for this is the end of September, but as the application is to be made at the end of October there should be time for all councils to respond at their next meetings (see item 4). The date for the next meeting of the River Erme Councils is Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. One matter that requires our attention is the funding for a part time parish clerk to support this group. From initial researches it has been agreed that each council (6 in all) would ask for £200 for the initial year. In our case I would propose that this comes from our section 106 climate change funding. **RESOLVED the parish council supports this expenditure.**

• **DEFRA Dartmoor Review**

I received this from Guy Shrubsole, a Devon resident and environmental campaigner and Devon-based conservationist Tony Whitehead, who together have produced a template with the recommended statements for local individuals and organisations to respond. The consultation ends on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.

The Dartmoor Review is being carried out by DEFRA, and the return email address is [Dartmoorreview@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Dartmoorreview@defra.gov.uk). The issue that is particularly pertinent to Holbeton parish is the re-wilding of Dartmoor with tree planting and the insertion of partial dams at the level of the headwaters that Dartmoor National Park is already undertaking. Together these should reduce the peak volumes of flood water entering the River Erme.

As you will be aware there are potentially conflicting aspirations for the moor, and so the review is likely to have a wide variety of representations.

I have prepared and circulated to Parish Councillors a draft response from Holbeton Parish Council (Cllr Baumer contributions are highlighted) for consideration. **RESOLVED the parish council responds to the review in time for their deadline.**

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

At last month's parish council meeting I reported the various options to site one of the 3 available free EV chargers:

- a. It does not appear that the Holbeton Village hall site is currently viable.
- b. With the impending change of personnel at the Mildmay Colours that site is not currently viable.
- c. The new owners of the Ivy Barns do not have a spare space for a community EV charger.
- d. A space somewhere on the public road, which would require a traffic order.
- e. A resident of the village with off road space and willing to use CoCharger to share the charger.
- f. Available spaces in the public car park that forms part of the Church Hill housing development.
- g. An unused space within the village that could be used for a community EV charger.

Following that meeting John Mildmay-White reported that the access to the space in the village was too narrow for a car. Having looked at this myself I realised that although it could be possible to improve access this would be costly, requiring work to the wall and the surface of the space. I am also aware that DCC is considering seeking funding (a so called LEVI fund) to facilitate the installation of EV chargers in villages, and that may assist us in locating a community charger. The stated likely timescale for any installations is 3 to 4 years.

As the Church Hill development now has full planning consent that seems to be the best bet for getting a 7kW EV charger in place.

I am unclear as to the likely ownership and responsibility for the Church Hill car park, and suggest that when we meet with the developers, we attempt to clarify this (unless others know what is being proposed).

There is also the issue of siting solar panels above the new car parking spaces, which if feasible could require different, smart chargers for the spaces, possibly with a battery system to time shift solar energy.

I would suggest that we write formally to the parishioner offering a free EV charger asking if we can reserve one for this parish. If in the meantime one of the other options above changes we can reconsider the location. **RESOLVED the parish council supports this approach.**

**091/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer  
(continued)**

- **Section 106 funding request from the Erme dippers under the auspices of the WATER group**

The sum of £180 is requested for 6 water testing kits to support the citizen science project to increase the amount of information about the water quality of the Erme River and Estuary. It is proposed that the invoice for the kits is handled by the parish council. **RESOLVED to approve the funding request.**

- **Application to DEFRA for the beach below Coastguards Cottages to be a Designated Bathing Beach**

This is being led by the Erme WATER group with Surfers Against Sewage. They have achieved the first hurdle, namely to document 100 bathers in the water there on 2 consecutive days. There is also a consultation with a deadline at the end of September. This is accessible online at [www.erneriver.org](http://www.erneriver.org). A paper version is attached to show the content of the questionnaire and suggested responses. The importance of this designation is that it will automatically require enhanced monitoring of water quality. It is suggested that the parish council might wish to respond with or without changes to my efforts.

- **Holbeton Cricket Club's listed pavilion decarbonisation project**

This was reported in last month's Holbeton news. The council part funded the project and were acknowledged in the report. **RESOLVED Cllr Baumer will write to the club on behalf of the parish council to congratulate them on their achievement.**

- **The wildflower area outside the Reading Rooms.**

This has now been cut, raked and left to dry, then scarified, with yellow rattle sown for vernalisation (exposure to long cold periods over the winter to induce flowering). It will be kept short during the winter months and we will look forward to seeing it all come out again in the spring.

**RESOLVED the parish council to continue the lease of the land when this comes up for renewal.**

- **The Butterfly Conservation's big butterfly count**

The results will be reported in the October Holbeton News. Six counts within the parish were reported and are available on the website which has an [interactive map](#). These results will be included in my environmental briefing for October's Holbeton News.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 3 October 2023.

## **092/23 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS**

Cllr Sherrell reported that there is currently no electricity at the public toilet, but there is a mpan number. Cllr Thomas will liaise with SHDC to ascertain if the parish council can now arrange for an electricity supplier. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Cllr Brown will seek an electricity supplier. **ACTION: Cllr Brown**

## **093/23 FEEDBACK FROM WEEKLY BIKE TRACK AND PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS INSPECTIONS - Cllrs Reece/Sherrell**

No issues raised from the weekly checks on the three parish defibrillators at Mothecombe, Battisborough Cross and Holbeton Village Hall.

Bike track needs to be strimmed. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Sherrell will arrange for a local contractor to strim the area. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**



## 094/23 TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC AT WONNEL BARN CROSS

Cllr Baumer - the map was of poor quality and not helpful in recently received information from Devon County Council, in connection with work on 15 October 2023. In addition, a similar map in connection with work on 8 December 2023 is unhelpful. RESOLVED Clerk to contact DCC. **ACTION: Clerk**

## 095/23 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Callcut - play park inspection meeting to be arranged with the Lengthsman to discuss the necessary repairs.

Cllr Ackroyd - A parishioner has been contacted to ascertain if they would be willing to be trained to be the parish Lengthsman and be prepared to work for the parish council one day a week at £20 per hour. Also, contact has been made with DCC to find out what Chapter 8 training is available.

## 096/23 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Email from parishioner - Possible Pollution at Mothecombe

Email from parishioner - Damaged Road Sign in Holbeton - DCC has been asked to replace the sign

Email from parishioner - We have noticed that the road markings by the shop have deteriorated, the one at the bottom of Vicarage Hill and the one coming up from Brent Hill. We have heard of an incident where a cyclist didn't stop coming down Vicarage Hill and there was a slight incident with a car. Fortunately, no one was hurt. We are not sure if the faded markings need to be raised with Devon Council

Email - Four Rivers Dementia Alliance Annual General Meeting Thursday 5th October at Ivybridge Rugby Club

Email from [tracy@yealmenergy.co.uk](mailto:tracy@yealmenergy.co.uk) - YCE grant recipient - Cllr Brown described the process and that there is a meeting at 10.30 am on Thursday 21 September 2023 at The Mildmay Colours. The link to the YCE's share offer is The link to YCE's share offer is here: [Yealm Community Energy \(YCE\) - Renewable Energy - Ethex investment opportunity](https://www.yealmenergy.co.uk). Website - [www.yealmenergy.co.uk](http://www.yealmenergy.co.uk)

Email from DCC - Devon Flooding 17th September 2023

Email from SHDC - BT Proposed Removal of Phone Boxes in South Hams - Parish Councillors RESOLVED to object to the removal of the phone box at Mothecombe.

Email from South Hams Citizens Advice - South Hams Cost of Living Briefing

DALC AGM and Conference - RESOLVED to pay the cost of £45.00 for the Clerk to attend

## 097/23 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 17 October 2023** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

*John Sherrell*

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(Holbeton Parish Council Chair)

Date: 17 October 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.