

MINUTES OF HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM IN HOLBETON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs John Sherrell (Chair), Tony Callcut, Harry Baumer, Mike Reece, Shirley Timothy, Stephen Brown, and Andrea Larmour

Teresa Drew - Clerk

Visitor(s)/Parishioner(s): 0

177/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from County and District Councillor Dan Thomas, District Councillor Tom Edie and Cllrs Carol Ackroyd, Nirosha Gunatillake and Martyn West

178/23 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

179/23 REPORTS

(a) Emailed County and District Councillor Dan Thomas report

Here, forming my report this month, is the administration's view of the Combined County Authority deal. I'm not a fan, but herein is some information and the website, for those of you who wish to, to find out more.

Proposed transfer of powers and funding to local government

The Minister for Levelling Up, Jacob Young, was at the EPIC Centre in Torbay last week to sign a ground-breaking deal that could transfer significant decision-making powers and funding, from Whitehall to local government in Devon and Torbay.

The proposed Deal could mean that more decisions can be taken locally by people who know their areas best, and on things that matter to local people, such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Mr Young was joined by the Leaders of Devon County Council and Torbay Council, two local MPs, and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

But before the proposal can be confirmed, it first needs to be supported by the two councils, followed by a six-week public consultation.

The proposed deal could create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030

So, what is the Devolution Deal?

The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, subject to public consultation.

The proposed Combined County Authority would be a partnership made up of Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education.

Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities.

The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority (hereafter CCA), that will not require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils.

179/23 REPORTS (continued)

(b) Emailed County and District Councillor Dan Thomas Report

The proposals would create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people

What would the Deal allow the local councils to do?

It would allow important decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best, on things that matter to local people, such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport. Here's a summary of the highlights:

- under the proposals, the CCA would have direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030
- it would create a stronger relationship between employers and schools, colleges and universities to provide the skilled workforce the local economy needs for the future
- it would see the Government transfer over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy
- there would be a stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people, and reduce homelessness
- it would lead to even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport
- Devon and Torbay would be responsible for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025
- there would be a significant boost to high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital

For more information on the Devolution Deal, there is a website:

www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk

Emailed District Councillor Tom Edie Report

Garden waste service

South Hams residents can sign up to or renew their subscription for our garden waste collection service from 15 February.

The fee is going up this year to cover costs, though we're offering a discount to those who sign up early.

Anyone who signs up between 15 February and 1 April 2024 will pay a discounted fee of £52 for a year-long subscription running from April 2024 that covers collections for one brown wheelie bin.

There is a maximum of two subscriptions (which would cover two bins) per household. Anyone who signs up after 31 March will pay £55. This is an increase on last year's fee, but it is necessary to cover rising costs.

We're offering the discount so officers have the time required to plan the round routes to be as efficient and possible.

The quickest and easiest way for residents to sign up is on our website: www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste - the website is also full of information and useful FAQs on the service. Alternatively, residents can call us on 01803 861234, though we encourage everyone to use the website as it's easier and quicker.

For current subscribers who renew by 1 April, there will be no changes to their service, and they can continue to use their brown bin with no interruptions.

Subscriptions for the 2023/24 year close on 14 February.

We will be promoting subscriptions to residents with social media, e-mail newsletters, print advertising and a press release.

179/23 REPORTS (continued)

Emailed District Councillor Tom Edie Report

Free IT and digital training courses

Our partners [Learn Devon](#) have a range of free courses to choose from to help residents build on their digital skills.

They could help with things like accessing digital banking, connecting with loved ones online and accessing job and training opportunities.

Courses include help with the first steps to getting online, building computer confidence to gaining a nationally recognised 'Award in Digital Skills'.

Please spread the word about these free courses.

(b) Questions from the public and Parish Councillors

None

180/23 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council meeting minutes of 9 January 2024 the minutes were duly signed by the Chair (the minutes were circulated prior to the meeting).

181/23 PAST SUBJECT MATTER(S) FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORT ONLY:

Cllr Baumer – Non statutory slow down traffic calming signs have been received and poles, Cllrs Sherrell and Callcut to assist with placing around the village.

Cllr Brown has met with the parishioners who look after the footpaths in the parish. The landowner would like to erect a steel barrier on the Metalled road at the bottom of Smugglers Lane to stop vehicles using the track and stile to be repaired at Minchinhay.

182/23 PLANNING

Reference: 0127/24/HHO Proposal: Timber summer house with slate roof, in garden adjacent to parking area.

Site Address: Millmans, 70 Moorshead Cross To Vicarage Hill, Ford, Holbeton, PL8 1LJ

Recommendation: No comment

Planning Decisions

Planning Reference: 3492/23/ARM	Decision: Conditional Approval
Planning Reference: 3684/23/HHO	Decision: Conditional Approval
Planning Reference: 3685/23/LBC	Decision: Conditional Approval
Planning Reference: 4155/23/ARC	Decision: Discharge of Condition Approved

183/23 FINANCE

(i) Bank balances – to note the bank balances of: - Business Account as at 9 January 2024 = £5,000.00
Treasurers Account as at 12 January 2024 = £23,659.83

(ii) Banked receipts – to note receipt(s): - Bank Interest for January 2024 = £5.16
Hire of Reading Rooms – £120.00

183/23 FINANCE (continued)

(iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments: -

Payee	Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Mrs T Drew	Clerk - January 2024 pay	£474.20	-	-
HMRC	HMRC - January 2024	£118.60	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - December 2023	£60.00	-	-
Amanda Coe	Cleaning of Holbeton Public Toilets - January 2024	£75.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs	Monthly maintenance of Parish website - January 2024	£45.00	-	-
Holbeton Village	Hire of hall - January 2023	£216.00	-	-
Heathfield Cross Christmas Tree Farm	Purchase of 14ft village Christmas tree for the village	£112.00	-	-
FutureClient	Purchase of non statutory slow down traffic calming signs	£918.00	£153.00	£765.00
Mr A Hollett	Reimbursement for the purchase of public toilet rolls	£16.00	-	-
Mr A Hollett	Reimbursement for public toilet roll holder	£45.44	-	-
Holbeton Parish Church	Hire of church for parish meeting re. Verto Homes	£31.00	-	-

(iv) RESOLVED to approve Financial Statement:

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 January 2024 :	£5,000.00	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 12 January 2024:	£23,659.83	
	Total =	£28,659.83
Less: any unpresented cheques	001782	-£26.00
	001820	-£99.50
	001824	-£94.00
	001825	-£128.00
	001829	-£118.40
	001830	-£45.00
	001832	-£918.00
	Total Funds =	£27,230.93

(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 - South Hams Community Action (formerly South Hams CVS) - RESOLVED to grant £100.00.

184/23 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT CHURCH HILL

The main issue is the failure of the installation of the surface water drain and what will happen next. The holes in the highway are being filled in, as various pipework has been found and there is a need to ascertain who the pipes belong to. The area to be surveyed with Ground Penetrating Radar. It is expected that the current work will be abandoned and restarted at some later point. It was noted that a further road closure up Church Hill in order to install a mains electrical cable has been announced to start on the 26th April. More details of this have been requested from Verto Homes.

RESOLVED to ask District Councillor Dan Thomas if the SHDC waste collection could be addressed for householders at Vicarage Hill due to the highway being currently blocked off. **ACTION: Clerk**

See attached minutes from Cllr Baumer of meeting 9 February 2023 - SWW and Verto Homes Representatives.

185/23 PARISH LENGTHSMAN

Excellent work has been carried out by the Lengthsman on cleaning Fore Street.

186/23 POT HOLE FILLING IN THE PARISH

RESOLVED to discuss at the March 2024 meeting.

187/23 HOLBETON PARISH COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE - Cllr Baumer

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

Sections in red are for the approval or consideration of Holbeton Parish Council.

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

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 Friday the 9th February. A report on the meeting will be made.

2. Devon Wildlife Trust rockpool safari at Wembury beach with a marine biologist.

A trip has been organised for Tuesday the 23rd April. This costs £6.50 per person. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our seashore. 8 members of the climate change subcommittee are planning to attend. There are still a few places available. If any councillor wishes to attend, please email Jan Sellick janetsellick@gmail.com

3. Review of environmental projects funded by section 106 money.

The following is a list of projects funded to date. One of the conditions is to provide a follow up report six months later. It is proposed to use a structured impact assessment form for this purpose, which when completed will be submitted for approval.

2021 Bird Box project completed and feedback received

Installation of LED lights in church completed but no feedback requested

2022 Water testing kits for Flete Field Labs completed but no feedback requested

Decarbonisation of cricket pavilion completed and feedback received

Insulation in roof of village hall completed but no feedback requested

Wild bird seed project, Orchard Farm partly spent (£131) and no feedback requested

2023 Bee weekend, Mothecombe completed and informal feedback received

River Erme dippers testing kits update due March 2024

Infrared cameras project update due April 2024

Advanced soil testing kits for local farmers update due June 2024

4. Request from Trainline to have a link placed on the climate change section of Holbeton Parish Council's website.

Given the ticketing problems, the large scale commercial nature of Trainline and the difference from the other more obviously, climate change websites on the council's webpage it is suggested that this is not included. Parish Councillors RESOLVED to support this proposal.

5. Proposed additions to Holbeton Parish Council's climate change subcommittee membership. There are currently 11 members of whom 3 are parish councillors. For some months 2 parishioners have been attending regularly and taking an active part in the meetings. RESOLVED to approve these two additional members.

6. Greenpeace's Big Plastic Count, for information. During one week, the 11th to 17th March 2024, households, schools, community groups and businesses all over the country will be invited to count their plastic packaging waste and share their results.

It's simple to take part in The Big Plastic Count. Sign up and receive a free counting pack with everything you need for the investigation. When you submit your data at the end of the count week, Greenpeace's data analysts will send you your personal plastic footprint. They will use this to form a national picture of the state of plastic waste in the UK today. This initiative will be broadcast in next month's Holbeton News environmental section and on local Facebook pages.

The next meeting of the Holbeton Parish Council Climate Change subcommittee will be on Tuesday the 5th March 2024.

188/23 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. Various actions have been identified as the drains have collapsed and fund raising may be required to rectify the problem.

189/23 HOLBETON PUBLIC TOILETS

The draft TR1 to be circulated to parish councillors. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

190/23 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY - 6 JUNE 2024

Newton and Noss Parish Council are planning a beacon lighting event for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and Holbeton Parish Council are asked if any of our fellow Parish Councils along the coast are planning such an event on the evening of Thursday 6th June 2024.

Newton and Noss Parish Council are lighting their beacon close to the coast path in a field owned by Carswell Farm. As the location is so close to the boundary with your parish, the Parish Council has asked if you would like to join our event. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to contact Newton and Noss Parish Council and thank them for their invitation and to inform them that Holbeton Parish Council are organising a beacon in the parish. Holbeton Parish Council invites parish councillors from Newton and Noss to attend their lighting of their beacon. **ACTION: Clerk**

RESOLVED to organise a beacon to be erected in the parish. **ACTION: Cllrs Callcut, Brown and Timothy**

191/23 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.

192/23 SOUTH HAMS PLAY PARK INSPECTION REPORT

The handrail is broken and requires repairing. **ACTION: Cllr Callcut**

193/23 REVIEW OF HOLBETON READING ROOMS HIRE COST - currently £20 for up to four hours

RESOLVED not to increase the hire cost, it will remain at £20 for up to four hours, when the rooms will be available to hire, as currently there is a lack of facilities. The Coffee Library who currently meet at the Reading Rooms have a special arrangement £120 for three months.

194/23 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Baumer has queried how much recreation money there will be from Church Hill development, which is from memory approximately £35,000. An advert to be placed in the Holbeton News to ask parishioners for their views/ideas. Thermal imaging of homes in the parish has commenced.

Cllr Callcut - Vicarage Hill hedges requires to be cut. **ACTION: Cllr Sherrell**

Cllr Sherrell - third of an acre to be fenced off at Battisborough Cross to help with carparking when football practicing/games are taking place.

195/23 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

- Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm - Annual General Meeting 18th January
- Email from Chair, On behalf of Holbeton Village Hall Trustees - Village Parking - Cllr Sherrell will liaise with Verto Homes to inform them that their staff/contractors must not park in the Village Hall carpark. Cllr Baumer suggested a questionnaire is circulated in the parish to ascertain what parking is required.

196/23 TO CONFIRM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATE AND VENUE

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

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

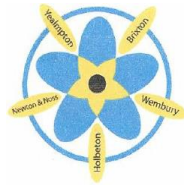
John Sherrell

(Holbeton Parish Council Chair)

Date: 12 March 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.

Teams Meeting 9th February 2024 with SWW and Verto Homes representatives

Present: Cllr Harry Baumer, James Hunt (SWW project manager), Andy West, Cllr John Sherrell, John Mildmay-White (Flete Estate). Not present: Craig Davies, Energieyes

Topics covered and actions:

1. What have been the problems with works, now at the end of the 2nd week and still little achieved with the first week's section? The work, subcontracted to Energieyes but further subcontracted to another firm, has met unexpected problems. There is a 150mm pipe and a second plastic pipe with cables inside, that were not on the plans available and whose functions are uncertain. In addition there is an asbestos pipe and a collapsed line of unknown function. No Ground Penetrating Radar survey was carried out before the works started. The work has now stopped. Airey & Coles are advising Verto Homes on an amended plan.
2. The following problems within the village have been brought to the attention of the parish council:
 - Households missing rubbish and recycling collections – particularly a problem with food waste;
 - The need for an oil delivery imminently, which cannot be achieved with the road closed;
 - One resident up Vicarage Hill trying to arrange their house move;
 - The unavailability of the named contact for concerns to be directed to.

There are also concerns about the proximity of the new drain to some cob houses that are vulnerable to subsidence. **Action: AW to ensure that Verto Homes take these factors into consideration when planning their next steps.**

3. What is the plan now? It has been agreed that a GPR survey now needs to be carried out, including the whole length of road under which the new drain is installed. If this has not already been carried out, this should also include the newly announced closure further up Church Hill (starting the 29th April) for installing a new electricity cable. **Action: AW to check whether GPR has already been undertaken, and if not Verto Homes to ensure this is undertaken. Also to notify JS as to when the surveys will take place as far ahead as possible as well as what to expect in relation to road access. Also AW to provide more detailed plans at the earliest opportunity for residents to see the extent of closure.**
4. What is going to happen to the closed section of Vicarage Hill? Discussions are taking place between involved parties as to whether to continue the road closure, which has already stayed closed beyond the agreed end date. The alternative action would be to reopen the road and seek a further road closure notice once everything is ready. **Action: AW to ensure that Verto Homes keeps JS informed on progress with discussions with a phone call on Monday afternoon the 12th February.**
5. What is the likelihood of the road works over-running when restarted? This is particularly critical given the date of the 29th April as these two separate works should not be allowed to coincide given the adverse effects on the village and its school functioning. **Action: Verto Homes.**
6. The importance of good communications with the village residents and parish council. It was noted that there are individuals within the village who may have useful information on the function of newly discovered lines under the roads. **Action: AW on behalf of Verto Homes, to liaise with JS with detailed findings from the GPR survey.**
7. As the road up Church Hill is to be dug up for a new electricity cable, it is suggested that thought is given to laying an additional surface water drain pipe in the same trench. It has been noted that flood water passes down Church Hill in heavy rain. **Action: JH to investigate the potential benefits, cost and feasibility of such an additional task and liaise with Verto Homes.**
8. As there is to be a further road closure up Church Hill to create a new entrance to the development site, **AW to ask Verto Homes to ask the contractors on the feasibility of undertaking both tasks simultaneously.**
9. It would still be helpful for the parish council to have details of whom to contact for advice, concerns, etc, arising from the community during any works. **Action: AW, Verto Homes**
10. There are to be printed plans made available for residents to peruse, which will be sited in a public place in the village. **Action: AW, Verto Homes**
11. What is the status of the adoption arrangements for the new road? **AW to investigate and report**
12. It was agreed to hold a further, similar Teams meeting prior to the February parish council meeting, ie on Friday the 8th March. **Action: Charlotte Bacon, SWW.** It was also agreed that a further teams meeting should be held at short notice when decisions have been made about the timing and locations of further works. **Action: AW, Verto Homes**