

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 5th February 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Graham Crowe (Chairman)
Cllr Simon Brand
Cllr Stephenie Chorley
Cllr Terry Dumbrell
Cllr Phil Gait
Cllr Trisha Jordan
Cllr Russell Stokes

Also, Present: District Cllr Alan Townsend, District Cllr Philip Ham and County Cllr Pullin

In attendance: Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes 3 members of the public

Gala 2019

Refreshments – Cllr Chorley to book ice cream van and clarify whether the Duke is happy to provide a bar on the day, and supply the hog roast. SC

Entertainment – Dan Owen has resigned from the Council but it is not sure whether he will continue to help with the entertainments for the Gala. Cllr Brand said that the bands need booking and groups for demos.

Clerk to: VW

- Book medical cover with Dave Sprinks and establish cost.
- Email Cllr Brand with contact details for supplier of a sound system.
- Speak with Dan Owen to establish if he intends to continue to support the Gala
- Continue to try and secure more support for manpower from local Sea Cadets and school PTA's

Cllr Brand said that a local resident had contacts and had offered to put in a request for a fly over from RNAS Yeovilton on the day. It was agreed that this would be a great idea. SB

The new 4 x 4 gazebo has been purchased using the Parish Council grant and another 4 x 4 gazebo has been booked. It was agreed that Cllr Brand would liaise with Joe Button who has in the past agreed to supply a marquee free of charge on the day. This will provide essential cover from inclement weather if we are less fortunate than in 2018. SB

Sponsorship – Cllr Dumbrell and Cllr Gait confirmed that they are making good progress with writing to potential donors.

Cllr Ham stated that the Mendip District Council Community Fund is open and welcomes applications from local groups. The Gala could be a good candidate. Cllr Brand to apply. SB

1 Public forum.
There were no points raised.

2 Apologies for absence
Cllr Sue Robinson and PCSO Michael Storey had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

The Clerk said that a letter of resignation had been received from Cllr Owen. Clerk to notify Mendip District Council. In light of the pending Election it was agreed that it may not immediately be worth advertising the vacancy. VW

3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations
There were none.

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4 Reports

4.1 County Council Report

County Cllr Pullin said that he was concerned for Holcombe Hill during the recent snow and ice. He said that he had been highlighting the plight of the parishioners and would ask that letters/emails be sent to the Senior leader Allen Jones using his email agjones@somerset.gov.uk regarding the issues on Holcombe Hill relating to speeding and gritting.

Cllr Pullin said that he was aware that there had been little progress over the recent years regarding speeding. Cllr Brand said that it would be helpful to know what the options are for traffic calming and how much the options might cost. The funding for a potential scheme could then be considered by the Council. Cllr Pullin will continue to press the Highways team to arrange a visit to the village with District Cllrs and Parish Council representatives to highlight the concerns.

Cllr Pullin said that the finances for Somerset County Council were looking much more stable.

Cllr Philip Ham who is also a Somerset County Cllr said that he and Cllr Nigel Taylor have been pursuing the idea of the quarries buying a gritting lorry from SCC with the view of them taking on the responsibility for gritting specific routes to help the quarries but also the local villages. A meeting with the quarries is planned for next week to discuss some of the information that has been gleaned from the Somerset highways department regarding insurance cover, costings for material, driver training etc. There is still a lot to discuss but it is hoped that the meeting with the quarries will be positive.

4.2 District Council Report:

District Cllr Ham reported that the Shape Mendip Lottery has been running for 18 months. There are now 60 groups signed up and benefitting from the lottery. £11K has been generated in the community pot and bids are now open for up to £500. The application forms are available online and decisions will be made by 8th March. Any local groups wishing to join the Lottery will receive 50p for every pound spent on ticket sales. It was agreed that Cllr Brand would apply for a grant for the Gala. It is possible that the Church will also be submitting an application.

District Cllr Ham confirmed that Coleford parish council would share the cost of a new grit bin at Charmborough Farm which borders both Councils boundary as well as Kilmersdon parish council. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Saxonvale, Frome – The 2nd consultation will take place next month. The first draft of the drawings has been viewed. Sustainable urban drainage issue will take some time to address. Land at Shepton Mallet and a £6.5million office in Bristol have been purchased as part of the assets to help with income in the future. When considering potential assets it is essential that they have quality tenants with a long lease. Assets are valued every year.

£1.2million has been provided to build a hydrotherapy pool in a Street school, which will be accessed by the school and members of the public.

Somerset Council are holding a consultation regarding footpaths classification, which could affect future maintenance. The Clerk to re-email to Councillors for comment.

VW

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

- Planning board – An application for a 3-pitch traveller site in West Compton was refused.
- Cabinet – Future of Weston General Hospital consultation. A & E only get 8 patients a night
- It was agreed that the quarry advisory group gives a useful conduit.
- The YMCA presentation currently receives £80K of investment from MDC
- Somerset Rivers authority – MDC currently contributes £300K towards schemes throughout Mendip.
- The recent survey conducted reviewing the relationships between Parish Councils and Mendip District Council highlighted the main issues as Highways, Planning & Enforcement. 87% of parishes thought their relationship was satisfactory or better. It was suggested that there be greater interaction at Parish Forums and there should be more training opportunities.

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- The end of 3rd quarter budget review highlighted an overspend of £140K on £16M budget which is expected to be reduced in final quarter. The draft budget for 2019/20 was presented and shows a balanced budget on the basis of a £5 increase to council tax, which is a 3% increase. Despite the reduction of Central Government funding the innovative thinking and actions of the Council have helped to present the balanced budget and no reduction to services.

- 5** Two members of the public attended to establish if there had been any progress regarding the Truespeed cabinet proposed for installation on Common Lane. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would request a site meeting with Truespeed representatives to discuss whether an alternative location can be found. VW

6 Minutes of previous monthly meetings held on 8th & 15th January 2019

The draft minutes for the abovementioned meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Chorley that both sets of minutes were an accurate record and so were duly signed by the Chair. The Clerk to upload minutes to the website.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

7 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 has ordered the equipment for the litter pick which will take place on the 6th April 2019. The Clerk has posted a "Save the date" message on Facebook but will need to prepare a poster in the near future. VW
- The Clerk still has to respond to the request from the miners Welfare letter seeking charity commissioner documents. VW

8 Planning Applications

2019/0065/HSE - First floor extension over existing ground floor, addition of 3No. windows and 1No. rooflight to the west elevation and blocking up of a window on the east elevation

Glasses Farm, Brewery Lane, Holcombe, BA3 5EQ

All Councillors had considered the plans prior to the discussion. It was noted that no complaints had been received by the Clerk or uploaded to the MDC planning portal website. It was proposed by Cllr Brand that the application be recommended for approval which was seconded by Cllr Chorley.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

9 Planning Updates

9.1 2018/2056/FUL 2 Sunnyholme, Holcombe

After corresponding with the MDC enforcement office regarding a breach of consent, they have written to confirm that:

"The removal of trees is not development unless it applies to works within a Conservation Area or a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). I have not found a layer on our mapping system to indicate that the land is either of as referred. VW

Therefore, no breach has occurred (developers may clear land, trees, shrubs, bush, undergrowth etc. in order to determine the best way of developing the land)"

Cllr Crowe suggested that no further action could take place.

9.2 2018/2889/FUL – Conversion of existing barn into 1 residential dwelling. Blannings Farm, Common Lane, Holcombe, Radstock,

Mendip District Council approved with conditions

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10 PCSO Reports

PCSO Mike Storey sent his apologies along with the report for January. Holcombe had received 15 service calls which could range from ASB, road related incidents, burglaries, suspicious sightings and abandoned 999 calls.

Holcombe:

- Burglaries – 0
- Non – Dwelling Burglaries – 0
- Criminal Damage – 0
- Theft from a Motor Vehicle – 1
- Theft of a motor vehicle - 0
- ASB – 1

11 Update on dog bins including agree contractor for installation at Holcombe Inn & Longleat Road

The Clerk confirmed that the concrete plinth had been installed at the Holcombe Inn and the new multi bin had been delivered to the location ready for installation which was to be completed this week.

The Clerk stated that having gained approval from Highways authority for the second multi bin to be sited on the pavement at Longleat Road it had transpired that a pre planning application (including a fee) was needed to establish if planning permission was required. The Clerk had emailed disputing the process and Planning Officer Lorna Elstob had agreed to look at the application without a fee on a one-off basis. It is hoped that a response will be received imminently.

12 Finance

12.1 Bank reconciliation – The Clerk had prepared the bank reconciliation which was checked by Cllr Gait after the meeting and was found to be in order.

12.2 Agree purchase of new grit bin to be sited at the Lychgate

The Clerk had circulated information and pricing for 3 different 400litre grit bins. After discussion it was agreed that the Council would purchase 2 of the Glasdon grit bins in black which are currently on special offer at £131.72 plus VAT per unit delivered.

VW

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

The bins will be sited at the Lychgate at the main Holcombe cross roads and at an agreed location near Charmborough farm and the junction. This site has been particularly bad during the recent snow and ice with complaints received from 2 parishioners. As Charmborough Farm borders Holcombe, Coleford and Kilmersdon parishes, the Clerk will seek a contribution towards the bin from these Councils. Cllr Ham had already confirmed earlier in the meeting that Coleford would contribute.

VW

12.3 Payments:

The following payments were read out for approval:

Vickie Watts – Clerk Salary for January £312.31 & expenses of £25.46	£337.77
Fosseway Tree Services – Jubilee Gardens	£384.00
Tony Dyson – notice board repair	£10.28
Vickie Watts - Printer	£49.99

It was proposed by Cllr Stokes and seconded by Cllr Gait that the above payments be approved. The Cheques were duly signed by Cllr Chorley and Cllr Dumbrell.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstention

13 Procedure following Death of a Senior Figure

It was agreed that this should be adjourned until the March meeting. In the interim the Clerk to investigate where a book of condolence could be purchased and how much it will cost.

Ag
VW

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14 Update on General Data Protection Regulations

The Clerk had made substantial progress with the required policies which had been emailed to Cllr Gait for review. Adjourn until the March meeting.

PG
Ag

Cllr Jordan left the meeting 21.11hrs

15 External meetings to attend and reports on meetings attended

Frome Town Council – Climate Emergency & Fuel poverty event – 15/02/19
Parish Forum at MDC 28/02/19 at 6.30pm held at the Council Chambers.

16 Councillor Reports/Updates

(Village Hall, Playing Field, Highways, Cemetery, Footpaths, Speedwatch, SALC etc)

16.1 Highways including update on

1. Extending the 30mph zone on Brewery Lane – This is ongoing.
2. Discuss options for installing a mirror to ease negotiating from Common Lane – Somerset Highways have refused the request. It was agreed that the council should monitor the junction and try to record any incidents or accidents encountered on the road for future evidence.
3. Consider improving speed limit signage – This will be part of the ongoing discussions.

VW

16.2 Village Hall

Cllr Chorley reported that the committee met on 22/01/19. The Breakfast club will start again on the 11th May. The January one-off breakfast made £198 profit for the hall. The Hall has been booked for the Gala weekend.

The committee asked whether a sign to show the location of the defibrillator could be displayed in and outside the Village Hall. Cllr Chorley has made enquiries into a pack of 5 A5 signs and a price is to follow. The next meeting will take place on the 28th March.

16.3 Playing Field

Cllr Stokes confirmed that the committee met on 23/01/19. Amie Hood has been nominated as acting chair. The committee still working hard towards resolving the banking issues. Further quotes have been sought for labour only installation of the path around the playing field. Rick Massey has agreed to provide the required materials. Once these are in the committee will look to make a final decision as to whether to progress with the path. The Christmas lights switch on will take place on 1st of December 2019.

- 16.4 Cemetery** – The Clerk had received a quote of £80 from Ben Watts-Hewson for the removal of the moles at the Cemetery but it was not clear as to whether this was a one-off payment so the Clerk will clarify. Cllr Crowe proposed that Ben should be instructed if the fee was up to a maximum of £100, which was seconded by Cllr Brand.

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstention

17 Correspondence

A letter had been received from a resident concerned with the set up for Internet Banking. The Clerk to write to confirm the process and the safety measures which have been put in place to minimise the risk.

18 Reports and items for next meeting

The Clerk to establish if Dan Owen is to step down from both the Council and the Gala or whether he will continue to progress with organising the entertainment for the Gala and report back to Councillors.

Cllr Crowe gave his apologies for the next meeting.

VW

19 Dates for next meetings

Tuesday 5th March 2019 – Parish Council meeting
Tuesday 2nd April 2019 – Parish Council meeting

Meeting finished 21.25hrs