

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

www.holcombepc.org.uk

Clerk: Debbie Widdows, 19A Union Street, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2PU
clerk@holcombepc.org.uk 07872 857885

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on
6 May at Holcombe Village Hall**

Councillors Present Cllr Brand (Chair)
Cllr Davies
Cllr Eade
Cllr Emery
Cllr Gait
Cllr Govier
Cllr Kerr
Cllr Stratford

In attendance: There was 1 member of the public present.
Clerk Debbie Widdows taking the minutes.

1. Public forum

Nothing to be noted.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Roberts gave his apologies but arrived later in the meeting at 8pm.

3. Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Stratford declared an Other Registrable Interest in agenda item 8.2: 2024/0289/PAA - APP/E3335/W/24/3353663 as he was currently working as a contractor for the applicant.

4. Approve minutes of previous meeting held on 1 April 2025

The Clerk had circulated the minutes prior to the meeting for councillors consideration. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Brand and seconded by Cllr Stratford and agreed as accurately reflecting the meeting and should therefore be approved and signed by the Chair.

Vote: Unanimous

5. Actions/matters arising from the previous meeting

All actions had been completed or would be covered as agenda items during the meeting.

6. Reports

6.1 PCSO – The PCSO had not sent in a crime report as the department was changing the format of the reports. However, an email was sent and circulated to councillors before the meeting noting that there were no crimes to report in April.

He further advised that visiting public spaces was going to stop. The councillors would like this to continue as they felt that a physical presence was useful. The PCSO advised that councillors/Clerk let him know about events taking place in the village ahead of time and he would arrange to attend as he did for the VE80 celebrations.

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Action: SB to write a letter to the Senior Officer/Inspector requesting the PCSOs' continued presence at public events.

- 6.2 Somerset Council – Somerset Councillor Tony Robbins did not attend but the following report, summary below, was circulated to councillors for consideration:

Highways: Somerset Council unveils scheme to refurbish Junction 26 and Chelston link road

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/major-refurbishment-of-junction-26-and-chelston-link-road/>

Public Health - Raising awareness, challenging myths – Somerset supports nationwide stalking campaign

As part of national Stalking Awareness week (April 21-25), Somerset Council took proactive steps to raise awareness and debunk myths surrounding stalking. Victims are urged to report incidents online or by calling 101, or 999 in emergencies.

Schools - National Offer Day: Somerset secondary school places announced for 2025/26 academic year

Somerset Council is pleased to report that 99% of children received primary school offers for the 2025/26 academic year.

Parents and carers of children not offered one or more of their three primary school preferences have various options available. Information can be found on the [Council's applying for a school place webpages](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/refused-a-place-at-your-preferred-school/): <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/refused-a-place-at-your-preferred-school/>

Social Care: Unpaid carers in Somerset attend free information day in Bridgwater

There will be more information days taking place across Somerset for the rest of the year.

Find out more here: [New Carer Information Roadshow – Somerset Carers](https://somersetcarers.org/uncategorised/new-carer-information-roadshow/):
<https://somersetcarers.org/uncategorised/new-carer-information-roadshow/>

Planning - New Local Validation Checklist is published thanks to your views following consultation

Somerset Council proudly announces the launch of a new Local Validation Checklist for planning applications.

All applications will need to use the updated and consolidated checklist [which can be found here](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/information-requirements-for-planning-applications/): <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/information-requirements-for-planning-applications/>

Tourism - Tourism boost as Exmoor takes starring role in The Salt Path

Anticipation builds for the May 30 release of "The Salt Path," a film that promises to boost tourism in Somerset and Exmoor by highlighting breathtaking locations such as Minehead

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and Porlock.

Visit Exmoor (<https://www.visit-exmoor.co.uk/the-salt-path>) and **SWPCA**
(<https://www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk/about-coast-path/the-salt-path/>)

Assets: Somerset Council sells part of County Hall to developer of key worker housing
In a move to support essential workers, Somerset Council has sold part of County Hall to Prime plc for the development of key worker housing.

Community: Bridgwater's Victoria Park hosts a community Skillshare event
Bridgwater's Victoria Park recently hosted its first-ever Skillshare event focusing on sustainability and waste reduction.

Regeneration: Yeovil Refresh: Glovers Walk demolition gets underway
A significant milestone has been reached in Yeovil's regeneration with the start of demolition work on Glovers Walk.

Regeneration: Somerset Council advances Bridgwater Docks regeneration with new design consultants and plans for sustainable development
Somerset Council is moving forward with the Bridgwater Docks regeneration.

Work Starts to Protect Dam at Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve
Somerset Council has initiated a major project to strengthen the dam at Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve, aimed at protecting it from extreme flooding events.

Useful community links

Visit Report a problem on the road: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

Visit Potholes and road damage: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/>

For traffic updates and roadworks follow @travelsomerset on X and Facebook.

Visit Live travel information: <https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/>

Visit Report a problem with a street light: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-with-a-street-light/>

Visit Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting:
<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/road-signs-bollards-and-road-markings/>

Visit Speed limits: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/speed-limits/>

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Visit Traffic lights: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/traffic-lights/>

Visit Street and roadworks: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/street-and-roadworks/>

Visit and Sign-up for the latest climate news: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/climate-and-ecological-emergency/newsletter-sign-up/>

7. Planning Applications

- 7.1 2025/0655/HSE Fernleigh Holcombe Hill. To construct a rear 2-story extension and a small lean-to extension to the side of the property.

All councillors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. Cllr Brand outlined the application.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Brand that the application should be recommended for approval.

Vote: Unanimous

8. Report on Planning Updates

- 8.1 Mendip Local Plan Part II - Somerset Council submitted an update to the Mendip Local Plan Part II on 30th September 2024. Examination hearings were held by the appointed Inspector, Mr Clive Coyne BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI between 11th and 13th March 2025. A small number of changes to the site allocation policies were agreed at the examination hearings which relate soundness of plan policies.

These do not involve additional housing sites. The Inspector has requested the Main Modifications are published for consultation. Comments can be submitted until 26 May. The Parish Council had no comments to make. Residents could make comments in their own capacity.

- 8.2 2024/0289/PAA - APP/E3335/W/24/3353663: Appeal Decision Field to the South of Cedarwood House, Holcombe Hill, Radstock BA3 5DD.

The application was approved on appeal.

9. Finance

- 9.1 Internal Audit to be carried out during this month.

- 9.2 Bank reconciliation

All outstanding bank reconciliations were checked by Cllr Gait and agreed.

The following invoices were presented for payment:

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9.3 Parish Council payments:

9.3.1 Holcombe Hill Playing Field - Playing Field Inspection	£80
9.3.2 Hill & Hill grass cutting	£284.17
9.3.3 Inv. 1997 from SALC Annual subscription fee	£463.88
9.3.4 Inv. 1927 from SALC for Audit training	£25
9.3.5 CPRE Membership (Council for the Preservation of Rural England)	£36
9.3.6 Debbie Widdows Salary	£405.80

It was proposed by Cllr Stratford and seconded by Cllr Gait that all payments should be approved.

Vote: Unanimous

10. Highways

10.1. Update on Auto Speed Watch.

Cllr Stratford to correspond with PCSO about effective ways to collect and share data.

10.2. Update on existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways.

The Clerk had contacted Traffic Management about replacing the missing village sign and gave the councillors the feedback which was noted.

The submission for white line painting still needed to be sent to the Somerset Traffic Management team.

The resident involved in the road rage incident had been contacted by Cllr Brand as well as the incident being reported by Cllr Stratford to the PCSO.

10.3. Report of new issues.

There were none.

11. Councillor Reports/Updates including highways, playing field, village hall, SALC etc.

Cllr Brand reported that he had accepted a new proposal from Somerset Council to empty 4 dog poo bins rather than 5 and them to be emptied fortnightly for £676. If it was decided that the frequency needed to be increased this would be dealt with at such time.

The PCSO informed everyone that the format of the crime reports was going to change and that next month the new format would be sent out. The new reports would not give crime figures but would reflect trends in crime. The councillors were advised to let police know if they did not like the new reports.

Cllr Brand gave an update on the VE80 celebrations and said that they did the village proud.

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Cllr Brand wished to thank everyone involved for their hard work.

The Duck Race was coming up on 25th May and the June Fête on 7th June.

12. Meetings/Training to attend

12.1. The Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) for the Clerk was discussed and it was noted that this qualification could not be done until the Clerk had worked in the role for one year. It was suggested that the Clerk undertake The Essential Clerk, Part 1 and Part 2 training in the meantime.

12.2. Shepton Mallet LCN – 13 May at 7pm in Shepton Mallet would be attended by Cllr Brand.

13. Parish Online empowering Local Councils with great technology – registering Holcombe Cemetery plots.

This is an essential IT tool for asset management and neighbourhood planning among other things and was suggested for use by the Clerk for the cemetery. It was decided to try it for one year whereupon it would be reviewed and all login information to be sent to councillors.

14. Correspondence

Cllr Brand stated that the obelisk in the Jubilee Gardens has been replaced courtesy of Curtis Ilott with a new one made of Cornish Granite. He thanked Curtis for his generosity and support to the village.

15. Next meeting

Parish Council Meeting 3rd June 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting finished at 20:34pm