

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 March 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Stephenie Chorley (Acting Chairman)
Cllr Simon Brand
Cllr Terry Dumbrell
Cllr Phil Gait
Cllr Trisha Jordan
Cllr Sue Robinson
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 5 members of the public

Gala 2019

Dog Show:

Mrs Chris Cox from Diamond Dog attended the meeting to say that they would be running the dog show at this year's gala. They will run 10 classes and a best in show class. They will provide rosettes, a trophy and the Judge from Natures Vet. Each class will cost £2.50. They would approach the same dog agility group to see if they will attend to run "Have a Go" sessions and possibly do displays during the day.

Cllr Brand said that nearer the time they would need to confirm what equipment and space was needed to run the show. Chris said that the way that the ring and gazebo were set up last year would be suitable.

Chris said that in the past they would run the event, provide the rosettes and trophy and the Gala would take the profit as the event would be a good opportunity to promote Diamond Dog group.

Entertainments:

Cllr Stokes confirmed that due to increased workload he would not be able to take the lead on the Entertainments although he was happy to contribute. This was considered to be crucial to making the event a success.

Cllr Brand felt that a decision needed to be made on how the Gala was going to look, whether there would be a theme and a Councillor was required to lead this action which was already delayed.

There were no volunteers. The Clerk said that she was happy to contribute but due to other commitments would not be able to provide the time to make the event a success.

GC/VW

Cllr Brand said that the Chairman should make a decision on how this will move forward. An extraordinary meeting may need to be called.

Sponsorship and advertising:

Cllrs Gait and Dumbrell confirmed that there had been lots of positive response towards contributing to the event with only 2 negative responses. There are a number of contacts that have yet to respond and it was suggested that everyone should take a look at the list and if there is anyone known to them personally and they can make contact in an informal way then that would be the preferred method at this stage. The list will be recirculated.

ALL
VW

Refreshments:

Cllr Chorley advised that the landlord of the Duke has confirmed that he would run the bar on the day and provide the pig for the Hog Roast. They have also offered to run the Duck race on the Thursday before. It was agreed that at this stage efforts would be concentrated on the Gala.

The ice cream van has been booked and the teas in Village Hall have also been confirmed.

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Financial report:

Thanks to the excellent efforts of Cllrs Gait & Dumbrell in writing to many local businesses and organisations requesting support, to date we have as follows:

Donations: £665 pledged (£100 banked)
Adverts: £135 (£30 banked)
Stalls: £25 banked
Misc: Ice Cream van pledged £50

This is more than last year. Cllr Brand also reported that the application for a grant from the Shape Community Fund has been successful with £500 being awarded. As a result, a professional sound system has been hired for the day at a cost of £513, which includes the equipment and the sound engineer.

SB

The Shape Community Fund Awards Ceremony will be held this Thursday 7th March from 6:00 – 8:00pm in the Council Chamber at Mendip District Council. Up to 3 members are invited to attend to receive the certificate and cheque. Cllr Brand confirmed that he would attend and another 2 are more than welcome to join him.

Miscellaneous

The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to Ray Smith regarding a collection of classic cars attending on the day. She had also received confirmation that some vintage tractors would attend.

The following people and organisations have expressed a wish to attend:

The Moleman
Phil Blatchford – spinning and weaving
Top to Toe dog grooming
Cancer Research UK stand

Daryl Emery – Has offered his electrical services on the day

1 Public forum.

2 members of the public attended to complain about the Penny's Lorries who are traveling at speed throughout the village and at times driving dangerously. It has also been witnessed that full loads are being transported without tarpaulin to prevent the load from spilling. On the 25/02/19 there was nearly an accident but unfortunately the member of the public had not been able to get the registration number. This was reported to Penny's transport office but despite the staff being helpful the next day the lorries were still travelling at speed. How long will this go on? Cllr Dumbrell said he believed that it would continue for another two years.

It was also reported that road through Stoke Bottom is in a terrible state with the road edge being severely damaged by the lorries pulling off the road which has caused a substantial drop which is damaging cars if they have to pull off the road. The road needs to be repaired. Cllr Townsend said that he would highlight the problem to Charlie Higgins from Somerset Highways during their next meeting.

AT

The Clerk confirmed that another resident had attended prior to the meeting. He had also raised concern about the Penny's lorries speeding through the village. He has already made a complaint directly to the company.

It was agreed that the complainant would write to Penny's Haulage and send a copy to the Parish Council Clerk, who will also write directly about both the condition of the road and dangerous driving.

VW

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Graham Crowe, District Cllr Ham and PCSO Michael Storey had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

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3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

There were none.

4 Minutes of previous monthly meetings held on 5th February 2019

The draft minutes for the abovementioned meeting had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Dumbrell that the 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

5 Action points from last meeting and matters arising.

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

- The proposed location for the Truespeed cabinet. The Clerk had spoken to Tony Najdoski of Truespeed who confirmed that it was Mendip District Council that proposed the site on Common Lane rather than Truespeed requesting it. He said that he had thought the main cross roads would have been more appropriate. The Clerk had pressed Tony for a contact name of who had dealt with this at MDC but he was unable to confirm. The general feeling was that this sounded unlikely. It was agreed that District Cllr Townsend would contact Tony Najdoski to establish who had liaised with MDC and would then establish who actually determines where it should be located.

AT

6 Planning Applications

6.1 2019/0221/HSE - Southmead Farm Charlton Road Holcombe Radstock BA3 5EX Proposed Domestic Outbuilding for Garaging and Garden Tool Storage.

It was noted that there were no public comments on the planning portal either in support or against the application. Councillors agreed that there was no reason to object so it was proposed by Cllr Dumbrell that the application should be recommended for approval which was seconded by Cllr Stokes.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

6.2 2019/0278/TPO - 1 The Chapel Longleat Lane Holcombe Somerset BA3 5DX. Proposed works to TPO trees: T1 - Copper Beech - reduce weight by up to 15% to lower limbs and remove deadwood. T2 - Copper Beech - remove weak infused limbs and deadwood.

All Councillors had considered the application prior to discussion. After consideration it was proposed by Cllr Stokes and seconded by Cllr Robinson that the application be recommended for approval providing that it complies with the request made by Mr Guy Blackstone in his comment on the Planning website along with the guidelines set by the Mendip District Councils tree officer.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

7 Planning Updates

Mendip Enforcement office have confirmed that they are investigating the activity at the land on the corner of Brewery Lane and Dark Lane.

Councillors raised concern for the land on the right at the junction of Charlton Road and Dark Lane, next to the coppice. This will be investigated by Councillors who will notify the Clerk if it needs to be reported to the Enforcement office at Mendip District Council.

8 Reports

8.1 PCSO Reports

PCSO Mike Storey sent his apologies along with the report for February. Holcombe had received 16 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 – 0

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Theft of a motor vehicle - 0
ASB – 0

8.2 District Council Report:

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

06/02/19 Licensing board meeting – Set protocol for monitoring unclassified films

08/02/19 Visit to Hinkley C – Huge scale and very impressive. At full capacity it will generate 3.3 gig output which will make the district carbon neutral.

20/02/19 – Planning board. It was a quiet meeting. A wedding venue on the outskirts of Wells was considered and approved along with a small housing development outside of Wookey.

District Cllr Townsend wanted to raise awareness that he was now attending the Mendip Country Practice Patient Participation meeting. It was reported that during this winter the footfall has been 50% higher than last year which was attributed to the Mendip Flu. Few complaints had been received about the new phone triage service. If anyone has any comments or issues that they would like District Cllr Townsend to raise at the next meeting at the end of April, then do let him know.

At the recent Full Council meeting the leader Harvey Siggs gave an update on the last 4 years. Despite losing Central government funding Mendip District Council has managed to maintain all services. He has had a loud voice for Mendip with respect to reviewing potential merging of local governments within this area, but it looks as though there is no preferred route and therefore things will continue as they are for time being.

There was a climate emergency meeting held where 50 members of the public attended to urge the Council to act. The Council struggled to establish what they might be able to do to make a difference but it was agreed that meetings would be arranged where further discussions could take place and plans made. It may be things like the Planning department encouraging the installation of solar panels.

Council tax has been formally agreed at £5 for Band D for Mendip 3.4%.

The Mendip District Council Parish Forum had improved attendance with approximately 30 people attending. Mendip District Council are planning to put together a training programme to be offered to Parish and Town Councillors on topics like Planning, which will hopefully allow greater understanding on both sides.

District Cllr Ham did not attend but sent the following report:

Saxonvale – The second consultation has taken place and a masterplan (as a living, moving document) has been signed off as a step in the sale and overage agreement with the developers. Outline planning application is expected sometime in April. The commercial areas are still being explored and interested parties are being listed and enquiries being dealt with. This will be a 70 million build in three phases and hopefully both Frome and MDC will be proud of it.

Council Tax – Agreed at £5 per band D for MDC (3.4%). A balance budget produced and agreed with no cuts to services. Although the opposition parties decided to abstain from voting they did not come up with an alternative budget or even a suggestion to improve it.

Capital Expenditure incentives – To agree 380K for feasibility studies to include infrastructure improvements such as:

- Glastonbury (Chickwell Street) bypass
- Walton Ashcott bypass
- Shepton Parkway railway – to link with Cranmore, Merehead then main line through to Frome and Westbury.

The idea being to have schemes ready for central government spending.

Climate Change Emergency motion – All Councils are being put to this motion and most agreeing that something needs to be done or at the least looked into. MDC are putting 100K into the officer

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resources to work with the other districts and SCC to come up with ways we can all work together to reduce our CO2 footprints within the next 12 years including planning (insulation) to single use plastics to suggested diets!

Shape Mendip Lottery Community Grants – There were 36 submission and we awarded 22 @ £500 each. It was difficult to come to the decision as all 36 applications were valid. District Cllr Ham confirmed that the application submitted by Cllr Brand on behalf of the Holcombe Gala was successful and the certificate and cheque will be presented at the award ceremony on Thursday 7th March from 6pm til 8pm.

It is hoped that as a result of the publicity more groups will join the lottery which can provide an income all year round.

8.3 County Council Report

County Cllr Pullin did not attend or submit a report.

9 Finance

9.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk had completed the bank reconciliation which Cllr Gait checked at the end of the meeting which he found to be in order.

9.2 Payments

Vickie Watts – Clerk Salary for January £288.29 & expenses of £25.46	£313.751
Glasdon UK Ltd – 2 x grit bins £316.13 & balance on dog waste bins £47.20	£363.33
Simon Brand - Councillor expenses Ink	£34.45
For the Playing Field:	
EDF Electricity for the Changing rooms	£28.20

10 Update on whether planning permission was required for the multi-purpose bin at Longleat Road

The Clerk confirmed that the planning office had confirmed that no planning permission was required for the installation of the multi-purpose bin on Longleat Road. The Clerk had instructed Noel House to complete the installation.

11 Update on the installation /relocation of grit bins

The Clerk confirmed that the new bins had been delivered to the Somerset Highways department who then delivered to the agreed locations and filled them with grit.

12 Procedure following Death of a Senior Figure

Cllr Brand said that at the recent Parish Forum meeting it had been requested that the form sent to Parish Councils be returned to Emma Plummer via the email address emmaplummer@mendip.gov.uk to confirm if the Council intends to have a book of condolence and where it will be available for the public to sign. Emma will also share a link of which supplier is able to supply the book. The Parish Council will then purchase and hold until required. The Clerk to complete the form and return by end of March.

VW

It was agreed that the Village Hall and/or Church would be listed as location for flowers/tributes and where the book of condolence could be signed.

It would be Government that dictated when this procedure would take place.

13 Update on Elections 2019

Cllr Brand picked up the nomination papers from Mendip District Council at the recent Parish Forum which were handed to each Councillor who wishes to stand for election. The completed forms should be delivered to Cllr Chorley by the 27th March. The Clerk will then deliver the completed forms to Mendip District Council before the deadline of Weds 3rd April.

ALL
VW

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It was agreed that as purdah will take place from 26th March until the 2nd of May the annual meeting of the parish currently arranged for the 16th April should be postponed until a later date to be arranged by the Clerk. The new date will be advertised in the next edition of On The Map.

VW

14 Update on General Data Protection Regulations

The Clerk has sent draft documents to Cllr Gait for consideration and agreed that it was best to keep them very broad so that there will be no need to change anything if we do start to provide allotments or similar.

There is still the Data Audit to complete and a Subject Access Policy. Cllr Gait suggested that the Consent Form be amended to have bigger line spacing where people have to enter data and add another two lines for the address. The Clerk will continue to progress.

VW

15 External meetings to attend and reports on meetings attended

Parish Forum – Cllr Brand & Cllr Gait both attended the event. Mendip District Council are putting together a training program for Town and Parish Councillors to attend. One of the main areas identified for training is planning and it was mentioned that they will invite the planning officers and use real life studies and use as an opportunity to discuss. They will devise a plan to hopefully educate Councillors with terminology and planning procedures. It will be a 2-way process to make the planning officers jobs easier but will enable Councillors to articulate arguments in such a way that the planning officers will understand.

Cllr Brand stressed that the training schedule had to be flexible for all to attend. MDC are taking it seriously that they need to improve their communications and are trying to address some of the issues. Cllr Brand felt we should welcome this initiative.

07/03/19 at 18.00 -20.00hrs - Shape Lottery Community Fund award ceremony

02/04/19 at 18.00 -20.00hrs - SALC training on External Audit process

06/04/19 at 10.00hrs – Village litter pick which will take place at the same day as Playing field spring clean-up. Cllr Robinson gave her apologies as she would be unable to attend.

16 Councillor Reports/Updates

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

16.1 Highways

It was agreed that the Clerk would press County Cllr Pullin, District Cllr Townsend and Somerset Highways for a date when a meeting can be held to discuss the concerns for Holcombe and press for a solution.

16.2 Speedwatch

The Clerk had had spoken with Mr Mulroy prior to the meeting when he had reported that:

- There is an average of 150 cars per hour rising to 200 during the school run. 10% of those are traveling in excess of 36mph
- Penny's lorries are driving dangerously and travelling over the speed limit, both of which have been reported to their transport manager.
- A lorry has mounted the pavement and damaged a tree on the hill.
- A vehicle is parking on the pavement blocking access for pedestrians causing them to have to walk into the road.
- There is a noisy motorbike that has been identified as traveling in excess of 70 mph on the hill. The bike is unregistered. It has been reported to the police.
- He will be attending the CSW meeting on Thursday the 7th March when he will be asking for the police to attend the village and support the Speedwatch in the village.
- He will be asking for the Police enforcement bike to attend the village.
- He hopes that the police will be providing him with a night camera which he believes will show an increase in the number of drivers breaking the speed limit.

Mr Mulroy is keen to see the safety of the village roads improved and has made contact with the Somerset Highways department regarding this but was encouraged to speak with the Parish Council.

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The Clerk informed Mr Mulroy that the Council were looking to hold a meeting with the County Cllr, District Cllr and Somerset highways to press for action to help calm traffic and improve safety.

The Clerk asked if Mr Mulroy would submit a report to the Parish Council from the CSW meeting and thanked him for giving up his time to complete Speedwatch.

16.3 Village Hall

Nothing to report. The AGM will take place on the 28/03/19 at the Village hall starting at 7.30pm.

16.4 Playing Field

Cllr Stokes reported that the recent meeting took place on the 27/02/19. A letter had been signed by the previous committee members to arrange the transfer of funds from HSBC to the new Nat West account, which will be delivered this week.

A cheque has been received from the Football Club for use of the facilities which will be banked in the new account this week.

Cllr Stokes confirmed that 3 quotes had been received and considered by the committee who agreed to instruct Mr R Symes to complete the work to install the path around the playing field at a total cost of £10140 + VAT. Cllr Stokes to establish if planning application is required. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council budget, which was agreed earlier this year allocates £9K towards the project.

Concern was expressed as to whether the installation would impede upon the Gala day, which would not be good. If this looked likely then serious consideration would have to be given as to whether the installation should be delayed.

Clarissa has agreed to lead Christmas tree light switch on in December (Sunday, 1st Dec at 5.30pm). Clarissa has also said that the committee can run lantern making again at the hall on the Saturday before at the Christmas fayre.

The AGM will take place on the 26/03/19 at 7.30 pm.

16.5 Cemetery

The Mole man has been instructed to review the mole situation.

17 Correspondence

Cllr Chorley said that she had been asked if the garden waste bins had been invoiced? On enquiring with Mendip District Council, she had been advised that they were sent out last week so should arrive this week.

The Clerk confirmed that during the month the Parish Council had agreed by email, for a Birthday Party at the Village Hall to use the Playing Field car park. The Clerk had updated the spreadsheet to record the usage.

Cllr Robinson had received a complaint about the condition of the footpath from Stones Paddock leading to the fields beyond which is very muddy due to the fact that it is constantly in the shade. Is there anything that can be done? The Clerk will report to SCC Rights of Way team.

VW

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been received from Hastoe Housing association indicating that a 3-bedroom house at Longleat Road would become available soon and did the Council know anyone with connection to the village that was in need of accommodation. The Clerk had advertised the property on Facebook and circulated to Councillors to spread the word.

Information had been received from MDC regarding the Local Plan Part II examination – No action required.

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18 Reports and items for next meeting

CAB payment to be made at the April meeting
Highways meeting with SCC

Ag
VW

19 Dates for next meetings

Tuesday 2nd April 2019 – Parish Council meeting

Meeting finished 21.45hrs