

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

**DRAFT Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Graham Crowe (Chair)
 Cllr Phil Gait
 Cllr Simon Brand
 Cllr Stephenie Chorley
 Cllr Terry Dumbrell
 Cllr Robert Mitchell
 Cllr Sue Robinson

In attendance: The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes and 1 member of the public

Public forum.

PF1 Reports of parking on Holcombe Hill outside the old Post Office have been receive, which cause poor visibility when accessing Holcombe Hill from Common Lane. It was asked whether white lines could be applied to the road? Clerk to liaise with Highways and highlight the issue with the PCSO. VW

PF2 A complaint had been received about a number of satellite dishes which had been fitted to the front of the Hastoe Houses on Longleat Road, which apparently breaches the planning permission conditions. Cllr Chorley to advise the parishioner to speak directly with Hastoe housing who own the properties in the first instance. SC

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Anne Golledge, Cllr Russell Stokes, District Cllr Ham, District Cllr Townsend and County Cllr Pullin had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

There were none.

4 Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on 3rd December 2019

The draft minutes for the abovementioned meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Chorley that the minutes were an accurate record so were signed by the chairman Cllr Crowe. The Clerk to upload minutes to the website. VW

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

5 Action points from last meeting and matters arising.

All actions have been completed or were to be discussed during this meeting.

6 Planning Applications

2019/2882/CLE - Application for a certificate of lawful existing development for residential dwelling house use class (C3). Paddock Lodge, Lane Off Holcombe Hill, Holcombe. Councillors had considered the application prior to discussion. It was proposed by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Robinson that the application should be recommended for approval on the basis that we have no reason to believe that the applicant has not told the truth within the application.

A vote was taken with 3 in favour of supporting the proposal, 3 against and 1 abstention. The Chair therefore had the casting vote which was in favour of recommending approval.

Vote: 3 For, 3 Against & 1 Abstentions

Chairman had casting vote which took it to 4 For, 3 Against & 1 Abstentions

Clerk to notify the MDC planning officer of the decision and ask why the neighbours were not contacted for consultation on this application. VW

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

7 Planning updates

2019/2758/FUL Proposed erection of two bedroom dwelling house vehicular access and extension of the public footpath

Briar Croft, Holcombe, Radstock, BA3 5DF

Mendip District Council approved with conditions

The Clerk said that application 2020/0008/TPO – Works/ Felling of TPO Trees at The Oasis, Brewery Lane, Holcombe had been received. The deadline for response was 27th January however the Clerk had requested that an extension in time to allow the application to be heard at the February meeting.

8 Update on the application for the Flag Pole and discussion on any changes if required

Cllr Dumbrell confirmed that the planning application for the Flag Pole has been validated by Mendip District Council planning office. A fee of £366 was due however as we are a Parish Council a 50% discount has been applied. It was agreed that a cheque for £183 would be written tonight.

An ordinance survey plan was required as part of the application which Cllr Dumbrell had purchased at a cost of £21.60 which would be reimbursed tonight.

The Clerk confirmed that a credit account had been set up with the agreed supplier of the Flag Pole, One Stop Promotions. The cost of the flag pole was £1329.60. The recommended flags will cost in the region of £50 and it is anticipated that we will require 2.

The rationale for approving this asset is to allow the village to mark national and regional events or the passing of senior royals, statesmen and women (when directed) and local people who have contributed much to the village during their lifetime. Our village has a rich and proud heritage and the addition of a flagpole provides a powerful symbol to remind us of the past and to look positively to an even better future.

The Clerk to forward confirmation of the credit agreement to Cllr Brand to proceed with the order process for the flag pole.

SB

9 Reports

9.1 PCSO report – No report had been received.

9.2 District Council Report – No report had been received.

9.3 Somerset County Council – No report had been received.

10 Finance

10.1 Income - The following income had been received during the previous month:

Nat West	Interest	£4.87
HMRC	VAT claim	£1049.03

10.2 Bank Reconciliation - The Clerk had prepared the bank reconciliation which Cllr Brand checked after the meeting and found to be in order.

10.3 Consider request from Citizens Advice Mendip for Donation - It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Robinson that a donation of £500 should be made to the Citizen Advice Mendip during the financial year 2020/21. The cheque will be written at the April 2020 Parish Council meeting.

Ag

Vote: 6 For, 0 Against & 1 Abstentions

The Clerk will write to confirm that £500 will be paid in 2020/21.

VW

10.4 Discuss, consider and agree Budget and Precept 2020/21 - The Clerk had circulated the spreadsheet for the draft budget and precept 2020/21 prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Crowe and seconded by Cllr Dumbrell that the budget as amended should be agreed.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

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

The Councillors considered the proposed precept and how any change would impact on the parishioner's council tax bills for the year. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Crowe and seconded by Cllr Robinson that a 5% increase should be implemented which would make the Precept a total of £11,865. This would be the first increase in over 10 years and equates to an increase of the Parish Council element of the Council tax for a Band D property from £26.90 per year or 52p per week if the precept was to stay the same as last year to £28.24 per year or 54p per week. This shows that the true increase for the Parish Council element is £1.34 per year or 2p per week.

- 10.5 Broadband – The Clerk explained that the contract had ended which resulted in the monthly price increasing from £35.64 to £52.20. A new contract had been provisionally arranged at the rate of £33 per month on the understanding that it could be cancelled at no cost on 08/01/20 if the Parish Council did not agree at this meeting.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Truespeed to establish whether the Village hall can utilise the free for life deal which was offered at the time of promoting the service. A decision will then need to be made by the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman to ensure that the best deal is secured.

VW
GC

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

10.5 Payments

The following payments were presented for payment by the Parish Council:

Vickie Watts– Clerk Salary £382.36 & expenses £39.16	£421.52
Jeremy Weare Ltd – Grass cutting of Holcombe Playing Field	£1566.00
Jeremy Weare Ltd – Grass cutting of Cemetery	£844.80
Sue Robinson – Keys for emergency plan	£30.00
SALC Training – Responding to planning training £30 (SB) & Councillors essentials £25 (AG)	£55.00
Terry Dumbrell – Ordinance survey plan	£21.60
MDC Planning fee for flag pole	£183.00

It was proposed by Cllr Chorley and seconded by Cllr Mitchell that all payments should be made. Cheques were then signed by Cllrs Chorley, the Clerk and Cllr Dumbrell

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

- 10.6 Holcombe Playing Field Payments for Christmas tree light up event - The event was a great success. No payments were required.

11 Consider request to remove the kissing gate to the rear of Jubilee Gardens

It was proposed by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Crowe that the kissing gate would be removed to improve access. This will then be monitored to establish whether there are any repercussions or issues of misuse. E.g. motor bikes accessing the garden.

VW/RM

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

12 Discuss, consider and agree whether to purchase a speed indicator device

The Clerk had obtained quotes for a variety of Speed indicator devices which had been circulated to all Councillors for consideration. The Clerk highlighted that an additional package would be needed to ensure that the data could be downloaded and used to evidence the speeding. It would require either a laptop or android tablet to complete the download.

VW

It was suggested that the Clerk invites the supplier to visit to give a demonstration.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

The Clerk to seek training provider to give the "working on the Highways" training required by Somerset County Council and establish if our insurance will provide adequate cover.

VW

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 Consider, review and agree the Facebook policy

After a discussion it was agreed that it needed to be made clear that the Holcombe Village Facebook page is not run by the Parish Council and posts are not approved by anyone working in the capacity of the Parish Council.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

14 Resolution – Resolve that Holcombe Parish Council meets the criteria for eligibility for General Power of Competence.

The Clerk explained that the General Power of Competence gives councils the power to do anything that individuals generally may do, as long as it does not break the law. The power is not restricted to use within the council administrative boundary, it can be used anywhere. Principal councils are awarded the General Power of Competence as of a right and do not have to satisfy any eligibility criteria.

Holcombe Parish Council satisfies the criteria in that at least two thirds of the council hold office as a result of being declared elected. (Including elected unopposed) and have a CiLCA qualified Clerk.

In the event that the council ceases to satisfy the criteria then it must record its ineligibility at the next relevant Annual Meeting, if a council has commenced an activity through the use of the General Power of Competence it may continue with it but not commence anything new that would require the use of the General Power of Competence. It was proposed by Cllr Chorley and seconded by Cllr Gait that the resolution would be passed.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

15 Respond to the NALC Consultation: Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments.

Cllr Brand had circulated a response to the consultation to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Mitchell that the response should be sent from the Parish Council.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

Cllr Brand will email the response.

SB

16 Update on VE Day 75 celebrations 2020

The Clerk confirmed that after advertising for help to organise and run the Gala only 2 volunteers came forward. It was agreed that this was not sufficient and therefore the Parish Council would concentrate on VE Day 75 and not run the Gala 2020. The Clerk will write to the people that volunteered and thank them for the offer of help.

VW

A meeting will take place on the 14th January at Cllr Robinsons house starting at 7.30pm to progress the plans for the day.

ALL

17 Update on the IT upgrade

The Clerk confirmed that Geeking It Simple will be dealing with the migration of the emails on Friday the 10th January 2019 and therefore no emails should be sent during the day to avoid any issues with the process.

18 External meetings to attend and reports on meetings attended

- 08/02/20 at 10am til 1pm - Defibrillator Training. 15 people have booked places which is close to the maximum attendees recommended. Clerk to liaise with Dave Sprinks to ensure that numbers are not excessive. VW
- 22/01/20 at 10am til 3pm – Clerk to attend SALC training “Effectively managing your Councils Documents” VW
- 28/02/20 Parish Forum at 6.30pm – Mendip District Council Chambers

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

19 Councillors Reports

19.1 Highways – Clerk to chase up support and guidance from both District and County Councillors regarding the installation of 20mph limit in Holcombe. VW

19.2 Village Hall – Cllr Chorley said that the next meeting will take place on 28th January 2020. There will be a January breakfast on Saturday 11th.

19.3 Playing Field – The Clerk remind Councillors that at the December meeting it was agreed that the Clerk should set up a CAF account on behalf of the playing field committee, however as the interest rates are so low it was asked whether a different bank account which offered security and a better rate of interest could be considered.

Cllr Crowe proposed and Cllr Dumbrell seconded that the Clerk could chose a more advantageous savings account like Hodge Bank or Hampshire Trust Bank. Clerk to action. VW

19.4 Cemetery – The Clerk said that Revd Cridland hoped to have more news before the end of January on the granting of the faculty for the new path.

20 Correspondence

Somerset County Council School Admission Arrangements 2020/21 Consultation. Deadline 31/01/20. This had already been circulated on Facebook and the parish noticeboard.

21 Dates for next meeting

Tuesday 4th February 2020 – Parish Council meeting

Meeting finished 22.20hrs