

**HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET**

www.holcombepc.org.uk

Clerk: Vickie Watts, Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
clerk@holcombepc.org.uk 07971 516916 - 01749 880428

**Minutes from Annual Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Gait (Acting Chair)
 Cllr Eade
 Cllr Emery
 Cllr Govier
 Cllr Kerr
 Cllr Roberts
 Cllr Stratford

In attendance: There were no members of the public.
 Cllr Davies taking the minutes

1 Election of Chair.

Cllr Stratford proposed Cllr Brand as Chair, which was seconded by Cllr Eade. Cllr Brand did not attend but had informed the Clerk he would be prepared to continue as Chair if elected. Clerk to ensure the Acceptance of office form is signed as soon as possible.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

2 Election of Vice Chair

Cllr Gait proposed that Cllr Davies should be vice chair, which was seconded by Cllr Kerr. Cllr Davies agreed for the coming year.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

3 Apologies for absence

Cllr Brand sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

4 Representation were appointed as follows:

- 4.1 Playing Field Committee – The Clerk
- 4.2 Village Hall Committee – Cllr Emery
- 4.3 Finance working group – Cllr Brand, Cllr Gait and the Clerk
- 4.4 Community Project Fund working group – Cllr Kerr and Cllr Brand
- 4.5 PCSO Liaison (Attend PACT meetings) – Cllr Govier
- 4.6 Highways – Cllr Eade and Cllr Roberts
- 4.7 Cemetery – The Clerk
- 4.8 Footpaths – Cllr Emery
- 4.9 Somerset Association of Local Councils – Cllr Gait
- 4.10 Planning – Cllr Brand
- 4.11 Planning and Development Group – Cllr Davies

It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Eade that the above appointments would stand.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Action: Clerk to update the website with Councillor roles

5 Resolve that the Parish Council continues to meet the criteria for the General Power of Competence

The Parish Council doesn't meet the criteria for the General power of competence as there are insufficient Councillors that hold office as a result of being elected (including unopposed) when it needs to be two thirds.

6 The Review and adopt the following policies:

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- 7.1 Financial regulations
- 7.2 Code of conduct
- 7.3 Standing orders

Proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Kerr that the policies should be adopted.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to update the website

7 Discuss and agree arrangements for the bins in the Parish Cemetery.

A volunteer had been emptying the Cemetery bins for several years but had been in touch to say that they were no longer able to complete the task. A request had also been received from a Church representative asking if a dog waste bin could be installed at the old church as some bagged waste had been left at the foot of the wheelie bins. The Clerk had received information from Somerset Council making it clear that as of this point, no new bins of any type would be emptied at their expense and Parish Councils would have to fund this.

After discussion it was agreed that no new bin would be installed and the bin in the Parish Council cemetery would be closed with notices erected asking all users to take their rubbish to the entrance and use the green waste bin or the rubbish bin as appropriate.

Action: Clerk to action and promote change on Facebook & Parish magazine

8 Review Bank signatories

It was agreed that the bank signatories should remain the same, namely: Cllr Brand, Cllr Gait, Cllr Kerr and the Clerk

9 Review Direct Debits and Standing Orders

The Clerk confirmed that there is an annual standing order for £35 to the Information Commissioner's Office and a monthly direct debit for Geeking It Simple for email and web hosting which is currently £68.78 for 10 emails but this varies depending on the number of Councillor emails that are being used.

10 Consider and Agree Annual Insurance for the Parish Council

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council was in a 3-year agreement with Hiscox Insurance Company Limited which would expire on 31/05/2025.

The meeting concluded at 19.23hrs