

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

****DRAFT****

**Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Parish, which took place on
Tuesday 28th May 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

Chairman: Cllr Graham Crowe
Clerk: Clerk; Vickie Watts taking the minutes
Also Present: 13 members of the public

1 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Phil Gait, County Cllr Mike Pullin, District Cllr Philip Ham, Steve Blount for the Village hall, Revd. Clarissa Cridland and Ann Gardiner-Bryan of St Andrews church, Simon Field of Holcombe Youth Football club, Kath Simpson of the Ladies evening club, Jenny of the Brownies and Guides and Di Spellward of the Holcombe craft group and the Ladies Sports group

2 Approve minutes of previous meeting on Tuesday 17th April 2018 & matters arising

The minutes from the last annual parish meeting held on the 17th April 2018 had been circulated and were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chair.

3 Meeting open to the public

- Janet Reakes the Chairperson of the Welcome Club said that parking has become a real issue of late with some residents on Charlton Road being hostile to those parking on the highway. The Chair, Cllr Crowe agreed that this would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. Ag
- David Hirst said that he had been asked whether the Parish Council would install a mirror opposite the entrance to Mendip Garden to aid the negotiating onto Charlton Road. Cllr Crowe agreed that this would also be an agenda item for the next meeting. Ag
- Patricia Jordan asked if the kerbs could be dropped to allow access for a mobility scooter so that she can safely negotiate from Holcombe Hill up to the Holcombe Playing Field. At present there are some large kerbs which need addressing. Dropped kerbs should also be put in place allowing free passage across Stratton Road, Holcombe Hill, Charlton Road and Brewery Lane. The Clerk to liaise with Highways Department. VW

4 Chairman's report by Councillor Graham Crowe

Cllr Graham Crowe reported as follows:

"Good evening and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you regarding the Parish council's activities over the last year. The Parish Council has been busy and active on your behalf. We strive to represent you and your interests.

Two members have left the Council this year; Patricia Jordan and Daniel Owen. I thank them both, on your behalf, for their active involvement and enthusiasm. Of course, this means there are now two vacancies on the Council, and we would be delighted to receive applications for the posts. If you, or anyone you know is interested for the future, can you please get in touch with Vickie, or one of the Cllrs.

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.

On to some of our activities.

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Christmas tree. After a slight false start with a tree that did not survive last year's excellent summer, the new tree appears to be doing well. The Playing Field Committee have now taken on the Christmas lighting event, and I look forward to carols again this year. Many thanks, as always, to Steve at the Duke of Cumberland for providing the refreshments.

Gala. The PC took the lead in organising last year's Gala, under the lead of Cllr Simon Brand, supported by a small but incredibly energetic group of supporters, helpers and enablers. You may remember that in 2017, the Gala was cancelled due to a lack of willing organisers. The event last year was very well attended, and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Planning. The PC continue to receive 1-2 planning application each month. Our aim, when considering applications, is to preserve the character of the village. However, we must all be aware that there are many different styles of building. Our recommendations are not always accepted but we do work hard to appreciate your views. I would encourage those submitting or challenging applications to attend the relevant PC meeting. This will ensure that you and we are fully informed.

Speeding. Speeding within the village continues to be an issue that is reported to the Parish Council, but I regret that we have had limited success in making improvements during the last year. The problem is multi-faceted, but we have asked the Highways Department at Mendip for a meeting in the village, to look at the problem and have them suggest possible solutions. The Parish Council will then produce a strategy to take forward. Whatever the final strategy is, engagement of parishioners will be essential as any solution will, by definition, affect the traffic flow on the hill. This was not popular during the recent roadworks on the hill.

Unfortunately, the various plans to replace access to the CC Speed Indicator Device (SID) have come to naught, as the replacement scheme was never introduced. The PC could purchase our own, but they are expensive, and evidence suggests that a permanent installation has little long-term effect.

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 SW generates most of the evidence we require to justify speed management activity.

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 totalling £1000 have been allocated as follows:

Holcombe Gala	£500
Holcombe Village Hall repairs	£500

Small Grants totalling £1500 were distributed as follows:

Kilmersdon School	£300
Holcombe breakfast club	£300
Ladies evening club	£300
Welcome Club	£300
Holcombe Junior FC	£300

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

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We have purchased additional equipment to deliver the emergency plan.

We have made a number of small-ish purchases to address village maintenance and to provide additional waste bins.

We continue to maintain the Village Hall Wi-Fi. I believe this is well used by the various groups who use the VH.

Training. Several of the Cllrs have received County training this year. There are frequently courses available and we take advantage of them, where other commitments allow, to ensure that we are as informed as possible to represent you or to answer your queries.

Plans for the coming year:

Gala. The PC are organising the Gala again this year. Once again, ably supported by a small team of largely unsung heroes and several of you from other village organisations. Planning is proceeding well and I look forward to Gala day.

Budget. We hope to develop the budget further to enable us to project some expenditure over the next 3-5 years. This will allow us to project major expenditure and sequence development work.

Grants. 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.

PC meetings. The PC meets, by default, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall. The agenda is published in advance on the notice board by the Lychgate. You are all welcome and invited to come for some or all of the meeting to see what we get up to.

Thank you very much for your time."

5 Mendip District Councillors Report

5.1 District Cllr Townsend attended and reported that

"The whole year on MDC has been overshadowed by the local election this month which resulted in the Conservatives losing control to the LibDems, with our seats being reduced from 33 to 10. However, Philip and I were both returned, for which we are grateful, and we hope that the overall position reflects a dissatisfaction with Westminster, and that our re-election means we have got a few things right locally.

During the year I have been a member of the following bodies:

- The Planning Board, including visits to all sites being discussed by the Board, then seeking to make decisions that balance our need to provide housing and employment and at the same time protect the environment.
- The Licensing Board, including Sub-Committee work, working to protect public safety whilst supporting people such as taxi drivers and publicans to earn a living.
- The Scrutiny Board, which holds a watching brief over the Council's policies and strategies.
- Quarry Liaison Committees, keeping close to the activities at Halecombe and Wainwrights.
- KeyRing Lettings Agency, where I serve as a Director of this company which seeks to provide accommodation at the difficult end of the market. In this context I'm pleased to report that we have just secured £50k of Government funding to allow us to take on an extra member of staff with the sole aim of helping people out of Rough Sleeping.

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In addition, there are the continuous day to day issues with residents providing support on, for example, planning, benefits, housing, fly tipping and waste disposal and Highways issues across the four Parishes. Current Highways issues include road safety at the Coleford Co-op junction, speeding in Holcombe including the Charlton Rd junction with Charmborough Lane, and HGV problems along Whitehole Lane and Stoke Bottom.

For the future under the new regime I am a Substitute Member of the Planning and Audit Committees, a full member of the Licensing Board and still a Director of KeyRing Lettings. I look forward to working with Holcombe and the parishes of Coleford, Leigh on Mendip and Stoke St Michael over the next four years."

5.2 District Cllr Ham did not attend but provided the following report:

"With the elections just passed myself & Alan would personally like to thank all those that had faith in us and returned us as the elected councillors for the Coleford & Holcombe ward. However, the overall result will mean a new administration and different roles for most of us, all yet to be decided.

The result 22 Lib Dems, 10 Green, 10 Conservatives & 5 Independent.

The last year at MDC for myself has been very busy as a Cabinet member for Transformation, through partnerships, Re Organisation of offices, Investment programme. We raised in excess of £2million towards the budget and a longer term project - Saxonvale in Frome - has laid foundations for further progress, having bought the site in August and applying for a planning application last month.

A balanced budget for 19/20 was produced in February with just a 3% increase in Council Tax with no service cuts. Mendip has one of the lowest council tax bases in the South West. There are also budgets in place for 20/21 and 21/22. During the year the final consultation on the local plan part II took place and the plan is now with the Inspector and the hearing will take place in July.

The leisure contract is now free of subsidy and now pays MDC around 30k a year. This is remarkable as four years ago it cost MDC 900k per year.

The Core service contract is still returning good savings that increase every year, this has been remarkable since the living wage keeps increasing and when the contract was written this was not allowed for.

Markets within the Mendip towns have flourished over the last few years especially Frome Independent, Shepton Sunday Market and Street's weekly Market, with Wells supporting good markets on Wednesday & Saturday plus an excellent Xmas market.

I have chaired the Equalities group now for 12 years at Mendip, we have done a tremendous amount of work, including the 2011 act. We have now 4 "Changing Places" facilities in Mendip with 2 more in the pipeline at a cost of around 30k each, this is brilliant news from none 18 months ago.

The shape our future programme, that is, MDC staff and members working together, has progressed well with staff understanding why councils have had to change to stay solvent and continue to provide all the front-line services.

During the year I have continued to support the council as well as look after the electorate within my ward. Issues from planning, benefits and entitlements to fly tipping, rubbish collection, street cleaning to name a few.

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Shape Mendip Lottery is doing well with 22 x £500 awards made in March to Mendip community groups. As I started, we have just had an election so much change ahead, but I am always available when needed. "

6 Somerset County Councillor's Report

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

7 PCSO/Police Report

PCSO Michael Storey did not attend and no report had been received.

Chief Inspector Sharon Baker, Local Policing Area Commander, East Somerset (South Somerset & Mendip) had sent the following report:

"I hope you are all enjoying the lovely Bank Holiday, as I am working and the Bank Holiday provides me with a lull in meetings and emails, I thought it good timing to drop you all a quick update on what your local teams have been doing to tackle County Lines. Whilst the activity I have highlighted is over the last fortnight, it is typical of what they are doing regularly across nearly all of our towns.

We had a week of action aiming to disrupt County Lines offenders from operating but also aimed at protecting those most at risk. In South Somerset and Mendip alone we visited 47 households, speaking to individuals we know are targeted, we worked with colleagues in housing and social care to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures were in place for those at risk.

The visits led to the seizure of what we believe to be Class A drugs, and other items connected with dealing drugs. I have copied in the press release below, which can be found on our website and accessed via this link;

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/news/2019/05/county-lines-drug-dealing-lines-bombarded-with-disruptive-text-messages-during-week-of-action/>

We have had the support of specialist officers from across the force to help us tackle County Lines drug dealing, including patrols by our mounted colleagues in Yeovil. Other specialist units are less visible but are here helping us to catch those responsible. Our Traffic colleagues have been supporting us trying to find vehicles used by drug dealers, and while in our towns seizing uninsured vehicles they come across.

The additional officers helped us increase our pro-active capability and numerous searches and arrests have been made as a result, cash and drugs once again seized, causing further disruption to those offenders. In addition to this we have carried out 4 warrants searching suspected premises responsible for dealings drugs in just the Mendip area alone.

I hope you can see tackling those intent on causing our communities most harm is a real team effort – and that includes you.

We actively monitor addresses and persons of concern, but obviously only when we know, and rely on information being passed to us from the public and professionals.

If you would like me or a member of my team to come and brief any groups or staff about County Lines or indeed any other issue you are worried about please just ask myself or a member of your local team.

Thank you for your continued support of our local teams."

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8 Reports from Village Organisations

8.1 Holcombe Playing Field

Steph Chorley reported that the path around the field will be going ahead. The Contractor had been selected although the work will not take place until after the Gala just to ensure that there are no disruptions on the day. The path will be made from rolled fine grit and will enable users to walk, jog or pedal around the field and will be sufficiently wide for wheelchairs or pushchairs to easily pass. It will also offer a safe alternative to negotiating Charlton Road.

Weekly play inspections are being completed by Mr Ray Smith, for which the Committee is grateful. Terry Dumbrell has completed a detailed inspection of the zip wire and is comfortable that it is safe and has recommended that the annual inspections are completed by Rospa.

The Christmas tree was successfully planted although just of late appears to be thirsty so any volunteers to assist with the watering would be much appreciated.

The extra requests for use of the car park have been successful with the Parish Council considering each application on its merit. A record is kept of the extra days that it's been used, and every effort is made to notify the neighbouring residents that it is being used prior to the event.

The Football club continue to be the only group currently paying for the use of the facilities but hopefully this will increase over the coming year.

The Community Payback team will be coming to complete 2 sessions in the village. The priority will be to clear and renovate the boules pitch and also sand and treat the field benches and the post and rail fences, which will be jobs well done.

8.2 Youth Football Club

Simon Field did not attend the meeting but did provide the following report:

"It has been a successful season, in which we have continued to run two teams in the Somerset FA affiliated Midsomer Norton Youth League.

Our under 10s team led by Darren Brooks have developed together over the last couple of years and continue to punch above their weight- presenting tough competition to a number of the big clubs in the area whilst continuing to operate on the basis of giving all players fair time on the pitch rather than selecting the team to win. They will move to Under 11s next year, but need to recruit 2 or 3 new players as they will be shifting from 7 aside to 9 aside.

Our under 9s operate the same way and have also done well. We currently have 15 players signed up – which is rather too many for the 7 aside format, but we are looking at whether we can run a development team next year alongside the existing team to accommodate the extra players. These teams will play under 10s next season.

The team recently played in the Larkhall Tournament and competed well against some tough opposition. I was delighted that they also won the Fair Play trophy, selected by the various referees. They will play at the Frome Tournament on 2 weeks' time, whilst the U10s are competing at the Westfield Tournament this weekend.

We have entered a new Under 8s team for next season, building on the work of Paul and Mike who have been running mini soccer fun sessions on Sunday mornings for younger players. They played their first friendly a couple of weeks ago, and are looking for a couple of new players as well.

For the first time in a number of years the club should have three teams running.

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We hope, next season, to have a couple more qualified coaches to assist. Plans are in progress to send interested parents on the FA courses so they can help out more closely.

We will continue to run the club as volunteers, at very modest cost to parents, in order to make football accessible to local children and would like to thank the Playing Field Committee for continued use of the facilities, and for the much improved grass cutting / pitch condition over the last 18 months or so."

8.3 Holcombe Brownies & Guides

Jenny had sent her apologies along with the following report:

"I'm really sorry, but I won't be able to make the meeting on Tuesday. Please accept my apologies and here is our report for the year.

The Brownies at Holcombe have been very busy this year. One of our assistant leaders has completed her Adult Leaders Qualification, it has taken her a couple of years to complete as a lot of work and training has gone into it

This year the Brownies and Guides took part in the Remembrance service at Holcombe church. It was really nice to see so many of our girls turn up and show their respects. The Brownies have also contributed to the Christmas and Easter displays at the church; the girls can be very imaginative. Our Christmas café at the end of November was a great success again, thank you to everyone who supported it.

This year has seen the Guiding programme change, the first time in decades. It aims to encourage the girls to try their best and work more independently as well as within their groups. We have just completed the Be Well section and will start on Have Adventures this term.

We have had a couple of outings already this year, ice skating just before Christmas and tobogganing just before Easter. The girls are making plans for what they want to do before we break up for the Summer holidays.

At the moment we have 18 girls on our books, with 4 on the waiting list to join when they are old enough. The guide unit is looking for another leader to help them on Monday evenings, if anyone is interested, or knows someone who is, please let me know.

Thank you, sorry again for not being able to make it on Tuesday."

8.4 Village Hall Committee

Steve Blount sent his apologies but sent the following report:

"I must apologise as I have not submitted a written report this year but the progress on the structural work to the Hall is self-evident and well on target in all respects.

Peter Dando Carpenter/joiner has other project commitments, so we are taking a welcome break due to restart 8th July.

Given the nature of the work we are undertaking we have endeavoured to minimise any intrusion for users but obviously apologise if anyone has suffered any inconvenience. We are fortunate that Terry Spellward his neighbour and Andrew our Treasurer are busy filling/sanding and painting the panelling.

I hope the meeting goes well and please convey my best wishes to everyone there."

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8.5 Welcome Club

Janet Reakes the Chair for the Welcome Club attended the meeting and gave the following report:

"The Welcome Club meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and is well attended. At present we have 50 members, ages ranging from 65 to 90's. We have recently celebrated our 43rd birthday and still have 4 of our founder members attending! We are very lively and friendly group and often individual members will say 'if they didn't come to Welcome Club then we wouldn't go anywhere'. So, we feel we are fulfilling a need for the community and surrounding areas.

Our programme over the last year has involved several speakers i.e. Wiltshire Farm Foods, Chiropractor Ben Gait, TSB, informing members ways in which fraudsters will access debit / credit cards, and how to always be aware of anything out of the ordinary when using their bank card.

We have had several quizzes, which the members enjoy. Also, a themed Afternoon (Ladies Day at the Races) last year. We had a trip out for a fish and chip lunch, also a trip to Whitchurch Garden Centre and lunch.

Last Autumn we had the Annual Harvest Lunch followed by an Auction sale of fresh produce, which members kindly donate. All proceeds from this go to our chosen charity, which at present is Dorothy House Foundation.

In January we had a New Year's Party and also our annual Hyacinth Competition.

We always involve the Members in Programme planning asking for ideas and requests so we do our best to cover their wishes.

We are very pleased to receive a Grant from the Holcombe Parish Council, which enabled us to purchase a new stainless serving trolley as the one we were using had patches of rust appearing through the chipped enamel. It was very much appreciated by the members.

Our members enjoy coming to their club but we have a major concern over parking! Over recent months some members have experienced verbal abuse from a local resident. At the last meeting which was our Birthday Party, a member had experienced verbal abuse and was visually very upset, she informed me that she had not blocked the driveway but parked like many others attending on the side of the road.

This is becoming a major problem, we understand that certain issues may arise for local residents e.g. parking, noise etc but the majority of our members are elderly and some have disabilities so they are unable to walk very far."

8.6 Holcombe Ladies Evening Club

Kathryn Simpson had sent her apologies along with the following report:

"I've taken over from Liz as the chairman of the Ladies Group. I'm afraid that I'll be at the theatre on Tuesday night so will be unable to give a report in person. So here goes with a written one.

The Holcombe Ladies Evening club meet on the second Tuesday of each month, we have a wide range of speakers and activities. Within the past few months we have had speakers on the Red Cross, Animal stories, Bodily Functions and Canine partners. We have made flower key rings, had a musical evening with a difference. As well as coffee mornings and meals at the Old Down Inn and a Christmas party with Chilcompton Ladies group.

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Our next speaker will be talking to us on the workings of the coroner's court on the 11th June. Starting at 7.30, any lady is welcome to come along and join us.

We are grateful for the grant from the parish council that paid for the new chairs, they are much appreciated by our members."

8.7 Holcombe Gala

The Parish Council have taken the lead in organising this year's gala which is taking shape. The gala will take place on Saturday the 6th July 2019 from 12 noon to 4pm. There will be:

- Live music
- Demonstrations
- Stalls
- Competitions
- Dog Show
- Vintage, cars and tractors
- BBQ, tea & coffees and a bar
- Hog roast
- And an animal themed baking competition

The Quiz will be held the night before the Gala at the village hall starting at 7.30pm. Teams must be a minimum of 4 per team and entries are to be made in advance with Simon Brand.

There will be a meeting on Thursday the 30th May 2019 at the Duke of Cumberland to finalise some of the details for the Gala. Everyone who is involved on the day or is able to volunteer is welcome to come along. The meeting will start at 7pm.

8.8 Parish Path Liaison Officer (PPLO) report.

Mr Tony Dyson did not attend or submit a report.

8.9 Ladies Sports Group

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

"We are 12 ladies that enjoy Tuesday afternoon sports. The games that are played are various. Would you believe it; 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!"

8.10 Holcombe Crafts Group

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

"We are still going well meeting twice a month. The craft varies from knitting to sewing to nattering. We made a good number of poppies for the Church for the Armistice, which were hung on the railing. The wall hanging is now complete and hanging in St Andrews.

We learnt another quilting technique called bargello, which really got the brain cells working.

Both groups have been a great success not only socially but also forming a community."

8.11 1st Coleford Scouts

George Kite attended and gave the following report:

"Currently the group is supporting close to 70 young people and have an expanding waiting list as our cub group is at full capacity. We run three sections at Coleford which include 6-14-year olds.

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So, what's happened in the last year you may ask? With a struggle that's still ongoing with the county council's solicitor we are pending our 25-year lease which will allow us to repair the ever-dilapidating scout hall. So, it's been nothing but fundraising and searching for grants, but in-between all of this we have had a busy year. We have entered so many competitions it's hard to list them all. To start we have taken the cubs night hiking to banner camp and to several group camps.

The scouts have achieved something really special this year as many of you may have seen on social media a few weekends back just to start. They not only won the district cooking competition, several camping awards but the district camping banner all in one weekend; this is due to their commitment and hard work.

The beavers or little terrors as they may be known have acquired a new beaver leader which has been a massive step for the group as this year, we have managed to obtain two new leaders from Mells group. The beavers have completed so much badge work this year including several community projects.

The group is meeting three times a week twice on a Wednesday and once on a Thursday providing a safe place for young people to meet others, learn new skills and escape their home lives. Due to the dedication of our volunteer leaders there were over 200 hours of adventure the children could have access to including evenings and separate activities.

So, what's for the future? The hall will be repaired, the group has district camp, jaws adventure camp, helping at various activities and fundraisers for not just the group but as many people we can support. I would like to thank the local parishes for their support, many thanks."

8.12 Kilmersdon Gardeners

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

"This year our club has continued to enjoy talks at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month in Kilmersdon Village Hall, ending with a Christmas Party with entertainment and an American type Supper. This year our club held its usual annual plant sale in May.

The AGM in February saw Hugh Weeks, from Holcombe, stand down as Chairman after devotedly serving for 10 ten years ensuring our club is viable for the future. Judith Stanford from Chilcompton took over the Chairmanship, Hugh remains on the committee.

Our club warmly welcomes new members and visitors to their meetings, refreshments are included with their admission. After the speaker there is an opportunity to chat to others, not forgetting our raffle and plant sales to raise extra funds for our club. This year saw an increase in the membership with 3 new members to date. The club attracts many local visitors including residents of Holcombe and surrounding villages.

Sadly during this year our club saw the passing of two of our long standing members. Tony Price, Vice Chairman, towards the end of last year; Tony was a dependable and long standing member. Colin Francis passed in January of this year. Colin too was a loyal committee member and the leading light of our Annual Plant Sale which he took from a stall at Kilmersdon Village Day to a hall filled with mixed plants on a Saturday morning in May!

Our Annual Plant Sale at the beginning of May was once more a very popular public event with a queue of eager buyers at least twice around the car park by opening time. The morning was an immense success; this was partly attributed to the rise in popularity of social media along with our aggressive poster distribution and radio publicity. Members, and some residents of Kilmersdon and other villages, made a first class effort to make sure as much of the space left by the plants grown by Colin in the past was filled. The donors of everything to the sale are to be congratulated with the buyers thanked for their loyal custom.

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There will be no meeting in August. Two potential garden visits are planned for this summer.

Talks have covered varied topics including Propagation of Plants, Gardens and Parks of Paris, Natural History of British Woodlands, Fragrant Plants and Sustainable Planting. Probably the most intriguing was 'Fungi in Fact and Fiction' from Mark Bullen who supplied plenty of samples and pictures. If our quiz choices had been for real most of the gardeners at the meeting and their families would have been poisoned!

8.13 St Andrews Church

Margaret Read attended the meeting and read out the report prepared by Ann Gardiner-Bryan the Churchwarden as follows:

"Clarissa sends her apologies as she is not able to attend this meeting.

We were very sad at the loss of one of our valuable members of Church, namely Mary Howard. Until she was ill Mary took an active part in Church functions and helped at many fund-raising events. There are still many people on our Prayer List with long term illnesses and also a few members who are now in Care Homes.

Holy Trinity in Coleford held the Women's World Day of Prayer this year with both Churches participating. Another joint venture with Holy Trinity was the Ramble in aid of the Children's Hospice South West last August which raised £1,168.58. As the Lent Lunches are usually held in Coleford on a Friday we thought it might be a good idea to have half of them here in Holcombe. Three lunches of soup and sandwiches were held in the Village Hall on a Thursday during Lent. It was reasonably successful and with this in mind we should be doing them again next year and hope that it can become a regular thing so that more villagers can attend.

Since the last AGM, with the help of the Support Group, we have raised funds for the Church in 2018/2019 by holding our Gift Day in June (£1,974.90), July – Gala Day (£220.58), August – Quiz Night (£438.00), September – Jumble Sale (£405.54), October - Concert (£447.00), November – Christmas Fair (£738.95), December – Bingo (£431.00) and in March this year a Spring Sale/Coffee Morning, (£650). On Saturday 1st June we will be holding our Gift Day. All homes would have received a letter giving them the opportunity to donate towards the upkeep of the Village Church and help to pay for the Parish Share which this year amounts to £12,654. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way by organising or supporting these events, it is much appreciated.

Good News with regard to 'The Loo'. The drains have already been laid and work starts on the actual installation of the 'Loo' plus various bits and pieces in the 100 Room on Monday 3rd June. We hope all will come and visit the Church after completion. We have not raised all the money yet but felt that as prices will only continue to rise to 'strike while the iron is hot' so fundraising for this project will still be ongoing.

Our Free Monday Coffee Mornings held from 11am to 12 noon have been an ongoing success. There are many parishioners that join us regularly. A warm welcome awaits you including children and dogs. It's a Village function so why not come along and have a free cup of tea or coffee and enjoy a chat. The Church belongs to the whole Village and if you are new to the area what better place to come and meet some of your neighbours. Please note that whilst building works are being carried out in the Church the Monday Coffee Morning will be held in the gardens of 'The Acorns', Brewery Lane, entrance next to the Manor.

The Church is also open on special occasions. Gala Day being one of them and this year we are holding a display of 'Childhood Memorabilia' on the Saturday and Sunday. Last Christmas we held a 'Crib Festival' to which Clubs and individuals had brought their cribs for display for the public to view; this year we are going to hold a Christmas Tree Festival.

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

www.holcombepc.org.uk

Clerk: Vickie Watts, Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
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Three weddings took place in the Old Church last year and another one has been booked for this year. It is such a beautiful setting for a wedding. In September the 'Poldark' crew once again visited the Old Church for another episode of this production. The Old Church is open for evening services on the first Sunday of June, July and August at 6.30 pm also a Carol Service is held on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. All are welcome to these special services.

In the Community we supported the lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Playing Field, we were invited to sing carols at the Duke of Cumberland who gave us £102 towards our Loo fund. In the Church we had coffee and carols on Monday 17th December and on Christmas Eve mulled wine and mince pies were available at the Monday Coffee Morning. As a Church we try to support most functions that are held in the village.

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

A warm welcome will always await you at any of our Services in St Andrew's whether you come once a year or once a week."

9 Launch of the Community Project Fund 2019.

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.

10 Meeting closed at 8.50pm when refreshments were served.

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

Chairman _____ Date _____