

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF 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 Holcombe Parish Council meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Graham Crowe
 Cllr Simon Brand
 Cllr Stephenie Chorley
 Cllr Terry Dumbrell
 Cllr Philip Gait
 Cllr Patricia Jordan
 Cllr Sue Robinson

Also, Present: District Cllr Ham. 2 members of the public.

In attendance: Vickie Watts taking the minutes

1 Public forum.

Cllr Gait asked if we could ask BT to remove the phone box from next to the Lychgate. The Clerk explained that this had been requested before and was told that it was on the list. The Clerk will email again.

VW

2 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Russell Stokes and District Cllr Townsend both sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3 Co-Option of new Councillor

Mr Daniel Owen attended the meeting and submitted his consent to co-option form. He introduced himself and explained how he wanted to become a Parish Councillor to become more involved in village life. He believed that his work experience gained whilst working with Housing Associations and helping communities could be beneficial within the role of a Councillor. Councillors had no additional questions. Cllr Gait proposed that Mr Daniel Owen be co-opted which was seconded by Cllr Chorley.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

The Chair invited Cllr Owen to join the Councillors and explained that he could participate in the meeting but not take part in the vote. The Clerk asked Cllr Owen to complete the Acceptance of office form and the Register of interest form which will be sent to Mendip District Council to help to show transparency.

VW

4 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

There were none.

5 Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2018

The draft minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the minutes for the 6th March 2018 were an accurate record so were duly signed by the Chair.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

6 Action points from last meeting and matters arising.

All actions had been completed or would be discussed later in the meeting apart from:

- The Clerk to request that the roads throughout Holcombe be swept by the mechanical cleaner at the earliest opportunity.

VW

7 *The Chairman agreed to bring forward agenda item Jubilee Garden in order for Julia Evans to speak*

Jubilee Garden

The new volunteer Julia Evans had emailed the Clerk with a request to purchase compost and mulch from Springfield Garden Plus on Charlton Road for the following price:

- Bark at £2.99 per 70L x 20 = £ 59.80
- Manure + mushroom compost @ £3.99 x 5 = £19.95

Total £69.75 which included delivery.

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF 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

Julia also said that she would like the flexibility to buy a couple of climbers for the wall and one or two other significant shrubs at a budget of < £ 80. She said that she would also be able to supply some plants from her own garden but would provide receipts for any purchases, to submit to the Council.

All Councillors agreed to the request by Julia and said that there was money allocated within the budget for the upkeep of the garden.

The Clerk explained that Simon of All Seasons Garden Services had not completed all of the work at Jubilee Gardens due to concerns over nesting birds. It was agreed that a convenient date would be arranged with Julia and Simon to allow the rest of the work to be discussed and agreed for future completion.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

8 Planning Applications

There was none.

9 Planning Updates

2017/2411/FUL – Conversion, alteration and extension of barn into single dwelling house with integral garage parking. Moore's Farm, Moore's Farm Lane, Holcombe, BA3 5ES
Mendip District Council approved with conditions

The Clerk explained that a complaint had been received regarding the suspected illegal dwelling at the junction of Dark Lane and Brewery Lane, Holcombe where lights have been seen at night. This has been reported to the Enforcement team at Mendip District Council.

10 Report

10.1 PCSO Report

PCSO Mike Storey did not attend and no report had been received prior to the meeting date.

10.2 District Councillor report

District Cllr Ham reported as follows:

Changing Places – Frome has now opened the first of these facilities for disabled adult and youths to have appropriate changing facilities available to them which have been very much welcomed by carers in the town. This is the first in Mendip, but further facilities in Crewkerne, Wellington and Wells will be opening in the next few weeks. Locations in Glastonbury and Street will hopefully follow.

Mendip lottery – this has just completed the first year and has not been as successful as expected but has raised £25k for local communities and £25K for charities.

Members and Officers training – This will be combined for the first time and will start soon and last for 18 months.

The next Parish Forum will be held on the 19th April 2018 at 6.15pm and will be interesting with the Q & A session with Cabinet & Strategic Leadership Team.

Cllr Ham said that he had filled up the grit bin on the hill using the grit which has been stored on behalf of Holcombe PC in his barn and would continue to top up the other bins imminently.

Cllr Ham said that there was evidence Gypsy and Travellers on land at Lipyeate. The enforcement team have been notified.

Cllr Ham said that the recent application for holiday cottages at Kilmersdon Common, Common Lane were withdrawn on the day of the March Holcombe Parish Council meeting. Prior to the withdrawal of the application there had been a request for 2 x Tree Preservation orders for trees within the boundary of the site for the holiday cottage application. Unfortunately, over the last weekend some work had been undertaken on the trees subject to the TPO application. The owner of the trees had been made aware of the pending application and should not have given the instructions to the contractor who did not have a licence or insurance to undertake tree work so close to the highway. Cllr Ham liaised with Beau Walsh who is responsible for TPO's at MDC and made a site visit with him to see the trees in question. At the time of the meeting the TPO applications were still being progressed and during that day the trees have had bark removed from the trunk around a section of the trees in question. Cllr Ham will continue to monitor and report to the Council with any progress.

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF 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

District Cllr Alan Townsend had sent his apologies along with a brief report regarding his meeting with the Highways team last month. Chris Betty had confirmed that he had considered the request made by the Parish Council to extend the existing 30mph speed limit signs in Brewery Lane out of Holcombe. He said that due to the hedgerows, bends and layout it was not appropriate to move them due to insufficient forward visibility and the likelihood of vegetation overgrowing signs, leading to enforcement issues. He therefore concluded that the current terminal signs were correct and the only feasible ones for this location. He also said that he had recorded speeds below 30mph and conclude little benefit would be gained.

Cllr Crowe will put together a letter to be sent to Chris Betty quoting the relevant Highways Act to insist that the extension to the 30mph be granted. A copy of the letter should be sent to County Cllr Pullin for his support.

GC
VW

10.3 County Councillor report

County Cllr Pullin had sent his apologies but did not provide a report.

11 **Finance**

11.1 Income – There was none.

11.2 Bank reconciliation – The Clerk had completed the bank reconciliation which had been checked by Cllr Crowe prior to the meeting and was correct.

11.3 Review year-end figures

The Clerk had emailed a spreadsheet to all Councillors for consideration with any comments being emailed to the Clerk. It was agreed that the finance working party would arrange a meeting date to review the figures ready to bring back to the May meeting.

VW/GC
RS/PG
Ag

11.4 Agree purchase of grit bin for Lychgate cross roads

The Clerk had circulated information regarding 3 different grit bins of varying prices. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Robinson that the Clerk should go ahead and purchase the Screwfix 100 litre Yellow grit bin at a price of £89.99 including VAT.

VW

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

It was agreed that Cllr Crowe would investigate the state of the bags of salt being stored at the rear of the Village Hall and report back on any action required.

GC

11.5 Payments

The following payments were read out for payment:

Vickie Watts – Clerk Salary for March	£251.11 & expenses of £32.18	£283.29
	Transfer to the Holcombe Gala	£1000.00
Sue Robinson - Emergency plan equipment		£230.34

Playing Field Expenses to be reimbursed by the PF Committee

Adrian Mason – 2 x EDF energy bills	£54.99
-------------------------------------	--------

Payments were recommended for payment and the cheques signed by Cllr Dumbrell and Cllr Chorley.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstained

The Clerk agreed to pay in the cheque to the Holcombe Gala Santander account.

12 **Update on Dog Waste bins**

Cllr Brand said that he had received prices from the designer of the dog waste powered light in Malvern and £7K would be the cheapest model. All agreed that it is a great idea but too expensive at this point for our Council but may be cheaper in the future.

The Clerk confirmed that the 2 Metal Chieftain litter bins had been ordered and would be delivered to Cllr Brand imminently. The Clerk will gather quotes for installation for consideration at the next meeting.

VW

It was mentioned that if a live Christmas tree was to be planted in the Playing field next to the red litter bin the bin could be relocated to the entrance at the far end of the field on Charlton Road, which would mean that there was a bin at each entrance to the field.

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF 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

- 13 Renovation of Finger post signs within the village**
The Clerk will seek quotes from contractors who are qualified to undertake the work on the 4 signs within the village. VW
- 14 Emergency Plan**
Cllr Robinson handed out the newly cut keys for the battle box and locker to each Councillor.

The Clerk confirmed that the Village Hall has been registered as a 'place of safety'.
- 15 External meetings to attend and reports on meetings attended**
17/04/18 - Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.30pm. Cllr Chorley to purchase the refreshments. SC
15/03/18 - SALC Councillor essentials training was cancelled and will be rescheduled soon. Hopefully Cllr Owen, Cllr Brand and Cllr Gait can all make the new date.
19/04/18 - Parish Forum starting at 6.15pm
- 16 Councillor Reports/Updates**
- 16.1 Highways including update on Speed Indicator Device scheme – Cllr Crowe to put together a proposal for Council to purchase our own unit for consideration to include what the end gain would be. GC
- 16.2 Speedwatch an email had been received from Mr David Mulroy who wanted to join Speedwatch. The Clerk will make contact with Terry Drake to arrange training for Mr Mulroy, Russ Stokes and Graham Crowe. Cllr Chorley said that the team have not been out since January. VW
- 16.3 Safety on Holcombe Hill – Cllr Dumbrell raised concern over the safety of people negotiating Holcombe Hill and reported as follows:
 1. The lives and physical safety of pedestrians walking up or down Holcombe Hill is being placed at risk by the narrowness of the roadway and pavement [especially true of wheelchair, pushchair and pram users];
 2. Tradesmen's and utilities' vans have no other means of attending the cottages in question, which means they must either:
 1. park on the pavement forcing pedestrians into the roadway, or
 2. park in the roadway and block the way for heavy goods vehicles.
 3. Heavy goods vehicles do have an alternative route via Stoke and Stratton without using Holcombe Hill.
The problem resolves itself into weighing the safety of pedestrians against the convenience of heavy-goods vehicles.

Cllr Dumbrell confirmed that as a Councillor he believed he had a duty of care for vulnerable pedestrians rather than the convenience of HGVs, which is why he proposed a 6ft width restriction to be placed on this section of road. The other suggestions [formalising the de facto parking zone; warning road signs; 20mph speed restriction] are all complementary to the width restriction rather than alternatives to it, nor necessary co-commitments.

In summary:
 - a 6ft width restriction is a necessity;
 - a 20mph limit is desirable;
 - formalising the parking zone is desirable.After discussion the general consensus was that the Council needed to find a way to stop pavement parking and it was agreed that Cllr Crowe would investigate the issues raised.
- 16.4 Village Hall – Cllr Chorley attended the Village Hall AGM meeting when Steve Blount was re-elected as the Chairman. It was reported that that the work on the roof was finished and racking has been ordered for the storage cupboard. Insulation is the next project but with waterproofing to the outside first.
- 16.5 Playing Field – There was no report
- 16.6 Holcombe Gala – Cllr Brand confirmed that the next meeting will take place next week. The team are now finalising plans. The Insurance for the event will be provided by the Playing Field as it has been agreed that Cllr Brand will join the PF committee and the gala will be run under the banner of the Playing Field Committee. Cllr Brand thanked the Parish Council for the £1K loan.

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF 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

17 Correspondence

- The Clerk confirmed receipt of the defibrillator pads. It was agreed that the pads should be stored in the emergency locker with a sticker on the defibrillator door confirming the location of the replacement pads. VW
- Elan City SID unit information – passed to Cllr Crowe
- Newsletter from Avon and Somerset Police – passed to Cllr Crowe and Cllr Brand
- Mendip Community Transport request for funding – Consider at the Finance meeting. VW

18 Reports and items for next meeting

Vulnerable people – emergency plan. Consent will need to be sought to hold a list of vulnerable people in order to comply with Data Protection. Ag

19 Dates for next meetings

Tuesday 17th April 2018 – Annual Meeting of the Parish

Tuesday 1st of May 2018 – Annual Parish Council meeting starting at 7pm followed by the monthly Parish Council meeting

Meeting finished 21.45hrs