

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

In line with government guidance, recommended social distancing and self-isolation rules for those who are vulnerable during the Covid-19 pandemic, it was agreed that the June meeting would be conducted as a virtual meeting. This was achieved using "Zoom" software.

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Virtual Meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Graham Crowe (Chair)
Cllr Steph Chorley
Cllr Terry Dumbrell
Cllr Phil Gait
Cllr Anne Gollledge
Cllr Peter Jennings
Cllr Sue Robinson

In attendance: District Cllr Alan Townsend (Part)
The Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes and no members of the public

1 Public forum

An email had been received via District Cllr Philip Ham which suggested that the Parish Council might want to consider flying an array of different flags at the Playing Field Flag Pole. After discussion it was noted that the Parish Council only has planning permission to fly the flags of the United Kingdom and the Somerset County flag. These are currently recognised in the government guidance on when flags are to be flown. The Council will continue to follow this guidance, as set out in the Parish Council flag flying policy. The policy is available on the HPC website www.holcombepc.org.uk under the Parish council tab, section titled Policies. The Clerk to respond to the email highlighting these points.

VW

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Simon Brand and District Cllr Ham 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 4th August 2020

The minutes had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Chorley that the minutes accurately reflected the meeting.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

The Chairman to sign and the Clerk to upload to the website at the earliest opportunity.

GC/VW

5 Action points from last meeting and matters arising.

All actions from the last meeting had been completed or will be mentioned later in the minutes apart from the following points:

- The Clerk confirmed that One Stop Promotions who supplied the Flag pole had quoted £88.80 for a flag pole base cover; a further quote was £70 + VAT. It was proposed by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Jennings that the quote from One Stop Promotions be accepted and the Clerk to place the order.

VW

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

- The Clerk confirmed that Mr John Fellingham of Somerset Highways confirmed that he would pass on the request for dropped kerbs to be incorporated within the planning application 2020/1350/APP although he did stress that they would need to assess whether this was acceptable on safety grounds.

6 Reports

6.1 **PCSO** – No report had been received.

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

6.2 Mendip District Council report

District Cllr Townsend and Ham provided the following joint report:

Activities in the month have been dominated by the Coleford Planning application for 63 houses off Anchor Rd. Within a week of being notified that the Officer recommendation was to Accept we compiled a 28-page brochure to challenge his conclusions. The main issues were Mendip's wrong interpretation of current planning case law (the Holgate judgement), the harm to the countryside, ignoring Mendip's new Corporate Plan for a Greener Fairer Mendip, and most important to us, highways. The Brochure was hand delivered to all Members of the Planning Board and we explained the issues to them either on the doorstep or on their site visit. Despite our representations, Somerset Highways would not accept that the fact that their database showing no accidents within 500m of the site over the last 5 years is not a true picture of the dangers of the local highway network. The Brochure gave details of 32 separate accidents.

The decision of the Board to Refuse was tight, 6 versus 5, with 2 abstentions. The reason given was Harm to the Nature and Character of the Countryside, and highways was not mentioned. We hope this gives us a good chance if it goes to appeal as you cannot conceal the fact that over 6 acres of greenfield site would be destroyed, together with 150m of mature hedgerow including a 10m high healthy semi mature Elm tree.

The applicant will have 6 months to appeal.

6.3 Somerset County Council report

County Cllr Mike Pullin did not attend or provide a report.

7 Planning applications

Amendment to 2020/0242/FUL – The conversion of free house looking at the change of bar area and seating areas into new farm shop and kitchen layout. New side extension for added seating area and re shuffle of layout for micro pub. New first floor configuration to allow external entry and added second accommodation.

Duke of Cumberland Inn Edford Hill Holcombe Shepton Mallet BA3 5HQ

Cllr Dumbrell confirmed that the missing documents had been submitted with Mendip District Council Planning department hence the amended application. Upon review Cllr Dumbrell recommended that the application should be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Gollodge.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

The Clerk to advise the planning office

VW

8 Planning updates

There were none.

9 Discuss One Somerset Unitary proposals and agree response to the LGR report

Cllr Gait recommended that the Parish Council supports the 7 recommendations on the role of the Parish Council in the event of Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset which was seconded by Cllr Jennings. The Clerk to respond.

VW

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

An email had been circulated by Mendip District Council Leader Ros Wyke outlining the vision for a Stronger Somerset. There will be 2 dates 15th and 21st of September when presentations will be given along with an opportunity to ask questions. The Clerk will book Cllr Jennings in for 15/09/20 @ 12 noon and Cllr Crowe in for 21/09/20 @ 7pm

VW

It was agreed that One Somerset and Stronger Somerset will be agenda items for the October meeting when it will be discussed if there will be a need to hold an additional meeting.

Ag

District Cllr Townsend left the meeting 20.17hrs

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

10 Finance

- 10.1 Income – The Clerk confirmed that during the last month an additional burial fee of £344 had been received making the total income for the year to date £12829.50
- 10.2 Bank Reconciliation – Cllr Golledge confirmed that the previous month’s bank reconciliation had been completed and was in order. It was agreed that the September bank reconciliation would be checked by Cllr Golledge prior to the next monthly meeting.
- 10.3 Discuss and agree clerk’s pay review – NALC have released the new pay scales for 2020 which are to be implemented from April 2020. The Clerk is currently on pay scale SCP 18 @ £12.64 p/h – the new rate for 2020 is £12.98 which when back dated to April amounts to £43.93.

VW/AG

It was proposed by Cllr Golledge and seconded by Cllr Chorley that a pay rise should be implemented as well as the NALC increase which means the Clerk will go from SCP 18 to 19 which has a new rate of £13.24p/h. This should be back dated to April 2020 and means that a total amount of back pay is £77.53.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

- 10.4 Update on the installation of the Cemetery Path and invoice received from the Diocese Architect
The Clerk had received an invoice for £226.08 for the work done by the Diocese Architect whilst considering the plan for the proposed cemetery path, including visiting the site to report back to the Diocese. It is understood that the public notice has been placed at the church to consult with the public and providing there are no concerns raised then the Faculty should be issued by the start of October. The architect will need to attend at the start and end of work, which will result in further expense.

It was proposed by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Chorley that the invoice for £226.08 and any future architect invoices should be paid, to ensure that the project can be progressed.

The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with Richard Roch who had quoted for the installation of the path some time ago but he has confirmed that he is happy to hold the price and prioritise the project as soon as the faculty is received and work can progress.

- 10.5 Parish Council Payments:

The following payments were submitted for payment.

V Watts – Salary	£287.56, Expenses £28.17 & back pay £77.53	£393.26
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - Agreed donation for Poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday & VJ Day (to include a donation)		£50.00
Geeking It Simple – Monthly subscription		£47.78
Chedburn Codd - Architect from Diocese for Cemetery path		£226.08

Cllr Dumbrell proposed that they should be authorised which was seconded by Cllr Jennings.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

11 Councillor Reports / Updates

- 11.1 Highways – The Clerk confirmed that an update had been received from Somerset Highways representative Sara Davis who had emailed as follows:

Duck Warning Signs - Map with proposed locations had been circulated. All Councillors agreed that the 3 signs were in the correct locations. The Clerk to request that the order for the signs be placed.

VW

Relocation of the existing 30 mph limit at one end – Sara Davis will establish the extent of the limit on the TRO and look to re-site the one end from the middle of the semi-detached property further out of the village on Brewery Lane. At the same time the road markings would be changed to fit in with the new placement.

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

It was noted that it may not be possible to get this completed within the current financial year, but it will be addressed to see whether it is a possibility, but depends really if it has to go to public consultation again.

HGV's – Sara Davis said that this an ongoing matter and that she was grateful that engagement with several of the local businesses who run HGVs has been made. She went on to say that Somerset County Council has no wish to disrupt everyday business and finding a workable solution for everyone is not easy. As much as they can try to lessen the impact, there are times where logistically there are no other suitable routes available.

Dropped Kerbs – Sara Davis confirmed that there are options.

- Option 1 - Present via your County Councillor as a Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) for them to put forward on your behalf.
- Option 2 - It goes onto the list for dropped kerbs within Mendip or
- Option 3 - They are picked up within the scope of the footway planning on Common Lane, but she said that this may have already been agreed and therefore may not be available to you.

Sara Davis said that in previous years there was budget allocated to the installation of dropped kerbs across the County but this has not been available to SCC over the last few years. The SIS Schemes have also had its budget frozen and it is not known when the next round of scheme submissions will begin again. As with all schemes, risk assessments and feasibility will be part of the process and not all schemes put forward make it onto the ground.

Speed and volume readings - Traffic flow within the County has been down by at least 20% on data from 2019 but this is starting to regain momentum and figures are approaching normal levels once more. Sara Davis will arrange for these readings to be carried out. The radars will look at speed in both directions on Holcombe Hill, Charlton Road, and Stratton Road / Brewery Lane which will also take the approaches to the crossroads by the playing fields into account.

The Clerk confirmed that an email had been received from a resident with concerns over:

- Inconsiderate parking on Stratton Road directly opposite the Croft Road junction which causes problems for people coming out of Croft Road. It could cause a problem for an Emergency Vehicle trying to access Croft Road.
- Speeding on Stratton Road and other roads through the village

They suggested that the 30mph signs were inadequate and needed to be repeated. The Clerk said that she had spoken with Sara Davis and it is not simple to use repeater signs in locations where street lighting is in place, however the 30mph reminders painted on the roads could be repainted.

The resident also asked for the Police to send the Speed detection van to the village. The Clerk confirmed that she would contact the PCSO regarding this request and regarding the inconsiderate parking on Stratton Road.

VW

- 11.2 **Playing Field** - Cllr Chorley said that there would be a site meeting at the playing field on Wednesday 2nd September 2020 at 6pm with Rick Massey and Ryan, the contractor who will complete the work on the Playing Field path. This will be an opportunity to discuss the process of work and hopefully a start date.

The Church are hoping to hold a concert on the field but it is not yet clear as to whether this will clash with the installation of the path. Covid warning signs continue to be displayed on the field to notify users and keep them aware of how to stay safe. Cllr Dumbrell will assist with advising on how to ensure safe water supply in the changing rooms.

- 11.3 **Village Hall** – Cllr Golledge confirmed that the village hall is now open to local groups with strict guidelines and cleaning schedules in place to ensure the safety of the users. All users must use face masks at all times.

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

Cllr Golledge said that the Welcome Club had returned an amount of just over £112 which was unspent from last year's Community Project Fund. However, they said that they had hoped that the Parish Council might be able to help fund a new printer and a screen that could be stored and used at the village hall to shield anyone that might be in distress.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Welcome Club and ask them to submit an application to this year's Community Project Fund for consideration.

VW

- 11.4 **SALC** – The Clerk had circulated three consultations by email to Councillors. Cllr Dumbrell had circulated a draft response to the NALC consultation on Planning for the Future white paper, which all agreed was the only one to which the Council should respond. It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Chorley that the completed questionnaire would be submitted by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

VW

12 Discuss consulting with neighbouring villages regarding HGV access

Cllr Dumbrell summarised the purpose of the HGV questionnaire and said that the results were as expected and agreed that there was no benefit in pursuing this further. It was a useful exercise and documents the consultation. All Councillors agreed that no further action would take place until after the results of the survey were available.

13 Bus service across Mendip – MDC survey. Deadline for response 01/10.20

Cllr Golledge volunteered to complete the survey on behalf of the Parish.

AG

14 Discuss ways of reducing dog fouling throughout the village

This was adjourned until a future meeting.

Ag

15 Discuss how future meetings will be conducted.

It was agreed that at this stage the Parish Council meetings will continue via Zoom but will continue to review monthly. The Clerk to ensure that Parishioners are aware of how they can join the virtual meetings

VW

16 Correspondence

- 16.1 The Clerk confirmed that a request had been received from Forsey and Son Funeral Directors regarding the late Richard Rushton who had recently passed away at the age of 52. He had expressed a wish to be buried at Holcombe Cemetery. Mr Rushton owned and was the landlord of the Holcombe Inn between 2000 and 2010 and had subsequently lived at Midsomer Norton. His two children were Christened at St Andrews, Holcombe. All Councillors agreed that as a former resident and landlord of the Holcombe Inn he had a strong connection to the village and the request should be approved. The Clerk will notify Forsey and Son Funeral Directors.

VW

- 16.2 The Welcome Club had returned the cheque for £112.03 which would be banked by the Clerk

VW

- 16.3 Request to use Playing Field Car park – Cllr Chorley said that there are 2 funerals planned for 11th September and 18th September and although there are restrictions in place for the numbers to attend the funerals (Due to Covid) there is a possibility that family and friends may wish to line the road outside the church as a mark of respect. It was requested that permission be given for the playing field car park to be opened if required for both funerals. If the car park is not required it will not be used and therefore not recorded as one of the additional 12 uses during the 12-month period.

VW

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

- 16.4 Recycle More – Dates for question and answer sessions have been arranged to assist with the roll out of the Recycle More program. These are virtual events and will be held on 08/09 from 1-2pm, 17/09 from 6.30-7.30pm and 24/09 from 6.30-7.30pm. Councillors to notify the Clerk if they are able to attend.

ALL

17 Next meetings

Tuesday 6th October 2020

The meeting concluded at 21.47hrs