

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

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council meeting, which took place on
Thursday 17th April 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

Chairman: Graham Crowe

Clerk: Clerk; Vickie Watts taking the minutes

Also Present: 13 members of the public

1 Apologies for absence.

Sue Robinson, PCSO Mike Storey, Steve Blount for the Village hall, Rev'd Clarissa Cridland of St Andrews church, Darren Brooks of Holcombe Youth Football club, Liz Perkins of the Ladies evening club, Barbara Hill of the Welcome Club and Di Spellward of the Holcombe craft group and the Ladies Sports group

2 Approve minutes of previous meeting on Tuesday 18th April 2017 & matters arising

The minutes from the last annual parish meeting held on the 18th April 2017 had been circulated and were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chair.

3 Presentation by Cllr Russell Stokes on the Emergency Plan

Cllr Russell Stokes explained that over the last year Cllr Sue Robinson had led the Council through the process of reviewing our emergency plan which is now complete and is available on the Parish website. Equipment has been purchased to be used in the event of an emergency which is being kept securely in the Village Hall. With the help of Mr Ash Smith, a practice run was successfully completed which highlighted a couple of areas for improvement. These will be repeated on an annual basis at the minimum. It has been agreed that the next practice will include the "call out" process. We would welcome additional volunteers who would be able to get involved.

Cllr Stokes explained that it had been agreed that during the recent snow fall there was no need to implement the emergency plan in light of the fact that Holcombe had not become cut off. The emergency plan is, in the first instance activated by the Chairman, Cllr Graham Crowe or a quorum of Councillors. Each case would be assessed on an individual basis.

The recent snow had raised questions over local individuals who might be vulnerable. The question was asked as to whether we could do more. Scott's Close, in Holcombe provides sheltered housing, retirement housing, supported housing for older people. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Housing Association to establish what level of support is onsite to be further discussed as part of the monthly Parish Council meetings.

4 Meeting open to the public

- There is a pot hole on the road down to the Old Church. Clerk to report
- There is some fly tipping – location to be passed on so that it can be reported by the Clerk.

VW
VW

5 Chairman's report by Councillor Graham Crowe

"I am again, pleased to report that the Parish Council remains a busy and active group, working on your behalf, to represent the village. As last year, there have been some changes to the organisation of the PC but we are in good shape and have an interesting and eclectic mix of experience that we can combine to represent your issues.

In the past year, Tony Dyson and Pete McArthur have left the council and I thank them on your behalf for their efforts. Cllrs Simon Brand and Daniel Owen have joined the council.

I would like to thank all the members of the council, and our clerk Vickie, for the time and effort that they put into the role.

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I am delighted to report that there are currently no vacancies for Councillors. If you, or anyone you know is interested for the future, can you please get in touch with Vickie, or one of the Councillors.

On to some of our activities.

Christmas tree. Once again, we organised the village Christmas tree back in December. I hope you enjoyed the switch on event and seeing the Lychgate lit up each evening. Thanks to the management of The Duke, who generously donated the refreshments. Looking forward to later this year, the Playing Field Committee have agreed to take this event under their charge.

Planning. The PC tends to receive 1-2 planning applications each month. Once again, I stress that our aim is to preserve the character of the village whilst accepting that there are many different styles of building within the village boundary. Not all of our recommendations are accepted but I would encourage those submitting applications to attend their PC meeting so you, and we, can be fully informed.

Speeding. The speeding situation in the village is somewhat improved over last year. The PC succeeded in have the 30mph speed limit moved down Holcombe Hill to the other side of the Duke. We are now in consultation with Somerset Council to extend the limit on Brewery Lane also. No news yet, but we are engaged.

The CC Speed indicator device (SID) is no longer available, hence why you have not seen it on the hill for a wee while. We are investigating the merits of joining a new scheme, which will continue to provide intermittent access to a SID or purchasing our own to move around the village. More to follow.

In the meantime, the Speed Watch scheme continues. We would be grateful for any volunteers to assist with SW. The time commitment is not large and gets less if there are more people in 'the pool'.

Donations. During this year we have continued to donate to Parish groups and activities. We may hear something of where these donations have been spent over the rest of the evening.

Village grants totally £1500 have been allocated as follows:

Playing field repairs	£1000
VH repair	£500

Small Grants totalling £1800 were distributed as follows:

VH	£300
Sports Club	£300
Kilmersdon PTA	£300
Kilmersdon School	£900

We have been able to support the PF committee with a refurbishment of the toys and structures.

We have purchased equipment to deliver the emergency plan.

A new volunteer has come forward to look after Jubilee Gardens. We have supported with some contracted 'pruning' and have a budget for some new flowers, compost, gravel, etc.

We are maintaining the Village Hall Wi-Fi, though we have sourced a new provider. I believe this is well used by the various groups who use the VH.

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Finally, we are arranging some village maintenance – upkeep of finger posts, etc.

Training. Several of the Cllrs have received County training this year, including training in managing and deliberating planning applications and maintaining the churchyard in a safe manner. This is essential, as it allows us to better understand our roles and responsibilities.

Plans for the coming year:

Budget. We are retaining the Village and Community grants and I encourage you to apply for them. We are happy to receive applications for MORE money, which we will fully consider. Paperwork for these is available this evening.

Playing field. We continue to assist the PF committee.

Applications. Finally, this is Parish money. Please do ask for it to be spent!

PC meetings. The PC meets, by default, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall. You are all welcome and invited to come for some or all of the meeting to see what we get up to. Though we all live in the village, we do not necessarily know what is on your mind.

The Parish website is up and running with lots of information about the village and the parish council including the Council agendas, minutes and financial information. The address is www.holcombepc.org.uk

There is also a Holcombe Village Facebook page. One of my more tech-savvy colleagues will be able to give you details.

6 Mendip District Councillors Report

District Cllr Townsend attended and reported that he regularly attended the 4 Parish Council meetings, which are always vibrant and impressive. Some of the areas and roles where District Cllr Townsend has been involved:

- Shape our Future – Looking at future planning.
- Car park working group – Review of how Mendip DC charge for parking.
- Review of outside bodies – there are 57 separate bodies that Mendip DC interact with during a year.
- Scrutiny of all policies.
- Licensing board – Full time member. Involved with updating taxi policy and dealing with complaints.
- Glastonbury Festival – Mendip DC are looking at ways in which they can be compensated by the festival as it is a major source of work for the Council.
- Substitute member of the Planning board – Standing in as required. It was disappointing that the planning application 2018/0190/FUL - 8 Stones Paddock, Holcombe despite being referred to the planning board the application was approved.
- Mendip DC elected Director for Keyring lettings. Currently housing 34 families. It's increasingly difficult to find suitable properties.
- Highways – Holcombe PC had great results with rapid repairs to pot holes at the main cross roads and for the ditch clearance on Burrows Lane. He confirmed that he would continue to support the Parish council for the extension of the 30mph on Brewery Lane.
- Mendip DC have expressed concern that they are not communicating as well as they might be with its Parishes. The Parish Forum will be held this Thursday and will be an ideal opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas.

District Cllr Ham said that:

- Central Government funding is down by 40%. Last year there was an underspend by Mendip DC of £900K. Over the next 5 years further savings of £5.5million will need to be made. Last year the 5 Council Contract was set up there has been some tweaks but

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this has saved 11%.

- The Core service contract has just been revised. Shape Mendip will in the near future start to bring in revenue.
- Transformation - £17million has been borrowed to invest in assets which will bring in over £800K, which is a return of 8%. The assets will increase in value and will be valued annually.
- Peer review – Mendip DC was recognised as a forward-thinking Council but it was noted that it could communicate better. A new strategy has been implemented and it is hoped that the Parish Forum which will take place on Thursday will go some way to improving dialogue.
- Enforcement – Clearing fly tipping across the district is costing £100K per year.
- Glastonbury Festival – 2017 was a successful year for the festival but with it comes a big increase in workload for MDC which was not helped by the general elections taking place at the same time which really stretched the work force.
- Equalities & Migrant Forum – Cllr Ham has been involved with the Syrian refugees and migrant workers.
- Changing places – The Frome facility was the third to open in Mendip DC and offers changing facilities to disabled youths and adults. The Wells facility will be opening soon.
- The Shape Mendip Lottery – This has not been as successful as they had hoped but has still raised 25K for local charities.
- The Local Plan Part II – Part I will have to start again soon. Further updates will follow soon.
- District Cllr Ham is also directly involved with the Citizens Advice Bureau, YMCA and the Drainage board.
- As a Governor of Kilmersdon School he thanked the Parish Council for the grants donated during the year which had been much appreciated.
- District Cllr Ham thanked the Council and parishioners for their continued support.

A member of the public asked if road narrowing signage could be installed on Charlton Road as it leaves the village. It was agreed that this would be raised with Highways and flagged up to County Cllr Mike Pullin.

Simon Brand said that he wanted to thank both District Cllr Ham and Townsend for the regular attendance at the Holcombe Parish Council meetings and for keeping us informed and for supporting us.

7 Somerset County Councillor's Report

County Cllr Mike Pullin did not attend and no report had been received.

8 PCSO Report

PCSO Michael Storey reported that the overall amount of crime and service calls received from the Holcombe area between 01/04/2017 – 31/03/2018 were – 92.

These calls were for the following –

- Criminal Damage
- Burglary
- Non-Dwelling Burglary
- Theft from motor vehicle
- Theft of motor vehicle
- Anti-Social-Behaviour
- Public safety
- Welfare
- General
- Traffic related – RTCs and Parking issues.

Many in Holcombe have shown their concerns over parking and speeding issues around the Holcombe Hill area.

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The Beat team regularly patrol this area and have taken measures by speaking to the owners of these vehicles causing the parking issues highlighted to us by members of the community. The beat team have placed cones at certain locations highlighted to us as causing issues; these cones will not be permanent fixture but to act as an education towards drivers on their choice of location to park their vehicle.

Any members of the community wishing to volunteer any time to this cause, please contact your beat team and will arrange the necessary training with CSW.

With the summer months now upon us the prevention of raves taking place on locations around the rural beat. This has regularly occurred in recent years, which has caused nuisance and concern for our rural communities. When travelling around the areas where the quarries are located, please remain vigilant and any signs of activity reference these events taking place, please call us immediately. Local landowners take necessary precautions to block entrances to their land to avoid groups gaining entry and holding these events.

Figures for Holcombe - 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

- Criminal Damage – 2
- Dwelling Burglary – 4
- Non-Dwelling Burglary – 3
- Theft - 4
- Anti-social behaviour – 2

Common calls we receive - information available online

- Lost property: to report lost property, use the online ReportMyLoss system. If you are certain your property has been stolen, you can find further advice on our theft pages, and make a crime report to us online. Read more about lost property.
- Lost dogs: your Local Authority Dog Warden should be notified if your dog is lost or you have found a stray dog. More information and contacts details on our dog page.
- Speeding offence: if you have received a Notice of Intended Prosecution (NIP) – i.e. been caught speeding, our website has information on the next steps you should take. Read more about speeding.
- Traffic: Check our traffic pages and social media for updates.
- Fraud and internet crime: Action Fraud is the UK's national fraud and internet crime reporting centre. You can contact Action Fraud if you need to report fraud.

If a crime is occurring now, or has just happened, call 999. If not, tell us about it via our online secure reporting form www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

The next PACT meeting – Frome Rural PACT meeting on Tuesday 5th June at The Mells Tythe Barn, Mells, BA11 3PJ. At 7:30 pm.

Current PACT priorities:

Anti-social Behaviour within our rural villages - Anti-social behaviour affects and hurts our communities. In the last three-month period ASB has decreased but our rural villages would like this made a PACT priority to keep this decrease as a trend.

Speeding through the villages - Speeding in the villages on both rural beats of Frome has been highlighted as a priority. The Speeding causes safety concerns amongst the communities. We have many active Community speed watch schemes in operation in the villages.

Inconsiderate parking - Inconsiderate parking around the villages has been highlighted as a priority. Inconsiderate parking causes safety concerns and nuisance for the communities of our villages. Areas have been identified and are part of our patrol plan and warnings will be issued, self-education by our various parishes would be greatly appreciated.

Non-Dwelling Burglaries - has been highlighted as a major concern within the rural community of Frome. This was raised at the latest PACT meeting and chosen as a priority.

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Fly – Tipping - Fly-tipping is on the rise. Fly-tipping is defined as the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a licence to accept it'. Tipping a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag full of rubbish in our rural locations causes a local nuisance and makes our rural communities look ugly and run down.

These priorities can be seen on the Frome Rural North Beat pages on the force website - www.avonandsomerset.police.uk clicking onto your area.

Your Beat team contact details the Beat manager, PC 4226 John Gould, mobile – 07889 658576 john.gould@avonandsomerset.police.uk

PCSO 8755 Mike Storey, mobile – 07889 655371, michael.storey@avonandsomerset.police.uk
These numbers are not to be used to report any crime using the beat teams contact details, as it cannot be guaranteed that we are on duty at that time.

9 Reports from Village Organisations

9.1 Holcombe Playing Field

Russ Stokes reported that

"Since the Holcombe Village Playing Field Committee formed in September we have been working hard.

- We have had a full play equipment inspection and acted upon issues raised and are continuing to ensure the equipment is regularly inspected and issues resolved. There is now a new sign as advised from the inspection with guidelines and contact details. Maintenance of the playing field is also ongoing.
- The barn has been cleared and a teddy bears picnic event was held.
- The committee are supporting Simon with organising the summer gala.
- Residents have been very positive about the proposal of a track/path around the field and local companies have been written to requesting support to fund this project.
- Mendip Christmas tree farm will also provide a sapling tree to plant this spring/summer which will take some time to grow but we are hoping it will become a much-loved member of the community! We plan to organise events around this in the future!
- We hope to organise a bigger Christmas light switch on this year.
- At present we are looking for more members to join the team!"

9.2 Welcome Club

The Clerk had received a message from Barbara Hill who is the Secretary of the Welcome Club. She said that she had only received the invitation a couple of days prior to the meeting and was unable to attend. It had been hoped that the report would be received in time for the meeting but it was not.

9.3 Holcombe Ladies Evening Club Report 2017-18

Liz Perkins had sent her apologies but Margaret Reed attended and reported as follows:

"We have had another successful year with many speakers and events. Speakers have included:

- a talk about Wessex Water, we now know where all our sewerage goes!
- Shaun McCormack came to tell us what it is like being a member of the Yeoman of the Guards and
- Greg Elliott our local vet gave a lovely talk about pets.

Some of the profits from the whist drive in May and a quiz open to all at the end of June. Some of the profits from this were sent to Dorothy House. We have also sent a donation to Water Aid. The end of season dinner in July was held at the Horse and Jockey. In August the date of "T" on the Lawn which was planned to have in Diana's garden it poured with rain all day so was held in the village hall.

Our last speaker of 2017 was Cheryl Twist from Paulton who makes and sells speciality chocolates. We joined forces with the Chilcompton wives group for our Christmas Party and also

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invited guests from other villages. For the entertainment some members of the committee performed a short amusing sketch and also Harriet Brixey came to sing for us.

January 2018 our New Years dinner was held at the Old Down Inn. Speakers so far this year have been:

- Tony Dyson who talked about his adventures in Uzbekistan.
- David Moon from Frome gave a lovely relaxing talk about the national Garden Scheme in slide form all set to music.
- We have also had a demonstration on basket making.

We currently have 25 members registered on our books so here's hoping for another successful year this coming year".

9.4 Village Hall Committee

Steve Blount sent his apologies but sent the following report:

"Our AGM was held 20th March 2018 with the full Committee in attendance.

Thanks to all members, their families and friends for their continuing support in maintaining the Hall and running fundraising events.

All Committee members are volunteers whose aim is the maintenance and improvement of the Village Hall to ensure its continued availability and long-term benefit for future generations.

Much has been achieved in the past year, notably the repair/replacement of all the sloping roof surfaces.

Exploratory work on the SE corner with the replacement/strengthening of the underlying structure which sets us up for the rolling program to remove all external panels, repair/treatment of damaged structure and replacement panelling etc.

We must apologise to user groups for their understanding for any disruption caused to the normal availability of the Hall during some of this essential major work.

Fundraising this year has been from Hall Hire, Barn Dance, the highly successful Big Breakfast Club and a welcome donation from the Parish Council towards the structural work.

Our thanks again to Mr. Dave Sprinks, his family and friends who donated the entire income raised by the Glastonbury Pylon Team solely for the Village Hall, without their very generous support we would not be able to undertake some of the major maintenance work items.

We look forward to another busy year."

9.5 Holcombe Gala

The Committee formed last year and is made up of Simon Brand plus 2 members with support from village groups and individuals.

The gala will take place on Saturday the 7th July 2018 from 12 noon to 5pm. There will be:

- Live music
- Demonstrations
- Stalls
- Competitions
- Dog Show
- Birds of Prey
- BBQ, tea & coffees and a bar
- Hog roast
- Baking competition

Simon said that he was looking for volunteers to set up and de-rig on the day and the day before.

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There are still opportunities for stalls, in particular crafts and produce.

A Holcombe themed quiz will be held the night before the Gala at the village hall starting at 7.30pm.

9.6 Parish Path Liaison Officer (PPLO) report.

Mr Tony Dyson reported that the footpaths are generally in good shape. Various tidy-ups have been done over the last year.

Mr Dyson confirmed that he was aware of some paths that need to be cleared as they become over grown and he will endeavour to do this with the brush cutter when time allows.

He requested that any problems should be reported to him so that he can investigate and endeavour to resolve.

9.7 Ladies Sports Group

Mrs Diana Spellward did not attend but provided the following report:

"The group meets on a Tuesday afternoon and currently has 12 members. The games that are played are various, would you believe hockey, curling, table tennis amongst others all played to our own rules. In good weather we enjoy boules and croquet on the playing field. A good cup of tea is the highlight.

Not just a sports group there are occasional social events".

9.8 Holcombe Crafts Group

Mrs Diana Spellward did not attend but provided the following report:

"About a dozen women meet twice a month to enjoy crafting activities of all types.

Over the last year we have made more special cushions for women recovering from breast cancer, we have lost count how many have been made. Also made were 60 knitted and crocheted hats for new born babies that require extra care. To commemorate Armistice Day, we made a wall hanging collage which was hung in the village hall during November 2017. At the moment for St Andrews Church we are making wall hanging and knitted poppies for this year's commemoration event. Again, a good cup of tea is enjoyed.

Both the Sports Group and the Crafts Group add to the wider community spirit and social activity within the village".

9.9 Kilmersdon Gardeners

Trisha Jordan is the Treasurer of the group and read the out the following report:

"This past year our garden club has continued with its monthly talks, which regularly attract 25 - 30 + members and visitors and takes place on the second Wednesday evening of each month, except December. The subjects have ranged from pure garden topics like:

- bulb selection and planting
- growing orchids
- a brief history of Dorset gardens

To nature topics like:

- Somerset's wonderful wildlife
- bees and
- Stourhead, lost features of the landscape.

One of our main events of the year is the annual plant sale which attracts many people from across the area. There is a free entry and has teas/coffees/raffles as well as plants. This year it

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takes place on Saturday May 12th 10am - 12.30 pm.

Our talks for the coming year amongst others include:

- a demonstration on Propagation and
- Gardens and Parks of Paris.

We also have an afternoon guided walk at Stourhead on Wednesday 30th May when we hope to see the rhododendrons in full bloom.

Our club attracts members from Holcombe as well as other villages around. Currently Holcombe members include Hugh Weeks (chairman), Trisha Jordan (secretary) Margaret Read (ex-secretary) and Pritam Blackstock (ex-chairman).

We look forward to another enjoyable year ahead and welcome new members and any visitors to our talk evenings".

9.10 St Andrews Church

Ann Gardiner-Bryan the Churchwarden attended and gave the following report:

"Clarissa sends her apologies as she is not able to attend this meeting. She collapsed in February with a viral infection and has been ill for some time. Whilst Clarissa has been ill we have had guest Clergy taking the Sunday services. She was able to take the Easter Service and is improving week by week, although at the moment she is unable to attend afternoon or evening meetings as she still not up to full strength.

We had the privilege of having The Bishop of Taunton, Bishop Ruth, to take our Palm Sunday Service.

It is with much sadness that we have lost two valuable members of our congregation namely Douglas Cartwright and Maureen Walker. We also have several members of our congregation on our Prayer List who are not in good health.

This year the Women's World Day of Prayer was held in St Andrew's. Members from both Holy Trinity in Coleford and St Andrews took part. Due to the snow we had to postpone the service from Friday 2nd March to Thursday 9th March.

Since the last AGM, with the help of the Support Group, we have raised funds for the Church by having two Beetle Drives, one in 2017 and one in 2018. A Spring Sale/Coffee Morning 2017 and 2018. A Gift Day in May, a jumble sale in September, a Concert in October, a Christmas Fair in November and Bingo in December. Unfortunately, there was no Village Day in 2017. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way organising or by supporting these events. This all helps towards raising the money for our Parish Share which last year was £10,923.00. This year it has gone up to £11,003.

Simultaneously we are also earnestly raising funds for the 'Loo Fund'. We have had a couple of Film Nights which were organised by Church Members. Also, Lynn Cox, the local hairdresser, organised a group to sing Christmas songs around the village. We would like to thank anyone who has supported us or given donations towards this project. Hopefully we will soon have raised enough money for us to start applying for grants.

All homes in the village will receive a hand delivered letter from St Andrew's giving them an opportunity to donate towards their Parish Church on Gift Day. This year it is being held on Saturday 2nd June and as this date is the 65th anniversary of our Queen's coronation we hope to combine it with an exhibition of items that celebrate royal events or charities that the Queen has been associated with throughout her reign. I am sure that Parishioners have a memento of this special day, a photo or a gift they were given to mark this or any other special occasion. Everyone is welcome to this event and further information will be found in the next edition of 'On the Map'.

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As quite a few Parishioners have never been inside St Andrew's it was decided to open the Church one day a week for anyone who would like to visit. The Church is now open on a Monday Morning from 11am to 12 noon. 'Come on in' where you will be able to have a free cup of tea or coffee, have a chat and meet your neighbours. Mums with babies and people with dogs are all welcome. This is YOUR Church why don't you take advantage of this opportunity especially if you are new to the Village or live by yourself.

The Church is also open on special occasions. Gala Day being one of them and last Christmas we held a 'Crib Festival' to which Clubs and individuals had bought their cribs for display for the public to view.

As from last year we are able to hold weddings in the Old Church. Last August saw the first bride take up this opportunity and this year three brides will walk down the aisle of the Old Church.

The film crew of 'Poldark' once again visited the Old Church for another episode of the production.

The Old Church is open for evening services on the first Sunday of June, July and August also a Carol Service is held on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. All are welcome to these special services.

As a Church we like to be out and about in the community. Some of our members went to the lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Playing Field. Sang carols in the Community Hall in Scotts Close and we were also invited to sing carols in The Duke of Cumberland pub. We also supported other Clubs' and individuals' events during the past year.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for all their valued help and support over the past year.

Feel free to come along to any of our Services in St Andrew's we hold them on Sunday and Thursday mornings. A warm welcome will always await you."

Mr Hirst explained that two graves from the 1st World War had been uncovered in the cemetery of the old Church. They have been cleaned up and are prominent for all to see. A Commonwealth War Graves Commission plaque has been erected at the entrance to the Cemetery.

10 Launch of the Community Project Fund 2018.

The Clerk confirmed that applications are available for groups to apply for grants. The amount available is £300 but everyone was encouraged to ask for what the group need, it could be a small amount or much larger but the Council are keen to hear about it and will judge each application on its merit. The money should be going towards something that will have a lasting benefit to the residents of Holcombe. The deadline for application forms to be received is the 31st July with cheques being written at the October Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 9pm when refreshments were served.

These minutes are confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Chairman _____ Date _____