

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

*****DRAFT*****

**Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Parish, which took place on
Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.30 pm.**

Chairman: Cllr Simon Brand

Clerk: Vickie Watts taking the minutes.

Also Present: Cllrs Helen Kerr
District Cllr Alan Townsend
Anne Gardiner-Bryan
Jenny Coburn and Rachel McEntee for the Brownies and Guides
Stephenie Chorley and David Hirst for Holcombe Playing Field
Nikki Cox for First Coleford Scouts
Trisha Jordan for Kilmersdon Gardeners
Jane Dyson for Holcombe Village Hall

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Philip Ham – Mendip District Councillor
Helen James - Holcombe Village Hall
Tony Dyson - Parish Path Liaison Officer
Diana Spellward - Holcombe Crafts

2. Approve minutes of previous meeting on Tuesday 25th May 2021 & matters arising

The minutes from the last annual parish meeting held on the 25th May 2021 had been available on the website and circulated by email to local group representatives. It was agreed that they were an accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chair

3. Meeting open to the public

Although it was acknowledged that an additional sign had been erected to warn drivers of the narrow points along the lane, it was felt that it was still insufficient as some of the narrow points come after blind bends. The Chair explained that the Parish Council regularly engages with Somerset Highways and will raise this with them again.

It was asked what were the plans for the road surface and issues at Stoke Bottom? District Cllr Townsend explained that Somerset Highways have said that the drainage issue needs to be addressed before the surface can be improved. He said that he would take this up with them again.

4. Chairman's report by Councillor Simon Brand

Cllr Simon Brand reported as follows:

Let me start this review of the year by thanking my fellow councillors both past and present for their unstinting support and dedication. I am most grateful for their wise counsel and professionalism in dealing with a huge variety of issues that affect the daily lives of our parishioners; they give up their time willingly in the pursuit of making Holcombe a better place to live for everyone and I for one, am very grateful and appreciative of what they deliver. I am delighted that the 3 other councillors that comprise the Council were re-elected on 5 May as there is much to do in the forthcoming year and I

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look forward to working with them to improve the quality of life for those fortunate enough to live in our village. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Vickie Watts, our longstanding clerk whose dedication, loyalty, integrity and knowledge are exemplary and we are indebted to her for making sure that the Council meetings run smoothly and all matters are brought to our attention. She has had a particularly difficult few months recently and even during that time she has shown resolve and selfless devotion to duty; thank you!

I would also like to pay tribute to those councillors who have stepped down this year; my predecessor Graham Crowe resigned in August last year having served 5 years on the Council and Sue Robinson stood down in January also having served 5 years. Their contributions during those years were very much appreciated and they did particularly well during the challenging times of the pandemic.

On the subject of personnel, I would like to encourage anyone with a sense of community spirit to step forward and offer their services as a councillor. We are operating at a reduced capacity at present with only 4 councillors elected and would welcome some fresh ideas and a can do spirit to help us make the village event better. Please chat to the clerk if you are interested in finding out more.

A member of the public thought it would be a good idea to inform parishioners about what would be involved in becoming a Councillor via Facebook or On the Map, which was noted.

Although the pandemic has curtailed what could be achieved over the past year, I thought I would highlight a few major issues that we have dealt with to give you a sense of what has been going on behind the scenes on your behalf.

- We have scrutinised and provided comment to Mendip District Council planning department on all planning applications that relate to the village.
- We have streamlined our internal working practices to improve our understanding of particular issues and to make the parish council meetings more productive and efficient.
- We have improved our external communication with parishioners through updates in On The Map, the website and facebook.
- We have produced a calendar of events which details every event planned in the village. The purpose of this calendar is to provide readers with advance notice of what is going on and to allow organisations that are planning events to de-conflict with those already planned, or to join forces and make the event even better.
- We have disbursed £2k through the Village Grants and Community Project Funds which provide financial support to organisations that are of benefit to the village.
- We have conducted a review of all traffic related issues and have written to Somerset CC for clarification on what can be done to resolve them. Many issues have either been addressed or are pending, and we are working hard to procure a speed indicator device that should mitigate speeding in the village.
- We have planted 60 fruit trees in the playing field as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This is a UK wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee by inviting people to plant a tree for the jubilee.
- On the subject of the Platinum Jubilee, we have been planning a number of events for the extended bank holiday namely the quiz, the beacon lighting ceremony, the rambles and the pageant picnic, all of which we hope will be well supported and a fitting tribute to Her Majesty's achievement. Every household will receive a free programme detailing all the events over the course of the next week or so.

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- In addition, every household has already received a laminated A4 map of the village showing the public rights of way on one side and the countryside code on the reverse. It is hoped that these will inspire people to explore the footpaths in and around the village thereby improving their health as well as improving their knowledge of what nature has to offer.

So, you can see that plenty has been occupying us over the course of the last 12 months but our in trays remain full and there is much more to be done in the forthcoming year. We look forward to serving our community and welcome your feedback at any time.

5. Mendip District Councillors Report

District Cllr Townsend said that there were three main items to report for the year:

Unitary – The Secretary of State confirmed that it was the Government’s wish for the 4 Districts and the County Council to be merged into one unitary authority. He was not persuaded that the rival proposal for 2 separate unitaries, East and West Somerset, should proceed. The result of the election held on 5th May was:

LibDem 61
Conservative 36
Greens 5
Labour 5
Independent 3

The Councillors elected for our Mendip Hills Ward are Edric Hobbs and Tony Robbins, both LibDems. The first point of interest for us will be to establish Local Community Networks at a working level beneath Full Council. Frome has taken a leading role as a pilot scheme. There are those who consider them to be too Frome – centric and believe a more rural Network would better serve our interests. Meanwhile Cllrs Ham and Townsend will remain as Ward Councillors for Mendip DC until it is dissolved on 31-3-23.

Covid – There has been considerable diversion of resource, firstly to support the Vaccination Centre at Shape Mendip, and secondly the administration of over £60M of central government funded Covid support grants. A long period of hybrid working has not helped working efficiency.

Planning – The new Local Development Plan Part 2 was formally adopted by Mendip’s Full Council in December 2021. It does not show a forward 5 year supply of housing land. As a result sites outside village development limits are vulnerable to speculative applications and we have already seen the approval of such applications in Coleford and by the White Post. There is no plan in place to rectify this shortfall. Mendip also suffer from the banning of developments that could discharge nitrates and phosphates into environmentally sensitive wetlands on the Levels, putting further pressure to develop sites in the north- east of the District.

6. Somerset County Councillor’s Report

County Cllr Edric Hobbs and Tony Robbins did not attend and no report was received.

7. PCSO/Police Report

The PCSO did not attend and no report had been received.

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8. Reports from Village Organisations

8.1 - Holcombe Playing Field

David Hirst gave the following report:

The Playing Field Committee has shrunk to 4 members during the past year, so we are focussing on management and maintenance of the Playing Field. The upkeep of the Playing Field has been facilitated through a grant from the Parish Council, and also by donations from The Holcombe Hive after their events were held on the Playing Field.

In March 2021, The Parish Council signed up for the installation of the Recycled Textile bin on the Playing Field, which has so far raised over £350 for Playing Field funds.

The Covenant on the Car Park allowed for opening every weekend. We extend our grateful thanks to the volunteers who are opening and locking the car park, which runs smoothly via a WhatsApp group.

Vickie Watts inspects the play equipment on a weekly basis, and there is an annual RoSPA inspection.

On 18th September, Holcombe Hive held a Music Day on the Playing Field, which proved very popular and was very well-attended.

In November, we were successful in our application to the Reconnecting Communities Fund and received £75 for a new 20litre water heater and £360 for 6 wooden portable camping tables/chairs.

We hosted carol singing again last Christmas, with thanks to Rev Clarissa for blessing the tree, and to Holcombe Farm Shop for providing refreshments. Thanks also to everyone who helped set up the lights at the Lychgate and on the tree.

In February this year, Simon Brand and Vickie Watts organised the planting of 60 fruit trees on the Playing Field, together with some enthusiastic volunteers. Anne Golledge, on behalf of

the Parish Council, had successfully applied for a grant from Somerset County Council to mark the planting of the Queen's Canopy for the Platinum Jubilee, which covered the cost of the apple, pear, cherry, walnut and plum trees. Plans for regular watering are being finalised.

The circular bench around a tree near the playground is rotting and needs to be replaced, or possibly it would be useful to provide more picnic benches around the field.

We are always open to suggestions for improvements to the Playing Field, which we are proud to represent.

8.2 - Youth Football Club

Luke Clarke did not attend but gave the following report:

Over the past 12 months Holcombe Youth Football Club has welcomed back its members following the restrictions of Covid. September marked the start of our new season, and it has been great to see our members enjoying football again and making use of the facilities.

As a club we are extremely proud that over the past 5 years we have grown from 1 team of 8 children to now having over 80 children registered to play across 5 different age groups. We now have a waiting list for children to join us attribute this down to our ethos as a club of ensuring we can provide accessible football to all. We are hoping to introduce a new team in September increasing our capacity and continue to look for volunteers to help support the club.

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Club ethos

Providing accessible football is core to our club, we do this by welcoming children from all backgrounds regardless of ability. We support parents and guardians by keeping our fees as low as possible and in fact we have the lowest club fees in our area including offering free or subsidised fees for those in financial difficulties.

Holcombe Committee – How can you continue to support us

As a committee we appreciate your continued support for our club. We have what we need from the shed and grounds and following the approval for fitting goal posts will be expanding our age range as a club which is fantastic.

Those present commented that the village hall would also benefit from the car park being open as it would improve the safety for those leaving the hall as at present the parking outside the hall makes things dangerous, which was noted.

We welcome ideas on ways we can improve this issue. During the months of September to March we pay to hire private space at Writhlington but at a cost of over a £1000 we cannot afford to continue this March – Sept.

Club Outlook for 2022/23

On the weekend of July 3rd, we will be hosting our end of season presentation where we will gather everyone from our club to celebrate the children's success. This will mark the end of our season and we will break slightly for summer reducing our training activity.

Our eldest team is now moving to under 14's, this requires a full-size pitch and goals of which we do not yet have. We have applied for a grant from the FA to help us procure the goals and we gladly have permission from the committee to install these and mark out a full-size pitch at Holcombe.

This ensures we can now provide football across every age group which is fantastic for the succession of our club.

The biggest challenge we now face is space, we have been working closely with the local primary schools and Kilmersdon have very kindly offered us access to their fields for which we can use next season to host games for our younger age groups. This will allow us to use Holcombe for the older members of our club and use Kilmersdon for the younger age groups up to 10.

8.3 - Holcombe Brownies & Guides

What another full and hectic year the girls at Brownies and Guides have had. We are now up to 8 Guides and 15 Brownies, our maximum number due to space as run the tow units side by side. We have several girls on our waiting list, keen to join us as soon as a space becomes available to them.

This year the girls have been working hard on the Guiding Program gaining a plethora of badges, our favourite being the baking, Confections and making mocktails for the Mixology badges. This is because the leaders must try what they have made for the girls to pass their badge!

The Brownies and Guides have all passed their First Aid skill builders badge so we are definitely in safe hands. The girls have also been learning the skill of map reading from city maps, ordinance survey maps and maps from around the world. They have learnt what is safe to take with you whilst traveling abroad and what amazing sights there are to see in the world. We have looked at what food is appropriate to eat to give us energy to last whilst out and about. This included the girls making energy balls and trail mix.

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On the darker evenings we all learnt about constellations, the order of planets, how comets are formed and made our own constellations. A favourite if the girls is fire lighting. We learnt how to strike a match properly and light a candle. How to start a fire with cotton wool with flint and steel. As you can see it was a successful evening as the hall is still in one piece.

We have really enjoyed being part of the village this year, with so many of our activities being supported and encouraged by the people of Holcombe. The girls and leaders run a stall at the Fabulous 50 Festival, raising funds for our units. The brownies and guides were presented with a grant cheque for £250 from the Holcombe Hive, which the girls have chosen to spend on a variety of sports and games equipment.

During one sunny evening we all took a walk through the village down to the meadow to do a nature hunt. Many insects and different varieties of wildflowers were spotted.

At the end of the summer time last year Jean, one of the original brownie leaders invited us to their woods and fire pit to hold a cookout. The girls all cooked their own tea on the open fire and then we had a promise ceremony for two of the young leaders, six of our brownies and two of our guides. It was a lovely way to end the term and celebrate being back to holding meetings all together again.

It was so nice to be able to attend the Remembrance parade again this year, after not being able to due to Covid. It was one of the biggest turn outs from brownies and guides that we have had, and they all did us proud, looking smart and being so respectful.

The start of the Christmas season, we were invited again by the Holcombe Hive to hold a stall at the Santa Trail. It was a very cold afternoon but lots of fun definitely got us in the Christmas mood. It was also great to hold our Christmas café again. The girls all worked so hard making sprout pom poms, wooden decorations and hot chocolate jars. It was attended by family members, members of the girl guiding and the village.

We rounded the term off by having a Christmas Buffet and bingo night at the Holcombe Farm shop. Stuart and his staff put on an amazing buffet for us. We also had a promise ceremony with three of our brain is making a promise that evening.

I'm sure you've heard of the Disney film Encanto. Odeon cinema held a special girl guiding screening of the film before its general release, which we attended. It was a great opportunity for the girls to see the film before any of the friends outside of guiding.

With the crisis in Ukraine girls wanted to do something to help. They decided to hold a bring and buy sale, which they organised themselves. They made the posters, spread the word, and sorted through unwanted items at home to sell. We were all surprised by the support from not only girls but their families and it seems like everyone in the community. It was great to see so many supporting the girls in the fundraising efforts. So many people bought donations for us to sell, including some beautiful flowers and someone offering to hold a Tómbola, all made up and ready to go, with all the money raised to add to the girls total. One of the guides parents donating all the refreshments again with all monies raised to add to the final amount proves what a great community we are part of. In total that night the girls raised £530. They've also written letters to the children of Ukraine offering support and kind words.

At the weekend we were able to hold our first sleepover since Covid hit. The brownies, guides and guides from our unit and Shepton Mallet went to Clip and Climb in Weston-Super-Mare. They had a great time climbing the towers, eating but unfortunately not sleeping.

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During all of this busy year we've had three brownies work towards and earn the brownie gold award. This is the highest award girls can get in brownies. To obtain it they need to complete at least six interest badges and at least six skills builders badges and complete over 1018 minutes of activities within the unit. Once they have earned all of that, they then need to

plan and run a meeting for the rest of the brownies showing a skill, talent, or hobby.

Coming up, we will be taking part in the village Jubilee celebrations and we have been invited to attend the beacon lighting at the Bishops Place, Wells and we have also been invited to a Jubilee party hosted by the Shepton Mallet guides for the district.

We are looking forward to seeing what great things we will be getting up to next year and.

8.4 - Village Hall Committee

Jane Dyson gave the following report:

The Hall is back to full operation after COVID. Steve Blount has finished a lot of the building maintenance, though there is still some more to do in the store cupboard. He has also completed and fitted the planters to protect the front wall of the hall from damage caused by cars reversing when parking. A number of the heaters require new thermostats; these are on order and will be fitted by the electrician as soon as he gets them.

In the financial year of 2021 there was income greater than expenditure of £5972 and the balance sheet showed net assets/liabilities of £23825 at the end of the year.

Our major item of income last year was a further grant received from Mendip District Council for £8,000. This was in addition to the £10,000 received last financial year. Clearly without these grants our financial position would have been significantly depleted. As you know the Glastonbury festival was again cancelled and hence the generous donations we have received in recent years from the team attending the event was not available to us.

Income raised from the general hiring of the Hall was again curtailed by the pandemic although a number of our regular users were able to operate for at least part of the year. There has been a significant increase in the cost of cleaning as we continue to operate a 2 hour, 2 days a week cleaning regime and this represents a significant spend against our income.

However, in what was and what continues to be difficult times we remain in a reasonable financial position. Further upgrading and maintenance of the building with rising energy costs will impact on our resources in the coming year.

We have regular users in the hall most days of the week. This splits into 6 formal sports groups (led by an instructor), two informal groups playing a variety of sports, an Art group, a Craft group, Brownies and Guides, a local band and a couple of social groups. If anyone want more information on any of these, please contact me. We also have occasional bookings on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Our own fund-raising efforts are directed towards the monthly Breakfast Club, which, since Covid, we have moved to the winter months. (October to March). We regularly serve 40 people at breakfast and consider it an important social event as well as a fund raiser. We shall be having a special one-off breakfast on the Saturday of Jubilee weekend (June 4th), and hope to see many of you there

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8.5 - Holcombe Ladies Evening Club

Kath Simpson gave the following report:

The Holcombe Ladies started back in August we a gather in a garden for tea and cake!.

That was followed by a talk about the sanctuary tent at Glastonbury, being a volunteer on the Somerset Levels RSPB centre, making Christmas table decorations and lastly a musical quiz for our Christmas party in December.

This year as well as going out for a lovely lunch at the Horse and Jockey, Nic Edwards came to speak about her role as a village agent, we have tried Pom Pom dancing. April was cancelled as the speaker had Covid and not May turned up to the meeting due to illness or holidays.

Mays speaker was Micheal Malaghan speaking about life as a tv script writer.

We have lost a few members in the last couple of years and are always happy to welcome new ladies along for an evening of tea and chat as well as hopefully learning something new.

8.6 - Parish Path Liaison Officer (PPL0) report.

Mr Tony Dyson did not attend but provided the following report:

Somerset County Council has upgraded a number of stiles in the parish to now be kissing gates. This will make usage of these paths easier for all.

There would appear to be more people walking the local paths now than in previous years, so many of the paths have been kept remarkably clear.

I would like to encourage walkers and dog-walkers, to take a pair of pruners with them on their walks, and trim back any overhanging vegetation on stiles and kissing gates when they see it.

Please report any problems to me and I will try to get solutions actioned.

Parishioners can also report problems themselves direct to the Rights Of Way department through ROAM <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map>

8.7 - Ladies Sports Group

Mrs Diana Spellward did not attend but provided the following report:

The sports group is still going well most weeks there are 8 or 9 of us.

We meet every Tuesday afternoon in the village hall and do various sporting activities. When the weather is fine we go onto the playing field, we thank the person who cleaned the weeds from the Boules court it makes it easier to see the jack ball.

I am not sure if you are aware that the sports group decorates the Hall at Christmas an activity we do enjoy. In the next few weeks we will be putting up the bunting for the jubilee.

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8.8 - Holcombe Crafts Group

Mrs Diana Spellward did not attend but provided the following report:

The Craft Group meets every fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon and is still keenly attended, although we are slightly down on numbers from last year.

We are mainly involved in group activities that everybody participates in although personal projects are welcome. Currently we are still supporting the Project Linus Charity whose aim is to provide gifts of new, homemade, washable quilts and blankets to babies, children and teenagers who are sick, disabled, disadvantaged or distressed. Recently we have completed 12 quilts of various sizes for Linus which is no mean feat. Bunting is another never ending task and we have fun making miles of red, white and blue bunting to decorate the Village Hall and the Old Holcombe Church for the forthcoming Jubilee.

Of course, a chat over tea or coffee etc are all part of the friendly and important social element. We are just in summer recess now but will be starting again next September.

8.9 - 1st Coleford Scouts

Nikki Cox attended and gave the following report:

Our Team

Karla March stepped down from our team after the covid break.

We have 6 people who attend our regular committee meetings, including some who also lead our Cubs, Scouts and Beavers

Jer Moore (Chair)
George Kite (Scout Leader)
Allen Moore (Cub Leader)
Nikki Cox (Secretary)
Julie Braidy (Fundraiser)
Patricia Naish (Treasurer)

Numbers of members = 54

14 Beavers – Run by Julie Sims & George Kite

19 Cubs – Run by Allen Moore & Russ Tasker & 2 young leaders (Immy Moore & Charlie)

21 Scouts – Run by George Kite, James Parker & Steve Sims

Subs are £12.50 per month or £50 per term.

Since we have properly started up again after Covid, the groups have been meeting weekly and doing many activities such as Cooking, Map Reading, Hiking, Camping, building things like bridges, swings and seats. Making Camp fires, whittling & putting up Tents. All of the members work towards badges and different awards as well as gaining lots of new skills and meeting new friends

On the 28th April we held a presentation evening at the Kings Head in Coleford with many members gaining awards and badges.

We have also been doing lots of fundraising to support the work we need to do on our scout hut. This has included getting grants, receiving donations and organising events over the next few months

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We are also trying to support as many local events as we can.

We did the Hog Roast at the Kings Head supporting the Duck Race 18th April - £331 profit

Local companies have been contacted to help such as Sperring, Asda (green token) & Community fund

We have also started the big job of clearing up the Scout Hut. We worked hard with a great team of parents and members of the committee on a sunny Saturday morning. We cleaned, scrubbed, tidied, sorted & managed to fill up a skip!

Fundraising Activities coming up

Jumble Sale & Plant Sale at the Royal British Legion

We are also organising a Quiz night on Sat 2nd July at the Hub in Coleford to include refreshments & Raffle

Events

We will be supporting the Holcombe Playing field committee at the Jubilee Celebrations. We will be supporting the Beacon lighting ceremony & pageant picnic on the Thursday evening, with some of our scouts raising the flag. We are also helping to marshal, set up and take down on the Sunday, as well as running a games / activity stall

We have lots of activities going on at the minute and we are really hoping we can raise enough money and get enough support to help put some life back into the Scout Hut. We have lots of work to do including, heating, windows, floor, kitchen & decorating but we have made some great steps towards achieving this with a small but hard working committee and some great parents, carers and members

8.10 - Kilmersdon Gardeners

Trish Jordan attended and explained that the Kilmersdon Gardeners meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kilmersdon village hall. Although they were quiet during covid, they now have 35 members several of which are from Holcombe. Guest speakers have visited and given a variety of different talks and last week they held the annual plant sale which was very successful with a wonderful array of plants available at great prices.

A summer program of events is planned and published in On the Map. Anyone is welcome to attend.

8.11 - St Andrews Church

Ann Gardiner-Bryan attended the meeting and read out the report as follows:

Clarissa sends her apologies as she's not able to attend this meeting.

This again has been an untypical year due to Covid which still sadly affects our lives. Most of our services have been in charge per somewhere on zoom.

We were very sorry to lose remember the church congregation during the past year Lyle Walker, Marlene Croker and Jo Barry.

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A momentous change has taken place this year and as St Peter and St Paul at Kilmersdon has joined the Coleford and Holcombe Church is the form the East Mendip Trinity Benefice. We very much welcome this development which allowed us to make new friends and join together in fellowship. The three churches combined to have a Benefice service on the 5th Sunday in a month. These have proved to be very popular.

We have a new website at www.eastmendiptrinity.co.uk and Facebook page East Mendip Trinity, where up-to-date information can be found.

We still hold our free coffee morning on Monday from 11am to 12 noon and all are welcome.

We had a pet service outside last year which includes a barbecue. We intend to hold it outside again on Saturday, 23 July which will include a free barbecue so bring your pets along however big or small all will be welcomed.

We were able to celebrate the World Day of prayer in Saint Andrews church and again it was a great success.

We have also held lent lunches in Holcombe Village Hall unattended lent courses at Holy Trinity church hall.

Fundraising

We have been able to do a little more fundraiser this year. On Saturday, 19 June 2021 we managed to have a gift day of fate as part of the village sale trail. Holy Trinity joined us on this occasion.

We had a jumbo sale in early September and we were overwhelmed with donations as everyone thinks here at the house is due to Covid. As a result, we have decided not to do another one!

On 18th September we provided the barbecue for the Holcombe music festival held on the playing field. We were incredibly busy and we're still serving food in the dark with torches around us.

Bingo turned out to be another popular event with many thanks to the village for supporting us. We held a Christmas fair in the village hall as part of the village event at the end of November.

Friday December 3rd was quiz night organized very ably by Jane Dyson and her helpers.

Finally on Sunday, 10th April we took part in the village chocolate trail by providing refreshments in the village hall.

Thanks to the money raised we have had a new gas boiler installed and we have also had a ramp built outside the back for easy access in case of an emergency.

We have to find over £16,000 this year for our share of the Common fund. This money is sent to the diocese which goes towards clergy stipend, housing, training and education etc. and does not go towards the running cost of the village church and this can be quite challenging at times.

We would like to thank the people of Holcombe for their support especially during the pandemic.

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The church is open every Sunday at 11:15 and also on Thursday at 10:30 for church services. There is no service on Monday but we are open for a relaxing cup of tea or coffee in the 100 room. The church is also open for Christmas things and funerals. Weddings can be held at either Saint Andrews or if you prefer a Holcombe Old Church. It is your church so feel free to come along to service any time where warm welcome awaits you

8.12 - Holcombe Hive

Well, what a busy year we've had!

We have hosted 8 events in the last 12 months, in excess of 1265 people have supported us and helped our community group to become as successful as it is to date making all the hard work worthwhile, and a lot of fun!

1. Wonderland in Holcombe

This was an interactive family trail based on the story of Alice in Wonderland, with a modern twist. It ended at the Playing Fields where all the children found the white rabbit and were given an easter egg. This event supported the Church who came along and fundraised by selling tea, coffee and cake. It also supported the Playing Field Committee as we rented the field for the afternoon. This was immediately afternoon Lockdown was lifted and it attracted 345 people to the village.

2. Sale Trail

This event was a great idea, however we were let down at last minute by village stall holders which was a big shame. However, Holcombe Hive sold lots of pork rolls and pancakes. The event also provided the Church a big fundraising opportunity and we believe they did really well.

3. Fabulous 50 Festival

Our music festival in the village, was a great day! We had 7 bands in 7 hours, attracting over 300 people. This event supported the Church, by giving them the opportunity to do their own fundraising by selling burgers and hotdogs. Also, Holcombe Brownies came along to do their own fundraising stall. The event also supported the Village Hall and the Playing Fields by renting both premises for the day.

4. 'One will, one murder, one death' (Halloween Trail)

Another scare trail around the village, attracted 243 people. We ended up at the Village Hall where we hired it for the evening, for people to meet and enjoy burgers and a stiff drink at the end - which was welcomed!

5. Christmas Market Trail

This was a different event, it started at the Village Hall to give them the opportunity to raise funds for themselves by selling stalls and refreshments. Also, another welcomed opportunity for the Church who ran their own stall to raise their own funds. We had several musicians along the way, including 'Children's Training Brass Band' who entertained the residents of Scotts Close. This event attracted 180 people, despite the awful weather!

6. Father Christmas Day

This attracted 72 people throughout the day, we hosted three sessions where families could come along and have a meal with Father Christmas, and the elves helped the children write their Christmas letter, and take part in various crafts with a big sing along at the end, leaving with a bag of sweets and reindeer food!

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

www.holcombepc.org.uk

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7. Carols on the Hill

The 'Sax Pistols' played 30 minutes of Christmas carols, while we handed out complimentary mulled wine and hot chocolate, attracting roughly 50 people from the village.

8. Holcombe Hives Chocolate Factory

This was another interactive family trail based on the story of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. It ended at the Village Hall where all the children saw Willy Wonka and were given an easter egg. This event supported the Church who came along and fundraised by selling tea, coffee and cake. This was enjoyed by 215 people.

So far, we have donated a toaster to the Village Hall Committee, and £250 to Holcombe Brownies.

We are looking forward to this years music festival, as we have raised enough money throughout the year to be able to provide cover for everyone in the form of a Big Top circus tent!

9. Launch of the Community Project Fund 2022

The Clerk confirmed that applications are available for groups to apply for grants. The total amount available is £1800. The money should be going towards something that will have a lasting benefit to the residents of Holcombe. The deadline for application forms to be received is the 31st August with cheques being written at the October Parish Council meeting. Applications are available to download from the parish website: <https://www.holcombepc.org.uk/community-projects-fund-2022>

10. Date and time of the next Annual Meeting of the Parish

Tuesday 21st March 2023

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and for contributing to making the village what it is. We have a lot going on and want to continue to go from strength to strength.

Meeting closed at 21.05hrs.

These minutes are confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Chairman _____ Date _____