

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 - 01749 880428

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Phil Gait – Vice Chair
Cllr Stephenie Chorley
Cllr Terry Dumbrell
Cllr Bob Mitchell
Cllr Simon Brand

In attendance: Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes, 1 member of the public

1 Public forum.

There were no points raised.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Graham Crowe, Cllr Sue Robinson, Cllr Russell Stokes, District Cllr Townsend and District Cllr Ham had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

There were none.

4 Co-option of Councillors

A parishioner had spoken with the Clerk about the role and had attended the meeting to see what was involved. The Clerk to follow up.

VW

5 Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on 6th August 2019

The draft minutes for the abovementioned meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Chorley that the minutes were an accurate record and so were signed by the Chair. The Clerk to upload minutes to the website.

VW

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

6 Action points from last meeting and matters arising.

All actions have been completed or are to be discussed during this meeting.

7 Planning Applications

There were none.

8 Planning Updates

2019/1653/HSE – Proposed single storey side extension. The Old Manse, Chapel Lane, Holcombe, Radstock, BA3 5TF. Approved by Mendip District Council with conditions

9 Reports

9.1 PCSO report

PCSO Russell Ford provided the crime statistics for Holcombe from 1st – 31st August as follows;

- Residential burglaries – 1
- Non dwelling Burglaries – 0
- Attempted Burglaries - 0
- Criminal Damage – 0
- Theft from a Motor Vehicle – 0
- Shop lifting - 0
- ASB – 0

The current PACT priorities are as follows:

Fly-Tipping - Fly-tipping is defined as the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a licence to accept it'. Tipping a mattress, electrical items, building / garden waste or a bin bag full of rubbish in our rural communities causes a local nuisance in our rural locations and make them extremely unsightly causing a lasting environmental impact.

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 - 01749 880428

Speeding - Speeding in the rural villages has been highlighted as it causes safety concerns amongst our rural communities.

Your PCSO Contact Details

PCSO 8755 Mike Storey. Mobile – 07889655371. michael.storey@avonandsomerset.police.uk

The next PACT meeting to be held on Tuesday 29th October at Batcombe Village Hall. Anyone can join the neighborhood Policing team and partner agencies at this meeting to help resolve issues and set priorities.

9.2 Mendip District Council report

District Cllr Townsend did not attend but provided the following report:

HIGHWAYS

- Charlton Rd/Charmborough Lane junction – Cllr Townsend has a site meeting with Sara Davis of Highways on Friday 6th to look at sign location etc. There could be funding this year.
- Dropped Kerbs – following the helpful meeting with Charlie Higgins of Highways Cllr Townsend has been trying without success to set up a meeting with Kerry Jones who is in charge of these things at Highways. He will continue to chase up.
- Stoke Bottom – Charlie Higgins advised that he has an agreement with Penny's that they will build up the eroded edges.
- Whitehole Lane – There have been complaints about the increased use by HGVs causing issues with residents, walkers, horse riders, cyclists. Cllr Townsend has raised this with Coleford, Leigh and Stoke Parishes with a view to discussing HGV restriction options with Highways, though we are aware of possible adverse consequences. It was confirmed that no complaints had been received from Holcombe residents.

MENDIP

- Training – the programme continues with most benefits to new members and providing updates to older ones.
- Licensing Board – meeting on 14th August was briefed on the role of the Safety Advisory Group. These were established following the 66 deaths at Ibrox in 1971 and are a multi-agency advisory group to oversee safety arrangements for events. Mendip for example convened a SAG following the Glastonbury Festival traffic chaos in 2016 and the benefits were evident the following year. Major events subject to Licensing this year have included Glastonbury Festival, NASS at the Bath and West showground, Godney Gathering, Glastonbury Extravaganza, Mid Somerset Show, Pilton Party. A total of 164 Temporary Event Notices (TENs) have also been issued this year.
- Cabinet – a long session on 2nd September. Firstly, a presentation from local Fire and Rescue Services about the risks of the proposed options for reductions in stations and appliances. Frome and Wells would be directly affected. The Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan was cleared to go to a village referendum. A number of options were tabled in support of the Climate and Ecology Emergency, for example reductions in road verge cutting to promote wildflower growth. The road safety implications were pointed out. The elimination of the use of Glyphosate was proposed, though the nearest alternative was estimated to cost the Council some £50k a year more, 1% of Council Tax. The decline of the Shepton Mallet Sunday Market was reviewed – initially some 57 traders had been present but in July 2019 the number was only 10. It was agreed to license its continued operation through a Shepton Community Interest Company similar to Frome.

9.3 **County Council**

County Cllr Pullin had sent his apologies but no report was provided.

10 **Report on Holcombe Gala 2019**

Cllr Crowe did not attend but provided a report which had been circulated to all Councillors. Within the report he thanked the Parish Councillors, Playing Field Committee, Ali Gadd and Christine Webb for their help in organising the event which was well received. Cllr Chorley expressed thanks to Cllr Crowe for taking the lead.

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 - 01749 880428

Cllr Brand confirmed that there is currently £1891 in the Gala bank account which includes the original balance of £1033 carried over from last year. This included 50% of the profit taken by the Veterans food stall, The Ladies Club refreshments and the St Andrews Church stall as previously agreed. The profit for the 2019 Gala was £858.

This year saw a higher amount of income raised which included at £500 grant from Mendip District Councils Shape Mendip fund but expenses were also considerably higher with several entertainers being paid for their time, the hire of the bouncy castle and a sound system.

VW

Cllr Dumbrell confirmed that the feedback obtained from people visiting the Gala 2019 highlighted 3 main areas namely:

- Traffic
- Gala
- First Aid and Defibrillator training

Ag

It was agreed that this would be followed up at the October meeting.

After much discussion it was agreed in principle that the Gala would go ahead in 2020 but research would be done by Cllr Dumbrell and the Clerk to ascertain whether the 1st weekend in July clashed with any national or local events – it was noted that 2020 is an Olympic year. The Clerk will email the Coleford 1st Scouts to establish when their camps will be held during 2020 as it is recognised that the support of the group is integral to supplying manpower on the day.

TWD/VW
VW

A meeting will be held at the Duke on Thursday the 26th September 2019 at 7.30pm for the Parish Council, Playing Field committee, Ali Gadd and Christine Webb to discuss the 2019 event and agree what is proposed for 2020. The Gala will then be an agenda item at the October meeting when the date can be set for the 2020 event. Village groups will then be approached to seek their support for the event.

ALL
VW
Ag

11 Community Project fund update

Cllr Brand explained that the working party had received 4 applications all of which met the criteria, from:

Group	Project	Total cost	Amount req'd
1st Coleford Scout	Scout hall renovation	£50,000.00	£300.00
Ladies Club	5 x new chairs for VH	£372.00	£372.00
Welcome Club	Upgrade microphone & sound system	Not stated	£300.00
Football Club	New Football Kit	£275.00	£275.00

Cllr Brand said that the working party recommended that all of the applications should be approved for the abovementioned amounts, which was seconded by Cllr Dumbrell.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

12 Finance

12.1 Income

The following income had been received during August:

Curtis Ilott	Interment Rita House	£133.00
Cranmore PC	PAT	£6.00
Coleford PC	PAT	£18.00
Nat West	Interest	£5.97

12.2 Bank Rec

The Clerk had prepared the bank reconciliation which was checked by Cllr Gait at the end of the meeting and found to be in order.

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 - 01749 880428

12.3 Payments

The following payments were presented for payment by the Parish Council:

Vickie Watts – Clerk Salary & expenses	£221.38
MDC – Election expenses	£104.50
1st Coleford Scout	£300.00
Ladies Club	£372.00
Welcome Club	£300.00
Football Club	£275.00

It was proposed by Cllr Chorley and seconded by Cllr Dumbrell that all payments should be made. Cheques were then signed by Cllr Chorley and Dumbrell.

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

13 Consider quote for the purchase and installation of a flag pole

Cllr Brand had researched options available to the Council. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Dumbrell that the Council would purchase a new 10M fibreglass flagpole to be sited on the playing field near the Lychgate (exact location subject to site survey which Cllr Brand will arrange) at a total cost of £1100. This would be a white, one-piece, powder-coated fibreglass flagpole with internal halyard system (to reduce noise and prevent damage), a gold onion shaped finial and a hinged base plate. The cost includes delivery, ground works and subsequent installation.

SB

Vote: 5 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

The Parish Council approved the purchase of a new 10 metre fibreglass flagpole to be sited on the playing field near the lychgate (exact location subject to site survey) at a total cost of £1100. The one-piece white powder-coated fibreglass flagpole has an internal halyard system (to reduce noise and prevent damage), a gold onion shaped finial and a hinged base plate. The cost includes delivery, ground works and subsequent installation.

The rationale for approving this asset is to allow the village to mark national and regional events or the passing of **senior royals**, statesmen and women (when directed) and local people who have contributed much to the village during their lifetime. Our village has a rich and proud heritage and the addition of a flagpole provides a powerful symbol to remind us of the past and to look positively to an even better future.

14 Village Floral displays

Cllr Brand confirmed that he had spoken with the volunteer who is currently overseeing the planting and maintenance of all of the floral displays in the village and they have stated that they are happy to continue. However, they would like a new container to be purchased at the end of the growing season to replace the damaged one on Charlton Road next to the junction of the Old Church.

VW

A letter of thanks would be sent to the volunteer, along with a reminder that a budget is available to cover any expenses and to highlight that a replacement container will be purchased as requested.

VW

15 Holcombe Speedwatch

Area coordinator Ashley Reay has confirmed that Mr Mulroy has stood down from running speed watch in Holcombe. The Clerk will write to thank Mr Mulroy for giving up his time to complete Speedwatch and request that the equipment be returned to the Parish Council.

VW

The Clerk will seek new volunteers to enable the Holcombe Speedwatch to restart.

VW

16 External meetings to attend and reports on meetings attended

16.1 Cllr Robinson attended the PACT meeting on 6th August 2019 and reported the following points:

1. MDC Enforcement Officer, Ian Glover, explained that there are 38 covert cameras being used in the Mendip area at present. Frome being the worst area for fly tipping. Fixed Penalty Tickets of £400 are issued to anyone found fly tipping and if paid within ten days it is reduced to £250. Offenders are also taken to court if it is found worthwhile as the costs are over £5000.

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 - 01749 880428

From the 1st April 2020 there will be 3-week waste collections and it is anticipated fly tipping will increase.

The advice from Ian Glover when arranging for waste or garden material to be removed by a contractor is to always ensure that the company is registered and that the operative shows their licence card.

2. Speed Enforcement Unit, Adrian Humphries said that another motor cyclist would be joining the unit shortly after training. This would help cover the 300 camera locations in the Frome rural area. The Speed Enforcement Unit is solely funded from the Speed Awareness Courses.
3. All representatives from the villages at the meeting were concerned about the traffic and speeding through their villages and gave their concerns. Leigh-On-Mendip are setting up a new team for Community Speed Watch this month. Comment was made that the Automated Speed Watch System was not supported by the Police as it broke the DATA protection act.
4. PACT Priorities are:- Speeding, Poaching, Fly Tipping
5. The next PACT meeting will take place on Tuesday 29th October at Batcombe Village Hall

16.2 Mendip District Council Parish Forum - 12th September at Council Chambers starting at 6.15pm

17 Councillor reports/updates

17.1 Highways

The Clerk had requested that SCC Highways cut back the vegetation obscuring the blue sign advising lorries not to turn down Common Lane however it was mentioned that this has been cleared by a friend of the resident.

A letter had been received from the residents of Orchard House in response to the Parish Council letter asking them to cut back the hedge bordering Holcombe Hill. They have said that it is not safe to cut back the hedge as all passing traffic uses the immediate lane due to the cars being parked on the opposite side of the road.

Cllr Dumbrell said that the road sweeper had attended but despite several efforts it had not cleared the gully. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to SCC Highways asking them to ensure the gully to the side of the highway is cleared effectively. It was also suggested that the Highways department might notify the resident that the road would have safety measures in place to clear the gully and that this might be an opportunity for the hedge also to be cut back at the same time. The correspondence will also be sent to District and County Councillors to see if they can assist in the coordination of this.

VW

VW

17.2 Village Hall

Cllr Chorley circulated a copy of the minutes of the recent Village Hall Committee meeting on 13th August 2019 and highlighted the following points:

1. The Treasurer report confirmed the current bank balance and explained that a donation from the Glastonbury Pylon team expected soon.
2. An online booking system is now being used, but is only accessed by the managing committee and not members of the public.
3. A new lockable noticeboard will be installed at the front of the hall.
4. Dates for the breakfast brunch have been agreed for 2020. Since the start of these events 5 years ago a total of £3262.15 has been made.
5. A Christmas Santa event has been organised for the 14th December 2019.
6. The Unravelling Willberries will be performing at the Village Hall on the 11th October 2019. It had been publicised in On the Map that the playing field car park could be used during the evening, but this is not the case and has since been clarified with the organisers and the neighbours.

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 - 01749 880428

Steve Blount provided the following written update on the structural work on the Village Hall.

Following on from the update in April 2019 the old panels on the North side have been removed, Entrance side and Front elevation and replaced/repared/treated the structural timber as required, fitted new panelling with treated cover strips etc., this included installing a replacement canopy/porch structure retaining the original design cues of the building.

Terry Spellward and his neighbour Frank Tucker kindly agreed to fill, sand and paint the completed work with Dulux Weathershield smooth masonry paint, the agreed colour is Pale Slate and the final coat will be applied once all the other external work has been completed.

While some final finishing is needed to the canopy/porch structure it is intended to take a break from proceedings restarting in October, when the focus will be on the rear wall above the kitchen roof etc.

While carrying out this essential structural work to the Hall we have received many positive and supportive comments as it has evolved, this work should ensure the viability of the Hall for the benefit of all users for many years to come.

Currently the Hall is enjoying healthy levels of bookings managed by Kath Simpson our Booking Secretary.

17.3 Playing Field

A car boot sale will take place on the 28th September 2019. Sellers are welcome from 9am at a charge of £5 per car. The field will be open to the public at 10am until 2pm at no charge. Breakfast rolls will be available in the hall (to be eaten on the field) as well as an ice cream van.

Time is Precious running club have requested use of the toilets in the barn on the days that the field is used. This was agreed at no charge but it was asked that the key code could be kept to one person. The Clerk to pass on the key code.

The Clerk raised the concern expressed by David Hirst about the dip in the surface at the entrance to the playing field car park which was noted during the Gala event. The Playing Field committee have said that this could be addressed at the same time as the installation of the path around the field.

17.4 Cemetery – including discussion on whether the Parish Council should cover cost of planning permission for the cemetery path

An email had been received from Gay Curtis on behalf of the PCC asking the Parish Council to apply for planning permission to provide a new path from the front of the church to the parish council cemetery to the rear. It also asked that improvements be made to the existing path from Moores Lane to the church entrance which was not part of the original discussion or what had previously been agreed.

Cllr Gait and Cllr Dumbrell agreed to meet with representatives of the PCC to discuss the expectations and requirements in an attempt to move this forward. The Clerk passed to Cllr Gait the agreed quote for the new path and communications between the PCC and the Council to help with the negotiations.

PG
TWD

It was agreed that a temporary path would be required before the onset of the winter to ensure the safety of those accessing the Cemetery. The Clerk will research temporary matting and report back at the October meeting.

VW

17.5 SALC

The Clerk has requested that she attends the training session - VAT for Local Councils on Weds 20/11/2019 starting 9:30am - 3:00pm at Edgar Hall, Somerton. The Clerk will ask Cranmore and Coleford Parish Councils to contribute to the £60 charge for the course.

VW

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 - 01749 880428

18 Correspondence

- Parish bulletin from Mendip District Council
- CPRE magazine

Passed to Cllr Brand to read and pass on to the next Councillor.

19 Dates for next meeting

Tuesday 1st October 2019 – Parish Council meeting

Meeting finished 22.00hrs