

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

[www.holcombepc.org.uk](http://www.holcombepc.org.uk)

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

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at Holcombe Village Hall**

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

***In attendance:***                2 members of the public present.  
   Clerk Vickie Watts taking the minutes.

**1. Public forum**

Mr Brian Davis of Stowells and Mr Joe Pearce representing the Hauliers for Stowells attended the meeting. Mr Davis explained that they had been made aware that Stoke St Michael Parish Council were requesting a permanent 7.5-ton weight limit in the centre of the village which would have a huge impact on neighbouring villages but in particular Holcombe. A temporary restriction is currently in place due to a culvert that is weak and requires repair. Work on the repair was halted when they discovered several services that would first need to be addressed and as yet no dates have been agreed for it to be commenced.

The impact of the diversion on Stowells is considerable as it increases the amount of time it takes to complete the journey as well as the financial impact. The diversion may stop lorries passing through Stoke St Michael but just pushes the problem into Holcombe and other villages.

The Chairman thanked them for coming to the meeting and for bringing the issue to the Councils attention.

***Action: Cllr Roberts was requested to draw this issue to the attention of the Highways and Traffic sub group at its next meeting***

**2. Apologies for absence**

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

**3. Declaration of interests and dispensations**

There were none.

**4. Approve Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

***Vote: 8 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention***

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**5. Action updates from last meeting**

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

- Bird boxes - Cllr Kerr accepted an offer of 5 bird boxes made by a local Men's Shed group for erection around the village. Cllr Stratford fitted 1 in Jubilee Garden and the old church and 3 on the playing field. Thanks were expressed to all involved.

*Action: Clerk to promote on the website.*

**6. Reports**

6.1 PCSO – No report had been received

6.2 Somerset Council – No report had been received

**7. Planning Applications**

There were none.

**8. Planning Updates**

Cllr Brand reported that an update from Holcombe Farm Shop had been received stating that the work on the new car park would start in mid-April. They are waiting for the dormice to come out of hibernation before they start.

**9. Finance**

9.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk had prepared the bank reconciliation which was checked and agreed by Cllr Emery.

9.2 Consider and approve the year end accounts 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

The Clerk will prepare the year end accounts and share with the finance working party for approval. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting when they will be agreed and approved by full council.

9.3 Parish Council Payments: The following invoices were presented for payment:

Vickie Watts – Salary & Expenses	£370.95
Citizens Advice Mendip – Donation	£500.00
Holcombe Village Hall – Hire	£ 72.00
SALC -Training	£ 50.00
Gordon Ellis & Co – Bench for Jubilee Garden	£489.19
CPRE membership	£ 36.00

9.4 Playing Field Payments: There were none.

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

***Vote: 8 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention***

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**10. Highways**

10.1 Update on Auto Speed Watch (ASW)

Cllr Roberts reported that the installation of the solar panel had made a significant difference to the system and in the last week 186 vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit. Many of the images of the number plates are incomplete due to distortion and dirt making it impossible to identify the culprits with certainty. Additional guidance has been sought from the manufacturer to sharpen the images so that more number plates can be seen in their entirety

Although the clarity of the number plates recorded needs improvement, the system is recording the total number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit which is useful data for us to determine the nature and scale of the speeding problem in the village. We shall publish this data in the near future to raise awareness and improve road safety.

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

There was nothing to report.

10.3 Report of new issues

There were none.

**11. Councillor Reports/Updates including Playing Field, Village Hall, SALC, etc**

Planning Development Group – Cllr Davies confirmed that the first meeting will take place the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The group will be made up of David Durkin, Mark Davies plus 3 other members of the public.

Village Hall – Cllr Emery said that the Village Hall Committee AGM will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 but she would not be able to attend. It was agreed that Cllr Govier would attend and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Somerset Association of Local Councils – Refresher training for Councillor.

**12. Meetings/Training to attend**

29/04/24 @ 7pm	Local Community Network at Croscombe Village Hall. Cllr Brand to attend
14/04/24 @ 9 – 11am	PCSO drop in at Holcombe Farm Shop
14/04/24 @ 10 – 12noon	Village litter pick

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**13. Correspondence**

CPRE magazine - Passed to Cllr Gait

Shepton Mallet Amulet Theatre – An email had been received from a group in Shepton looking to purchase the Amulet Theatre in order to renovate and create a community building that can be enjoyed by local residents. At this point the group are requesting a letter of support from neighbouring communities, which is required to assist with funding applications. After discussion it was agreed that a letter of support would be sent.

*Vote: 7 For, 1 Against and 0 Abstentions*

**Action: Clerk to send the letter of support**

**14. Next meetings**

7 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Annual Parish Council meeting - 7pm start
7 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Parish Council meeting – 7.30pm start
4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Parish Council meeting

The meeting finished at 20.15 hrs