

## MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

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

District Councillor Tom Edie  
Teresa Drew - Clerk

Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s): 0

### 160/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from County and District Councillor Dan Thomas, Cllrs Timothy and West.

### 161/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

### 162/23 REPORTS

(a) District Councillor Tom Edie

#### **Growing the use of e-bikes**

We would appreciate your help in building a list of companies who hire bikes in our area, so we can talk to them about how we can support them and grow the use of e-bikes in our area.

We are also planning to invite these local bike businesses to a workshop to discuss barriers early this year. Please can you get in touch with Gemma Bristow (01803 861383) if you know of any other companies not included in the list below:

- Salcombe Bike Hire Co
- South Hams E-bikes (Stokeley Farm Shop)
- Bearland Bikes (East Portlemouth)
- E-XploreDevon (Kingsbridge)
- BRIGHTHAM HOUSE - a B&B hiring bikes (Salcombe)
- Evo Bike Hire (Stoke Fleming)

#### **Help residents save on their energy bills**

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

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.

Homes Upgrade Grants are available to homeowners with an annual income of less than £31k, who have heating that isn't mains gas with an EPC rating of D, E, F or G.

Please spread the word and if you know of any residents who may be eligible for support, please ask them to apply online.

(b) Questions from the public and Parish Councillors

None

## 163/23 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council meeting minutes of 12 December 2023 the minutes were duly signed by the Chair (the minutes were circulated prior to the meeting).

## 164/23 PAST SUBJECT MATTER(S) FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY:

- Non-Statutory "SLOW CHILDREN PLAYING" signs for the parish - Cllr Baumer - the 10 new signs have now been produced, at a cost of £918 including VAT. RESOLVED to obtain poles will be two meters in length.

## 165/23 PLANNING

Reference: 3965/23/HHO

Site Address: Whitemoor Cross, Holbeton, South Devon, PL8 1JL

Proposal: Householder application for installation of heat pump

Recommendation: Support

**ACTION:** Parish Clerk to ask why planning consent was requested for this installation

## 166/23 FINANCE

(i) Bank balances - to note the bank balances of: - Business Account as at 11 December 2023 = £5,000.00  
Treasurers Account as at 14 December 2023 = £24,642.83

(ii) Banked receipts - to note receipt(s): - Bank Interest (11.12.2023) = £5.70

(iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - December 2023 pay	£474.40	-	-
HMRC	HMRC - December 2023	£118.40	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - December 2023	£60.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Monthly maintenance of Parish website - December 2023	£45.00	-	-
Holbeton Village Hall	Hire of hall - January 2023	£128.00	-	-
Robert Harris	Materials used for playground tidy - 2 tubes of filler, 1 roll of gripper tape, 5 litres of wood cleaner (for green and slippery surfaces) 1 litre of round up	£70.44	-	-
Reimbursement to Parish Clerk	ALCC annual membership	£50.00	-	-

(iv) RESOLVED to approve Financial Statement:

<b>Financial Statement</b>		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 11 December 2023 :	£5,000.00	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 14 December 2023:	£24,642.83	
	<b>Total =</b>	<b>£29,642.83</b>
Less: any unpresented cheques	001782	-£26.00
	001823	-£120.00
	001818	-£118.60
	001819	-£45.00
	001820	-£99.50
	001821	-£60.00
	001822	-£34.97
	001824	-£94.00
	<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£29,044.76</b>

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

(vii) Parish Councillors reviewed Holbeton Parish Council spending against budget 2023/2024

(vii) Grant Request - None

## **167/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT CHURCH HILL - HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL OWNERSHIP OF NEW ALLOTMENTS AND PUBLIC CAR PARK AND CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED**

See email from Harry the issue for allotments, carpark (20 spaces). Provision of electric charging points which will need a larger cable to distribute electricity will need to be installed. Should be a three-phase supply.

Cllr Ackroyd raised concern that old houses in village have no foundation, therefore, when recent water pipe was laid there had to be no excavating near the properties. Cllr Baumer will email his contact at Verto Homes. **ACTION: Cllr Baumer**

Information on the details of road closures for the works to be sought from the contractors (Energieyes) via Verto Homes contact to create more information available on noticeboards, and the homepage of the parish council website.

## **168/23 PARISH LENGTHSMAN - CLLR ACKROYD**

Training has been completed by the Parish Lengthsman and a certificate received.

Cllr Ackroyd is seeking a grant to pay for 25% of the payment to the Lengthsman. A risk assessment is also required.

## **169/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer**

The last Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee meeting took place on Tuesday the 5th December. There was no meeting in January 2024.

- 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. There will have been a virtual meeting with representatives from Verto Homes and South West Water on Monday the 8th January. A report on the meeting will be made.

New proposals for the revised timings of the installation of a new surface water drain have been put forward:

Vicarage Hill section 29/1/24 to 4/2/24 inclusive;

Village 'centre' section 5/2/24 to 11/2/24 inclusive; and

Section in proximity to Holbeton Primary School 12/2/24 to 18/2/24.

The school has been informed.

South West Water have reassured us that they can still undertake the connections for existing surface water drains though they cannot promise that these will all be connected within the timescale above.

- ii) Support the development of a whole river group, the River Erme Parish and Town Councils Group. A copy of the minutes from the latest meeting of the group is attached.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 6th February 2024.

## **170/23 HOLBETON READING ROOMS - Cllr Sherrell**

Exploration of the drains has been carried out recently, to try and establish the problem and if possible resolve it. Awaiting feedback.

## **171/23 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS**

RESOLVED that Cllr Sherrell has spoken to SHDC to arrange the asset transfer of the building to the parish council.

## **172/23 CONDITIONS VERTO HOMES MIGHT ATTACH IF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL TOOK ON THE OWNERSHIP OF THE CAR PARK/ALLOTMENTS - Cllr Baumer**

See minute reference - 167/23.

## **173/23 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.

## **174/23 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Brown - footpath signs, particularly by Efford House require repairing. RESOLVED Cllr Brown will liaise with the parish footpath warden. **ACTION: Cllr Brown**

Cllr Gunatillake - the youth club continues to be well supported. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from TRAYE stating the following would be approved by HPC:

1. That HPC would pay £3500 to TRAYE in May 2024 (either 1 payment in May or split payments in May and November) for youth services up to May 2025 for a fortnightly session
2. That HPC would abide with the conditions of the MOU.

Cllr Larmour reported the public toilets have been recently found to be in a very bad state. RESOLVED to pay additional hours to the cleaner.

Cllr Baumer - circulated the following notes from a meeting which took place on 8 January 2023 with Andy West (AW) Verto Homes and James Hunt (JH) South West Water:

1. Have Verto Homes been in touch with Holbeton Primary School? Yes, an email was sent by AW at the start of this term, and an email was sent with new dates by HB. No reply as yet. Action: AW to chase if no response soon.
2. The DCC temporary Through Traffic notifications do not give enough detail of traffic diversion and closure signs to establish whether these are robust enough to direct traffic to different parts of the village centre, the school, village shop, the pub and the village hall for each of the 3 weeks. Action: AW to get details from Energyeyes and inform them of need to liaise on detailed plans with HB well enough in advance of the start of the road works.
3. The school and other organisations will benefit from knowing the start and finish times and days of the week for the works. Action: AW to supply the hours and days of work.
4. What is the likelihood of the road works over-running? If all goes well the 3 weeks should give adequate time. There could be unexpected delays, especially with poor weather. In such circumstances it will be important for the community to be informed of changes to the plan. Action: Verto Homes.
5. It appears that the original planned agreement from the March 2023 meeting with SWW representatives will not be fully carried out. The current plan is that SWW will "connect as much highways drainage as possible during their work. But that which cannot be achieved during their work we will pick up afterwards so the full benefit is achieved..." The original plan for a 225mm pipe has been upgraded at the request of SWW to a 300mm pipe. This will increase water capacity by approaching 80%. This will leave SWW "the future capacity in the pipe to connect up some further large building roofs and any remaining highways drains along the route at a future date." The length of any road closures for any subsequent supplementary works by SWW are likely to be brief, no more than a day or 2. The works carried out during the 3 weeks, focused on the road drain element, should reduce the great majority of surface water from reaching the water treatment works. Within the next 4 months SWW will, using their computer model, calculate a predicted estimate of how much this will reduce storm overflows. In addition, they will use the same method to calculate the additional benefit from diverting existing nearby large roof and other surface water run off into the new surface water drain. Action: JH, SWW In addition, it will be possible after the first year of operation, to get some idea of actual benefit achieved. Action: SWW

## 174/23 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS (continued)

6. It would be helpful for the parish council to have contact details of whom to contact for advice, concerns, etc, arising from the community during the works. Action: AW, Verto Homes

7. It is understood that a further road closure affecting Church Hill is being planned as part of the works to create the new road into the development. This goes through a lengthy process of consultation and is likely to be brief in duration. Further information on this will be supplied to the parish council as far as possible. Action: DMcK, Verto Homes.

8. It was agreed to hold a further, similar Teams meeting prior to the February parish council meeting, ie on Monday the 12 or Tuesday the 13 February. Action: Charlotte Bacon, SWW

## 175/23 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

- Battisborough Cross flooding - Cllr Sherrell will speak to a parishioner in connection with the debris in the area which may be blocking the drain
- DALC - Subscription fees in 2024/25 - RESOLVED to accept increase in subscription

## 176/23 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Monday 12 February 2024** in Holbeton Village Hall at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm.

*John Sherrell*

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(Holbeton Parish Council Chair)

Date: 12 February 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?cq=sws>

SHDC website: - <https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit> - click on what you would like to report, from the drop-down menu.

## River Erme Councils Joint Water Quality Meeting

Minutes November 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

Meeting held via Teams due to weather conditions

**Present:** Cllr Ann Turner (AT) Chair, Modbury Cllr Barbra Price (BP) Modbury, Cllr Jon May (JM) Ugborough, Cllr Pat Hannam (PH) Ermington, Cllr Tessa Lannin (TL) Ivybridge, Cllr Anthony Rea (AR) Ivybridge, Mark Walker (MW) - Ermington Environmental

**Apologies:** Cllrs Harry Baumer and John Sherrell (Holbeton) Cllr Suzanne Grant (Kingston) Cllr John Dunlop (Ermington) Cllr Helen Nathanson (Modbury)

John Mildmay White (WATER)

1. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

### 2. Reports from Councils

**Ivybridge: TL** confirmed that Ivybridge Town Council had agreed, at their Climate Group working meeting, to contribute towards administration costs for the River Erme group. **AT** thanked Ivybridge and will seek advice about the procedure for managing joint funding.

A local fishing group have approached the TC regarding Erme Fishing Rights. The Council has asked them to commission a report to look into the viability of this and may help towards the cost as it would give information about fish stocks as an indication of river health.

**TL** will provide points to be raised for SHDC's scrutiny committee when they meet with the Environment Agency and South West Water. These will cover the issue and review of permits, the failure to measure volume of spills and management of invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam on their land. **AT** to send **TL** information on combined Sewage Outflows.

**Ermington: PL** commented on the Parish Council developing a working relationship with Ermington Environmental.

A particular planning issue within the area are applications for change of use from agricultural to equestrian use and the potential impact of this.

**Ugborough: JM** had nothing specific to report. The issue of invasive species which he had raised in the previous meeting would be addressed by **MW** later on the agenda.

**Modbury:** The planned renovation and repair work on the sewer in the centre of town is due to begin in January. The work will take significantly less time than originally proposed

due to new and less disruptive technology. SWW held a public event to explain the process. Despite concerns about the continued use of a combined sewer rather than replacement with separate clean and foul water pipes, this was discounted on logistical grounds as discussed in our previous meeting. This makes the matter of the CSO at Poundwell even more pressing. We are following up with SWW on contact details for the most appropriate person with decision making powers to discuss this and other matters brought up by this group. **AT** to report back.

The Parish Council has funded 12 kits for Citizen Science water testing.

**Kingston:** Apologies for not sending a representative to the meeting but Cllr Suzanne Grant will be the representative for future meetings.

**Holbeton:** Cllrs Baumer (**HB**) and Sherrell (**JS**) were unable to attend due to a clash with a meeting in Holbeton with developers of the new housing site. **AT** met with **HB** to get updates for our meeting. A key issue for the new development is who pays for management of water connections and surface water runoff. It appears that the developers and SWW are each trying to minimise their costs and responsibilities. This is something which is likely to be an issue for other councils in looking at and commenting on planning applications. We will ask **HB** and **JS** to feed back at our next meeting.

The Parish Council has funded water quality testing kits for Citizen Science.

**3. Planning applications:** It was agreed that this was a core area for this group to focus on. All agreed that it would be helpful to have a check list of water related/ environmental issues to act as an aide memoire when considering planning applications. The document sent out previously is quite lengthy, **AR** has offered to adapt it for consideration at the next meeting.

Proposed legislative changes re developers' responsibilities for nutrient neutrality. As agreed, **AT** contacted SHDC to discuss proposals for a policy on this. **Representatives of SHDC would like to meet with us at 11am on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Venue TBC.** Attending District Councillors will be Cllr MacKay (Environmental lead), Cllr Long (Planning lead) and Cllr Taylor (Vice Chair Planning). Daytime meetings are not easy for some but there are limited opportunities for meeting with them all together. Please contact **AT** if you are able to attend.

Anthony Magnall MP, held an open meeting in Modbury prior to our meeting. He will be the prospective MP for our constituency under boundary changes. **AT** addressed with him, our concerns about environmental management. He will be sending information about government intentions and has offered to attend a future meeting if we wish.

**4. Discharge Permits:** It was agreed that **TL** will take up the issue of the validity of permits for the Sewage Treatment Works. This is particularly pertinent to Ivybridge given the growth of the town since permits were issued. **AT** to send information about permit dates to **TL**.

**5. Coordinating Actions:** We agreed that it was important to work with community organisations to maximise efficiency and to utilise the technical skills within those groups. As **JMW** was unable to attend, **AT** met with him to discuss the progress of **WATER**, their key objectives and future co-operation. He provided a summary of their position which was circulated to this group prior to the meeting. A summary of the meeting between **JMW**, **HB** and **AT** is attached. NB. Please see **JMW**'s request for details of your parish/town community magazines.

**6. Invasive Species: Himalayan Balsam.** An additional agenda item following a request from **MW** of Ermington Environmental to discuss this issue. This follows on from the matter of Himalayan Balsam raised by **JM** at the last meeting. **MW** reported on the spread of the plant particularly in the Ugborough and Ermington areas and along the river on Dartmoor. He explained the method of distribution, control and its potential impact on the riverside biodiversity. A volunteer from Ugborough has offered to put together an information campaign to encourage the public to identify and help manage this problem. **MW** asked if the councils would consider funding for this. He will send costs and we agreed to consider at our next meeting.

**7. Voices of the Erme project:** This project to capture experiences and memories of the Erme and estuary is going well. Initially, this is about audio interviews but the plan is to enlarge the project and include visual images and possibly film. The project is supported by Modbury Parish Council but Laura is keen to speak to residents anywhere in the Erme catchment. Please pass on to your fellow councillors and communities.

Laura Denning <[lauradenning2@gmail.com](mailto:lauradenning2@gmail.com)>

*Dr. Laura Denning: Artist/Researcher*

*Principal investigator: British Academy SRG: Wet Ontologies*

*Artist in Residence: Leverhulme Centre for Anthropocene Biodiversity*

*Associate Lecturer: Creative Media, University of Plymouth*

**Date and time of next meeting: 7.30pm on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the QE11 Pavilion, Modbury**