

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

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**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting which took place on Tues 7 October 2025
at Holcombe Village Hall**

Councillors Present : Cllr Brand (Chairman)

Cllr Davies
Cllr Eade
Cllr Gait
Cllr Govier
Cllr Kerr
Cllr Roberts
Cllr Stratford

Also Present : Deborah Douglas-Burke (Parish Clerk)
There was one member of the public present.

1. Public Forum:

Ms Hallas spoke to ask the council what could be done to draw drivers' attention to a speed limit in the village. The Chairman confirmed that this issue has been thoroughly reviewed and gave a full background of the various considerations, costings and actions taken by the PC to address speeding on Holcombe Hill (including physical barriers, 20mph road markings, speed limit signs and a Speed Indicator Device). The current strategy includes the continued deployment of an auto speed watch device to monitor vehicle speeds and encourage compliance.

In answer to Ms Hallas' suggestion of individual private funds being used to put speed restrictions in place, while the PC will not be providing additional funding, the Chairman said residents are welcome to independently organise and raise funds for any further restriction measures they wish to implement (subject to approval from the relevant authorities).

2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Emery sent a written apology that was accepted by the Chairman.

3. Declaration of interests and dispensations:

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Approve Minutes of previous meeting held on 2 September:

The minutes had been circulated in advance to all councillors. As there were no amendments, the council RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 2 Sept 2025.

(Proposed by Cllr Govier, Seconded by Cllr Gait)

5. Actions/matters arising from the previous meeting:

All actions had been completed and there were none to be brought forward.

6. Reports

- 6.1 PCSO: nil report.
- 6.2 Somerset Council: nil report.

7. Planning Applications:

None.

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8. Report on Planning Updates:

None.

9. Finance:

9.1 The bank statements for August and September have yet to be received therefore the council RESOLVED the bank reconciliation for these months cannot be reconciled and will be carried over to the next meeting.

9.2 Parish Council Payments:

Hill & Hill Ground Maintenance Ltd	£284.17 (Invoice 3893)
Holcombe Village Hall (Jul-Sept)	£21.00 (Invoice VH111510)
A Smith (EP Training 2.5hrs @ £20 ph)	£50.00
Aqua Power Group Ltd (Graffiti)	£210.00 (Invoice SI-536)
NPower Commercial Gas Ltd	£154.40 (Invoice 13822159)
S. Brand - Photocopying of EP	£9.00 (postscript invoice date 16 Sept '25)
S. Brand - 2nd Class Stamps	£13.92 (WH Smith receipt date 15 Jan '25)

The council RESOLVED to approve the summary of receipts and payments shown above.

(Proposed by Cllr Kerr, Seconded by Cllr Davies. The vote was unanimous)

10. Highways:

10.1 Update on Auto Speed Watch.

Cllr Stratford reported that he had not heard back from the local police following his email attaching a spreadsheet of vehicles that persistently speed through the village.

Action: Cllr Stratford will chase up the local PCSOs for a response.

10.2 Update on existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways.

It was reported that the white lines have been repainted in the village.

10.3 Report of new issues.

None.

11. Community Projects Fund:

The Chairman reported he has updated the Community Projects Fund procedure and criteria. As the PC is a little late in announcing this year's fund, the closing date for applications is 30 November 2025. The total fund available is £1k and village organisations can bid for grants of up to a maximum of £250.00.

It was RESOLVED that all applications will be reviewed in December, announced in January and allocated grants are to be spent by the recipients by 31 March 2026. Full information is available on the PC website.

Action: Cllr Brand to advertise the above on Facebook and in the community magazine.

Action: Cllr Govier to update the parish council website and all councillors are to promote and encourage residents to apply.

(Proposed by Cllr Govier, Seconded by Cllr Gait)

12. Parish Autumn Litter Pick:

The Chairman asked for views on whether to hold a litter pick during autumn. All councillors agreed one should be organised and Cllr Stratford suggested the litter pick date coincides with the Breakfast Club (even if they do not join in).

It was RESOLVED the agreed date for the Autumn litter pick to take place on Sat 15 November 2025 at 10.30am until 12.30pm with tea/coffee/cake afterwards.

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Action: Cllr Brand to contact the VH Committee to suggest holding the litter pick on the same day as the Breakfast Club. Cllr Brand will also advertise the event in the November edition of the community magazine.

Action: Cllrs Kerr and Emery will prepare posters to advertise the event.

Action: The Clerk is to contact Idverde UK to collect the rubbish from the village hall and also advise Somerset Council of the proposed litter pick day / time.

Action: Clerk to contact Ms V Watts regarding any additional high viz and litter pickers that she may be storing on behalf of the parish council.

(Proposed by Cllr Govier, Seconded by Cllr Kerr)

Post mtg note: feedback from the VH committee was to avoid holding a litter pick at the same time as the breakfast. Other dates were investigated however it has been decided to postpone the litter pick until Spring 2026.

13. Somerset Council Dog Bin Collection:

The Chairman highlighted the issue regarding an overflowing dog waste bin on the footpath adjoining the Farmshop car park. He said that he had already spoken with Somerset Council asking whether an additional bin could be added to the existing contract. He confirmed that this is the case at a cost of £6.50 per collection. It was agreed that this bin (plus any others that are required to be emptied at the PC's expense) to be added to the contract and emptied every month.

Action: Cllr Brand to write to Somerset Council requesting that the dog waste bin be added to the collection contract and for it to be emptied once a month.

(Proposed by Cllr Eade, Seconded by Cllr Davies)

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

14.1 Cllr Brand and Cllr Gait attended the Somerset Parishes Conference 2025 held in Bridgwater on Fri 3 October. The chairman reported that it was very useful and they had spoken with two exhibitors – Unity Trust Bank (for online banking) and Parish Online (for digital mapping and website hosting and email) and that he was keen to follow up with these organisations in the near future. The chairman proposed that the PC open an account with Unity Bank subject to further investigation and to migrate the website and email accounts to Gov.uk domain.

Action: Clerk to review switching accounts to Unity Bank and advise councillors of her analysis.

14.2 Cllr Brand attended the Shepton LCN on 29 Sept 2025.

15. Meetings/Training to Attend:

15.1 The Chairman referred councillors to the email from Shepton LCN (forwarded by him on 25 September 2025) listing all the upcoming community meetings taking place in October and November.

15.2 The Chairman encouraged all councilors to review the latest SALC courses and to advise the Clerk if there are any courses they wish to attend.

Action: All

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13. Correspondence:

An email received on 6 October 2025 from Ms Johnson regarding a dog dangerously out of control. It was agreed the Clerk would write to Ms Johnson with the details of who to report the matter to at Somerset Council and the local constabulary/PCSO.

Action: Clerk to reply to the resident.

14. Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting 4 November at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.