

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 / 01479 880428

****DRAFT** Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.30 pm at Holcombe Village Hall.**

Councillors Present Cllr Simon Brand (Chair)
Cllr Simon Eade
Cllr Phil Gait

In attendance: District Cllr Philip Ham and District Cllr Alan Townsend
There was 1 member of the public

1. Public forum

There were no points raised.

2. Co-option of Councillors

Helen Kerr attended the meeting and presented the completed consent to co-option form. She introduced herself and explained that she had previously been a Councillor for the Parish Council and was keen to do so again. All Councillors agreed that Helen would be an asset to the Council and voted in favour of the co-option.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to set up email address and send register of interests to Mendip District Council

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fran Dawe-Lane and County Cllr Mike Pullin which was accepted by the Chair.

4. Declaration of interests and dispensations

There were none.

5. Approve Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021

The Clerk had circulated the minutes prior to the meeting. Cllr Gait proposed that they should be approved which was seconded by Cllr Eade. The Clerk to upload to the Parish website.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

6. Action updates from the last meeting

All actions had been carried out or would be discussed later in the meeting apart from:

The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Brand with regard to hosting a community tree planting event.

Action: Clerk to speak with the supplier to establish delivery times

7. Reports

7.1 PCSO report
No report received

7.2 Somerset County Council
County Cllr Mike Pullin did not attend but had circulated the following report:

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 / 01479 880428

Coronavirus infection rates: As of 29th November, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 68,307 (18% up from 57,072 on 30th September) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 927. The rate per 100,000 stands at 435.2 (709.7) for Somerset with Mendip at 564.1 (853.9), Sedgemoor at 418.1 (653.5), South Somerset 505.5 (668.3) and SW&T at 276.6 (713.0). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 8% above the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.8 and 1.0. Infection rates in Somerset continue to be very high. With the new Omicron variant, it is important, even for those who have had both jabs, to remember to follow Government guidance on wearing masks, to continue to observe Social Distancing and to always ventilate indoor areas.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programmes roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 91.3% of the 18+ population having had one dose of vaccine and 88.3% having had both doses. To date 83% of over 80-year olds have had the booster with 56% of all over 50. Work is focusing on Children aged 12-15 years old where the current vaccination level is 49.7%. In total, in Somerset 126,000 doses (including boosters) are being delivered a week.

Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (now renamed Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities DLUHC)) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset the transition programme, lead teams and governance structure have been agreed by all Councils. A LGR Joint Committee to oversee the transition sat for the first time on 5th November 2021 and will meet again on December 17th. A Joint Scrutiny Board is now being formed by approval through the five Councils. The Advisory Board met for the third time in Donyatt on 25th November. It is expected that statutory orders will be laid before Parliament in January 2022 with an agreed vesting date for the new authority as April 2023.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee: In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking seventy years on the throne. To help Somerset play its part in celebrating The Queen's legacy, a new website has been launched: <https://platinumjubileesomerset.org.uk/>. There are already various plans for celebrations across the County to mark the Jubilee, including a four-day national Bank Holiday weekend from Thursday 2 June through to Sunday 5 June. The Platinum Jubilee Somerset website features information about how individuals and communities can get involved either through the Queen's Green Canopy scheme, by registering a beacon, or by organising a street party.

Community renewal funds: Eight projects in Somerset are to benefit by more than £3.6m thanks to successful bids to the Government's UK Community Renewal Fund. The County Council invited applications from a wide range of businesses and organisations across the county for submission to Government in June this year. The successful projects include 'Unlocking Somerset Prosperity (£726,000) which provides innovative support for 210 businesses across the County; Bridgwater Carnival Workshops Design and Feasibility (£270,300) and Social Enterprise Support Programme for Somerset (£601,399) which helps community and voluntary Groups to build greater resilience.

Reaching Carbon Zero (1): Somerset County Council has commissioned Climate Guide to run a series of free, accredited Carbon Literacy training days for City, Town, and Parish Councils. The training is designed to help local authorities understand the actions they can take to help combat climate change effectively. SCC has also launched its new Climate Emergency webpage <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/> which will provide a hub for anyone wanting information about Somerset's work towards tackling climate change including the latest environmental news for Somerset, information and tips for individuals and organisations on how they can reduce their carbon footprints.

Reaching Carbon Zero (2): A new £7.3 million primary school is set to become Somerset's first net zero carbon school, and only the third 'passivhaus' school in the south west. The new 420-place primary school,

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 / 01479 880428

which includes a 60-place nursery, will serve the Orchard Grove housing development in

Comeytrowe has been designed by architect firm Stride Treglown to minimise any environmental impact in line with Somerset's commitment to achieve carbon zero by 2030. The England coastal path: SCC's Rights of Way team have completed work on a major new section of the English Coastal Path around the Doniford section. The decision to create the footway was part of the original establishment works for the England Coast Path and marks the completion of one of the last pieces of major work on the England Coast Path in Somerset

Applications for school places 2022: All children starting school for the first time in September 2022, as well as those moving between infant and junior or first and middle school applications must be submitted by Saturday 15 January 2022. www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions.

7.3 Mendip District Council

District Cllr Townsend reported that:

This week is the live appeal proceeding at Mendip by Gladman against the Chilcompton refusal for 90 houses. The live arrangement gives a much better platform for the full and frank exchange of views. Appeals have also been lodged for developments at Stoke, White Post and Leigh and a new application has been submitted by Gladman for 255 houses at Writhlington of which 40 are in Mendip. All of these are outside development limits in LPP2. Questions are asked as to whether this document has any value.

The Modified Local Plan Part 2, Sites and Policies, is being presented to Full Council for adoption on 20th December. A key objective of LPP2 is "To ensure there are sufficient sites to enable a rolling 5-year supply of housing land in the District". In the Gladman appeal Mendip admitted that there is only a 3.5-year supply even after adoption of the new Plan. This has been in preparation for 6 years, and it is 29 months since the revised housing numbers were published by the Government. As Coleford suffered in the Gladman case, in order to secure refusal, it is necessary to prove the development would cause "significant and demonstrable harm" – this is a very high bar. Beckington PC are objecting strongly to a site included in LPP2 which has already been rejected by an appeal inspector.

District Cllr Townsend confirmed that Michael Gove is re-examining the method of calculation of housing so letters have been written to put a stop on the Coleford Development. He and District Cllr Ham also met with our MP David Warburton and asked him to speak to Michael Gove and raise it in parliament, which he said he would do.

One of the arguments put forward to prevent the development going ahead was an inadequate sewage system. It was noted that the level of sewage discharged is way over permissible amounts with Coleford discharging 10 times the legally allowed level in 2020. MP David Warburton said he would also take this forward. It was noted that there had been no illegal discharges recorded in Holcombe.

District Cllr Townsend said he had attended the Mendip District Council Audit committee. Government guidelines on setting Council tax will be given next week.

District Cllr Ham gave the following report:

Unitary – Election will be on the 5th May with 2 councillors per county division as they are at the moment. The Change orders are now going through parliament which should be completed by the end of February. Nothing is guaranteed until that is done. Parish Council elections will take place on the same date. 3 committees have now been set up – senior cabinet decision making, advisory group and the scrutiny group to scrutinise before the decisions are made. They will run until the elections. LCN are being piloted in Frome

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 / 01479 880428

Bus service improvement plan – There is consideration being given on the 184 service. All travel via the various villages before they arrive in Radstock. Lots of work going on to try and make improvements. To make the service a more attractive method of travel. Government has pledged £7.2 million in the pot and Somerset have applied for £165 million over the next couple of years. Next meeting 6th January. Lots of work has gone into the business plan to take this forward.

Coleford Foodbank – This was supported by the Parish Council and Wainwrights Quarry. They continue to support Scots Close with weekly hampers.

Coleford Flower and Craft show - The show has been running for 125 years and gives out 60 cups each year. They get plenty of entries but need more committee members to help keep this going in the future.

8. Planning Applications

There were none.

9. Planning Updates

There were none

10. Discuss Calendar of future events for publication

It was agreed that this would be reviewed at the January meeting.

Action: Agenda item for January

11. Authorise use of the car park for funeral on 6th December 2021

The Clerk had circulated a request to use the playing field car park for a funeral on the 6th December. It was proposed by Cllr Brand and seconded by Cllr Gait that it should be made available and added to the rolling number of total uses.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to record use.

12. Finance

12.1 Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Gait checked the bank reconciliation at the start of the meeting and found it to be in order.

12.2 Consider budget & precept for 2022/23

It was agreed that further discussion would take place at the January meeting when it would be known what the guidance is from Central Government but everyone present generally felt that an increase of up to 5% was appropriate.

Action: Agenda item for January. Clerk to revert back to the yellow version which showed the true figures for the previous year.

12.3 Parish Council Payments

The following invoices were presented for payment:

V Watts – Salary £370.72 and Expenses £30.46	£401.14
Royal British Legion – Wreath	£ 20.50
SALC – Councillor essential training	£ 25.00
Simon Brand – Print cartridges	£ 28.19

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 / 01479 880428

12.4	Playing Field Payments	
	Steph Chorley £388.93 for folding tables £79.99 hot water urn (Reconnecting communities grant)	£468.92
	Isaac Gregory - Tree work	£350.00
	Bigwoodplay.com Ltd – Zip Wire repair	£354.00

Cllr Gait proposed that all payments should be made which was seconded Cllr Eade.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

13. Highway

13.1 Consider purchase of a Speed Indicator Device for use on Holcombe Hill

Cllr Robinson and the Clerk had collated and circulated information regarding 2 Somerset Highway approved speed indicator devices for consideration by Councillors. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would compile a spreadsheet showing all relevant data for 3 devices alongside each other for ease of comparison.

Action: Clerk to compile the spreadsheet and circulate. Agenda item for January meeting

13.2 Update on existing issues already reported to somerset Highways

There were no new updates from Somerset Highways although it was noted that white lining had been completed on Charlton Road near Ash Farm.

The Clerk to contact County Cllr Mike Pullin to ask if he can put pressure on Somerset Highways to extend the 30mph zone from the Holcombe Farm Shop out towards Stoke St Michael.

Action: Clerk to contact County Cllr Pullin to request support for extending the 30mph zone at the Farm Shop

13.3 Report of new issues:

It was requested that the Clerk should contact Somerset Highways to ask if the centre of the road could be white lined to prevent drivers straying on to the wrong carriageway.

Action: Clerk to contact Somerset Highways

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

Holcombe Playing Field – The minutes from the recent meeting were circulated to all Councillors for their information only.

There were no other updates to report.

15. Meetings/Trainings to attend

14/12/21 @ 6.15pm (Pending agenda)	MDC Parish Forum
16/12/21 @ 7pm (Via Zoom)	Frome TC Local Community network meeting
17 & 25/01/21 @ 10 – 5pm	Carbon Literacy Training - PG & FDL to attend

16. Correspondence

CPRE Winter edition
War Memorials Newsletter
Clerks and Councils Direct

Action: To be read and circulated by councillors in the following order: Cllr Brand, Cllr Gait, Cllr Kerr, Cllr Eade, Cllr Dawe-Lane to Cllr Robinson.

**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 / 01479 880428**

17. Next meetings

Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 4th January 2022

Meeting closed at 21.20hrs

DRAFT