

**HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET**

www.holcombepc.org.uk

Clerk: Vickie Watts, Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
clerk@holcombepc.org.uk 07971 516916 / 01479 880428

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 6th February 2024 at Holcombe Village Hall**

Councillors Present Cllr Brand (Chairman)
Cllr Davies
Cllr Eade
Cllr Emery
Cllr Gait
Cllr Kerr
Cllr Roberts

In attendance: There was 1 member of the public present.
Clerk Vickie Watts taking the minutes.

1. Public forum

1.1 A member of the public attended the meeting expressing concern about the outline planning application ref 2024/0163/OUT for 75 dwellings off Anchor Road in the field adjacent to Brewery Lane. If approved, this will have implications for Holcombe, in particular the increased traffic on the highways. There is a public meeting in the Royal British Legion Hall, Coleford on Weds 14th February starting at 7pm when Coleford Parish Council will be considering the application.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Somerset Council for an extension in time and to be included as a consultee to allow the community to be consulted so that Holcombe Parish Council can then consider the application on the 5th March 2024.

Action: Clerk to ask Somerset Council for an extension and for Holcombe PC to be included as a consultee

1.2 The member of the public also mentioned that research by Coleford Parish Council had established that there had been 7 road traffic accidents on Charmborough Lane in 3 years; this number is more than previously submitted in the Gladman application. Holcombe Parish Council may choose to highlight road safety as a concern when responding to the application.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Govier and Cllr Stratford sent apologies, which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of interests and dispensations

There were no declarations made.

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4. Approve Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on Tuesday 2nd January 2024

The minutes had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Emery and seconded by Cllr Eade that they accurately reflected the meeting and should be approved.

Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention

5. Action updates from last meeting

All actions had been completed or would be covered as agenda items during the meeting apart from:

- Consider quotes to install 3 x new toughened glass panels in the Lychgate
- Cllr Brand asked if we had heard from Curtis Ilott regarding the additional inscription for the obelisk for Jubilee Gardens

Action: The Clerk was asked to contact Curtis Ilott for an update on the progress of the additional inscription for the obelisk from Jubilee Gardens

6. Reports

- 6.1 PCSO – PCSO Will Mortimer provided a newsletter for the area. No crime statistics report was available due to an issue with technology. It will be circulated to all Councillors once received.
- 6.2 Somerset Council – There was no report from Somerset Councillors. A response had been received from Somerset Council confirming that there would be no charge to Holcombe PC for bin emptying during 2024/25. If this was to be introduced in 2025/26 the Council would be given plenty of notice.

7. Planning Applications

There were none.

8. Planning Updates

2023/0167/VRC - Removal of conditions 3 (Delivery Hours) and condition 9 (Parking) on consent 2020/0242/FUL (The conversion of a free house into a farm shop and kitchen cafe. Attached micropub and side extension for added seating areas. First Floor alterations for 2 separate staff accommodations.)

Duke Of Cumberland Inn, Edford Hill, Holcombe, BA3 5HQ

Cllr Gait attended the Somerset planning committee meeting and spoke in support of the abovementioned application. The committee agreed that the delivery conditions should be changed to any time after 6am but that the driver must have no radio playing or engine running. The bins must remain in the current location (directly outside the pub) until the new car park is in use when they can then be returned to the corner of the car park. The full conditions are available on the planning website: <https://publicaccess.mendip.gov.uk/online-applications/>

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Cllr Gait stated that within the report provided for this application the planning officer Carlton Langford had referred to the 'new scheme of delegation for Somerset'. Cllr Gait requested the Clerk to write to Somerset planning to ask what the new scheme is as the Council was unaware of any changes.

Action: Clerk to write and ask for clarification

9. Establishment of a Community developments group

Cllrs Brand, Davies and Gait met with Mr Durkin to discuss establishing a group to review future developments in the village.

It was agreed that David Durkin would take the lead with up to 6 members including Cllr Davies representing the Council.

The aim would be to consider how the parish could be developed appropriately and sympathetically for the benefit of everyone in the future – this would be to support the PC in assessing the desired nature and scale of development in the village. This would include all types of development taking into account the effect on the local infrastructure.

The group would also liaise with the planning authority to determine the requirement to review/update the Village Design Statement and establish links with other stakeholders in adjoining villages. It is hoped that this will increase parishioner's awareness of both the positive and negative impact of development.

The group will report to the Parish Council on a quarterly basis. Cost of hall hire to be covered by the Parish Council.

Suitable volunteers will be sought with David Durkin deciding on the team. It was hoped that the group would hold its first meeting in April.

It was proposed by Cllr Brand and seconded by Cllr Emery that the group should be supported as specified above.

Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention

Action: Cllr Brand to call for volunteers in his update in the community magazine.

10. Finance

10.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk had prepared the bank reconciliation which will be checked by Cllr Emery before the next meeting.

10.2 Consider quotes to install 3 x new toughened glass panels in the Lychgate

Clerk confirmed that one quote had been received but further quotes with the lead time were required to include the cost of installation for consideration at the March meeting.

Clerk to send specification to Cllr Eade for him to obtain a quote.

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Action: Clerk and Cllr Eade to seek quotes. Agenda item for March

10.3 Parish Council Payments

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Vickie Watts – Salary & Expenses	£ 296.49
Vickie Watts – ASW Solar panel	£ 95.65
Holcombe Playing Field	£3000.00

10.4 Playing Field Payments:

There were none.

It was proposed by Cllr Kerr and seconded by Cllr Emery that the abovementioned payments for the Parish Council should be approved.

Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention

11. Highways

11.1 Update on Auto Speed Watch (ASW)

Cllr Roberts said that although the data received during January was better than the previous month, further improvements had been suggested by the ASW support which they hoped will provide increased quality data. The installation of the recently purchased solar panel will ensure that the unit is able to be powered for longer on days with less sunlight.

Action: Cllr Roberts and Stratford to progress

It was noted that the ASW sign on Brewery Lane had not been reinstated during the relocation of the 30mph sign and post. The Clerk to ask Somerset Highways if we can have it back.

Action: Clerk to contact Somerset Highways

11.2 Update on existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways (SH)

There was no report.

11.3 Report of new issues

The street light on Kingsway is still not working despite being reported 18 months ago.

Action: Clerk to follow up

12. Consider and approve Memorial Application

An application had been received from Exclusive memorial for an additional inscription to be added to an existing memorial. It was proposed by Cllr Emery and seconded by Cllr Gait that the application be approved.

Action: Clerk to notify Exclusive Memorials

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- 13. Councillor Reports/Updates including Highways, Playing Field, Village Hall, SALC, etc**
Village Hall – Cllr Emery said that the hall has been decorated and looks great. Curtains are in the process of being made. Cllr Emery has informed the village hall committee that the first aid box needs updating as some items are past their use by date and some items are missing from the approved list.

Playing Field – The Committee will be selling war time sweets to raise funds at the D-Day event.

D-Day Event – To be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Agenda item for March

- 14. Meetings/Training to attend**

14/02/24 @ 7pm. Coleford Parish Council meeting including planning application 2024/0163/OUT for 75 dwellings off Anchor Road

26/02/24 @ 2pm – 4pm. Highways & Traffic sub group of the Local Community Network at the Mendip Hub

11/03/24 @ 7pm. Local Community Network location to be confirmed

- 15. Correspondence**

There was none.

- 16. Next meetings**

Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 6th March 2024 @ 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 20.23hrs