

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Tony Callcut (Chair), Harry Baumer, Mike Reece, Shirley Timothy, Martyn West and Nirosha Gunatillake

County and District Councillor Dan Thomas
District Councillor Tom Edie
Teresa Drew - Clerk

Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s): 1

140/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Cllrs Stephen Brown, Carol Ackroyd, John Sherrell and Andrea Larmour.

141/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Baumer - personal interest in agenda item 9 re. road signs.

Cllr West - personal interest in agenda item 7 re. 3684/23/HHO and 3685/23/LBC

142/23 REPORTS

(a) County & District Councillor Daniel Thomas

Devolution for Devon and Torbay - which means there will be another layer of local government.

District Councillor Tom Edie

The Council Plan - next steps

Work is now underway to develop the delivery plans for The Council Plan 2024. The delivery plans ensure we can monitor progress and will be used to report to Executive on a quarterly basis.

While the draft version of The Council Plan includes some initial actions, Advisory Group dates have been set to explore these in more detail and consider any additional activities that need adding.

- Housing - 15 December, 10. a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Economy and Jobs - 15 December, 11 a.m. to 12:00
- Climate and Biodiversity - 18 December, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Community Services and Development - 3 January, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

All meetings will be held on Microsoft Teams to encourage maximum attendance. Advisory Group Members have been sent an invite from Democratic Services.

Summary of the Policy Statement issued on 5 December 2023

A Policy Statement has been issued by the Government on the Local Government Finance Settlement for next year, 2024/25. It is pretty much as we were expecting and in line with the assumptions and financial modelling that was in the last Budget report to the Executive on 30 November 2023.

142/23 REPORTS (continued)

District Councillor Tom Edie

Support with energy bills

Lower income households could benefit from free energy efficiency upgrades to their homes this winter with our support.

Please help spread the word of our Homes Upgrade Grant, available to homeowners with an annual income of less than £31k, who have heating that isn't mains gas and an EPC rating of D, E, F or G.

We are working with partners South Dartmoor Community Energy to survey eligible homes across the District and provide energy efficiency measures, personalised to the needs of the property.

If you know of any residents who may be eligible for support, please ask them to [apply online](#).

Free festive parking

We're offering free parking in some of our towns this December, so you can visit your local high streets for some Christmas shopping.

You can get free all day parking at the following towns:

- Modbury on Saturday 9 December
- Ivybridge on Saturday 9 December
- Totnes on Wednesday 13 December
- Dartmouth on Friday 15 December
- Kingsbridge on Saturday 16 December
- Salcombe on Saturday 16 December

SUMMARY OF THE POLICY STATEMENT ISSUED ON 5 DECEMBER 2023

A Policy Statement has been issued by the Government on the Local Government Finance Settlement for next year, 2024/25. It is pretty much as we were expecting and in line with the assumptions and financial modelling that was in the last Budget report to the Executive on 30th November 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-finance-policy-statement-2024-to-2025/local-government-finance-policy-statement-2024-to-2025>

Below are the key points:

Council Tax - council tax referendum limits

The council tax referendum limits have been stated to be as follows:

- i) District Councils - The limit is the higher of £5 or 2.99% (2.99% is the higher amount for South Hams - This would increase a Band D council tax from £185.42 (23/24 Band D) to £190.96 for 24/25 - an increase of £5.54 per year which is a 2.99% increase)
- ii) Police are allowed to increase their share of the council tax by £13 on a Band D property.
- iii) Fire are limited to a 2.99% increase which is £2.89 for a Band D property (The Fire Authority no longer have a higher limit of £5)
- iv) The limit for DCC is an increase in council tax by 2.99%, with an extra 2% for the adult social care precept. This would increase a Band D council tax from £1,634.13 to £1,715.67 - an increase of £81.54.
- v) There will be no referendum principles for Towns and Parishes for 24/25

142/23 REPORTS (continued)

District Councillor Tom Edie

Business Rates

Councils will see an increase in the baseline funding levels and will receive compensation grant as if both business rating multipliers had increased by Consumer Price Index of inflation.

Business Rates – baseline reset

There will be no business rates reset in 2024/25, as had been assumed.

Revenue Support Grant

There will be no negative RSG in 24/25 – as we had been predicting.

Funding Guarantee of 3% on Core Spending Power

There will be a Funding Guarantee of 3% on Core Spending Power. We will need to see how this is calculated in the Finance Settlement when it is announced in December.

New Homes Bonus

One more year of NHB has been announced for 24/25. The indicative NHB allocation for 24/25 for South Hams is £704,154, as predicted in the latest modelling.

Other Grants

Rural Services Delivery Grant will stay the same as the current year – as we had been predicting (£95 million nationally). This would give an allocation of £478,583.

Services Grant will reduce but we will need to see the Finance Settlement to see how much by. This was £77,991 for South Hams in the current year.

Prepared by Lisa Buckle, 8 December 2023

(b) Questions from the public and Parish Councillors

None.

143/23 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council meeting minutes of 14 November 2023 the minutes were duly signed by the Chair and Planning meeting minutes of 28 November 2023 were duly signed by Cllr Baumer who chaired the meeting. Both set of plans were circulated prior to the meeting.

144/23 SARAH HONYWILL, HEAD TEACHER AT HOLBETON PRIMARY SCHOOL - NEW SURFACE WATER DRAIN TO BE INSTALLED IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Callcut welcomed Sarah Honywill to the meeting, who was present to find out about which roads are closed during the works and what the impact will be on staff and parent for pedestrian and vehicle access to the school. This will enable Sarah to inform parents.

Cllr Baumer had a meeting with a James Hunt (SWW contact) last Wednesday, also present was Cllr Sherrell and Mr Mildmay White. The contact seemed sympathetic to the issues, but has no authority to what happens with the timing of the works, the decisions will be made by the developer. The three one week sections being proposed are optimistic and probably the minimum amount of time.

144/23 SARAH HONYWILL, HEAD TEACHER AT HOLBETON PRIMARY SCHOOL - NEW SURFACE WATER DRAIN TO BE INSTALLED IN THE VILLAGE (continued)

Cllr Callcut pointed out the work on drains will be from just above the village shop and down to the primary school, there will be pedestrian access, but no vehicle access. There will be a site manager and the parish council will ensure they are aware of school times. The parish council is also aware of the impact on the school and informed Sarah the contact for Verto Homes is Andy West of Verto homes if the school wish to contact him direct.

Various ideas were discussed on ideas on how children/parents could access the school safely when the work commences. It would be advantageous if the work of the drains could be carried out during Easter and/or the summer school holidays 2024.

Cllr Baumer suggested that Vicki Garner of South West Water is contacted to summarise the items raised with James Hunt, the SWW project manager for the drainage aspects of this development and ask for another meeting with Verto homes before any works start. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

Sarah agreed that she would contact Andy West, Verto Homes.

145/23 PAST SUBJECT MATTER(S) FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY:

None.

146/23 PLANNING

Reference: 3308/23/ARC

Description: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4, 14, 25 and 26 of planning consent 25/1720/15/O and conditions 2, 5, 6, 14 and 17 of planning consent 0868/20/ARM
Development Site at SX 612 502 North of Church Hill Holbeton

RESOLVED Cllr Baumer will prepare an email asking what the time scale is for producing the documents, if they are going ahead with the new surface drain in January 2024 and if not, what is their timescale. Also, to write to Stuart Hughes, Cabinet Member of Devon County Council for Highways, as there does not seem to be any thought given to the timings on the Church Hill development to Holbeton primary school. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

Reference: 3684/23/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for installation of a lean-to mono pitch greenhouse
Site Address: Ford Farmhouse, Ford, Holbeton, PL8 1LJ
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 3685/23/LBC

Proposal: Householder application for installation of a lean-to mono pitch greenhouse
Site Address: Ford Farmhouse, Ford, Holbeton, PL8 1LJ
Recommendation: Support

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2996/23/LBC Holbeton
APPLICATION NUMBER: 3308/23/ARC Holbeton

DECISION: Conditional Approval
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

147/23 FINANCE

(i) Bank balances - to note the bank balances of: - Business Account as at 9 November 2023 = £5,000.00
Treasurers Account as at 13 November 2023 = £28,692.34

(ii) Banked receipts - to note receipt(s): - Bank Interest (09.11.2023) = £5.52

(iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

| Payee | Description | Gross | VAT | Net |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|---------|---------|
| Mrs T Drew | Clerk - November 2023 pay | £474.20 | - | - |
| HMRC | HMRC - November 2023 | £188.60 | - | - |
| Amanda Coe | Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - November 2023 | £60.00 | - | - |
| DB Computer Repairs | Monthly maintenance of Parish website - November 2023 | £45.00 | - | - |
| Holbeton Village | Hire of hall - November 2023 | £99.50 | - | - |
| Source for Business | Water charges for Holbeton allotments | £34.97 | - | - |
| Automotiv3 Developments Ltd | Purchase of 2 x thermal cameras | £705.60 | £117.60 | £588.00 |
| TRAYE Project | Facilitating Holbeton Youth Club | £1666.67 | - | - |

(iv) RESOLVED to approve Financial Statement

| Financial Statement | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 November 2023 : | £5,000.00 | |
| Lloyds bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 November 2023: | £28,692.34 | |
| | Total = | £33,692.34 |
| Less: any unpresented cheques | 001782 | -£26.00 |
| | 001795 | -£54.00 |
| | 001806 | -£474.20 |
| | 001807 | -£118.60 |
| | 001808 | -£60.00 |
| | 001809 | -£45.00 |
| | 001810 | -£152.50 |
| | 001811 | TBC |
| | 001812 | -£150.00 |
| | 001813 | -£48.24 |
| | 001814 | -£94.00 |
| | Total Funds = | £32,469.80 |

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

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

(vii) Grant Request - South Hams Community Action (formerly South Hams CVS) - RESOLVED to discuss at February 2024 meeting as £100 grant had been given in February 2023. **ACTION: Clerk**

(viii) Cllr Callcut proposed the recommendation of an increase of 10% on the precept of £16,150 for 2022/2023 as discussed at the November 2023 parish council meeting. It was RESOLVED to accept proposal by all Parish Councillors. The precept for 2024/2025 will be £17,765.

The Band D parish rate will be: £57.00

This is an increase of (in comparison to 2023/24): £6.23 or 12.27%

148/23 SETTING UP 10 NON-STATUTORY SIGNS £590 + VAT - EXCLUDES THE COST OF A POLE FOR EACH SIGN

Noted that each pole costs £35 plus VAT. RESOLVED to purchase the 10 signs, Cllr Baumer will liaise with Cllr Sherrell and Nick Colton at DCC Highways. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

149/23 SHOULD OWNERSHIP OF THE NEW ALLOTMENTS AND PUBLIC CAR PARK ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT CHURCH HILL BE HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Baumer pointed out it would be advantageous to agree in principle to take on the carpark as it would ensure there are no parking fees and if there are more charge points it would be easier to facilitate.

Upkeep of the carpark would need to be considered in any future budgets.

RESOLVED to contact Verto Homes to state that the parish council has discussed the ownership and in principle would like to take on the carpark and allotments, but requires more details. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

150/23 CONDITIONS THAT VERTO HOMES MIGHT ATTACH IF HPC TOOK ON THE OWNERSHIP OF THE CAR PARK/ALLOTMENTS

RESOLVED to ascertain the conditions from Verto Homes for the parish council. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

151/23 PARISH LENGTHSMAN - CLLR ACKROYD

Awaiting public liability insurance from the Parish Lengthsman. Training has been completed by the Parish Lengthsman.

152/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer

The Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee meeting took place on Tuesday the 5th December.

Sections in red are for the approval or consideration of Holbeton Parish Council. Confirmed minutes of the November meeting are attached. Topics under consideration included:

1. Follow up from the River Erme sewage public meeting Friday 18th November 2022

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.

Following the open meeting of the 28th November in which the timing of Verto Homes' plans to start work on laying the new surface water drain for the 14 new homes was questioned, to date there has not been any follow up communication from Andy West.

However, a virtual meeting has taken place on the 6th December between representatives of the parish council, John Mildmay-White and James Hunt, SWW Project Manager delegated to these works.

James Hunt clarified that the January date for the work, proposed by Verto Homes, had been rejected by SWW.

They are sympathetic to the need for this work to be carried out in the school holidays if at all possible. SWW are conducting their own surveys to establish the locations of existing gullies, the pipe size for this drain and which buildings should be prioritised to have their roof water run off directed into the new drain. They will also provide an assessment on the likely size of impact this will have in reducing storm overflows. He emphasised that the final decision on timing has to be made by the developers. It was agreed that a further meeting should take place, ideally with a Verto Homes/Construction representative present, before the surface water drain works commence.

152/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer (continued)

ii) Support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Parish and Town Councils Group. Neither Cllr Baumer nor John Mildmay-White could attend the meeting of the River Erme Councils on Thursday the 30th November. Accordingly, we both met with Cllr Ann Turner for Modbury beforehand and John Mildmay-White brought us up to date on the work of WATER.

It was agreed that WATER and the Councils group should hold a joint meeting a year on from the inception of WATER, and that a new website is imminent. They also plan to publish a monthly progress report.

2. Local Cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) and behaviour change study Last month it was agreed that the parish council should question the wisdom of investigating small country lanes' suitability for designated cycle routes. This arose from a report on this project by Gemma Bristow, Active Travel & Digital Connectivity Lead, circulated to parish councillors on the 16th October.

Cllr Dan Thomas forwarded this question, which received the following reply: *"Many thanks for making me aware of these concerns. I'm alive to the fact that quiet lanes may be a controversial intervention in some areas so if we do go down this route it will only be on routes with strong community support. Unfortunately, the LCWIP process does not allow for the consultants to consider off-road routes as these are in third party ownership."*

3. Thermal cameras There will be an opportunity to inspect one of the recently acquired thermal cameras at the meeting. Parish councillors are invited to seek the assistance of Cllr West or Barry Pitt in having their own house's insulation surveyed. An article about the thermal cameras has been Holbeton.

4. Section 106 funding application for extended soil testing for local farms

This application is for matched funding of £1,500 to undertake extended soil testing on 10 local farms. This is part of a plan to encourage local farmers to switch to regenerative farming techniques, with the attendant benefits for the environment including improved carbon sequestration. The climate change subcommittee strongly supported the application, especially because of its context and the number of the council's Environmental Action Plan objectives that it should achieve. A copy of the application is attached. **RESOLVED that Holbeton Parish Council will support the funding of this project.**

5. Section 106 expenditure in 2023

The following have been supported:

Supplementary bird feed £319

Holbeton Cricket Club decarbonisation £500

Bee talk and weekend £623

Water testing kits for Erme River sites £180

Thermal cameras x 2 and training £588

Soil testing kits £1,500 - to be confirmed

River Erme Councils meetings £200

Use of village hall for subcommittee meetings £247 Amount carried forward £1,412

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

153/23 HOLBETON READING ROOMS - Cllr Sherrell

Mr Mildmay White is working with a drainage company who are trying to work out the source of the problem.

154/23 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS

RESOLVED Cllr Sherrell to ask Western Power whether a tidier barrier between the toilets and electricity substation would be possible. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

RESOLVED that Cllr Sherrell will now speak to SHDC to arrange the asset transfer of the building to the parish council.

155/23 REVIEW OF: Annual Wildflower Area Agreement Licence With All Saints Parochial Church Council - Dated 1 January 2021 and Protocol On The Filming And Recording Of Parish Council Meetings

RESOLVED to make no amendments to either of the documents.

156/23 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.

157/23 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Gunatillake - issue with flooding in the area near Coombe Cottage. RESOLVED to report on DCC highway website.

158/23 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Email - Re: Painting of Holbeton = offer of a painting of Holbeton for £450 - **RESOLVED not to purchase the painting**

Emails - Cllrs Thomas, Baumer, Gemma Bristow - Active Travel Officer at SHDC

Email from a parishioner - Allotments at Minchinhay

Email - SHDC - Application to Name and Number New Street [[RP/482000]]

Email - Verto Homes - 14 new addresses - Holbeton Application No.: 25/1720/15/O - Street name would be Monks Way, the development marketing name that is Spira Hill. The reasoning behind this name is that Spira is Latin for spire, recognising the importance of Holbeton's All Saints Church (and its prominent spire) on the local landscape. Pronounced - Spy-Ra.

Letter from James Friend, offering maintenance service to Holbeton - letter to be passed to Cllr Ackroyd. **ACTION: Clerk**

159/23 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 9 January 2024** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

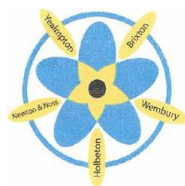
John Sherrell

(Holbeton Parish Council Chair)

Date: 9 January 2024

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.