

**HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
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**

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 1st August 2023 at Holcombe Village Hall**

Councillors Present Cllr Simon Brand (Chairman)
 Cllr Mark Davies
 Cllr Simon Eade
 Cllr Elaine Emery
 Cllr Philip Gait
 Cllr Helen Kerr
 Cllr David Roberts
 Cllr Jon Stratford

In attendance: The Clerk Vickie Watts taking the minutes
 There were no members of the public.

1. Public forum

There were no points raised.

2. Apologies for absence

Somerset Cllrs Edric Hobbs and Tony Robbins both sent apologies.

3. Declaration of Interests and dispensations

Cllr Emery declared an interest in agenda item 10.3 payments.

4. Co-option of Councillors

There is still one vacancy which the Clerk will continue to promote.

Action: Clerk to promote vacancy

5. Approve Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023

The Clerk had circulated the minutes prior to the meeting. Cllr Emery proposed that they were an accurate record and should be approved which was seconded by Cllr Kerr. The minutes were duly signed.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention

Action: Clerk to upload to the website

6. Action updates from the last meeting

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

- Councillors Kerr or Emery to check if the speed limit signs had been cut back by Somerset Highways and if not notify the Clerk.

7. Reports

1. PCSO – No report had been received but the Clerk and Cllr Stratford met with PCSO Robert Nell and the new PCSO Louise Perry which was a productive meeting.

2. Somerset Council report –
No report had been received.

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3. Update on the Local Community Network (LCN) meeting held on the 31st July 2023 –
Cllr Brand attended the meeting. Somerset Cllr Philip Ham was elected Chair and Cllr Clare Sully Vice Chair. There are 9 full time link officers employed across the county to act as a link between the Somerset Council and the Local Community network group. It was stressed that there should be collaboration and want the LCN's to have a voice, although they have no authority or money. During the meeting the group was asked questions on what was important to our parishes.

Cllr Brand said that it was a good opportunity to network with other neighbouring parishes. The group will meet every 2 months with the next in October, which Cllr Brand will attend. He suggested that going forward a second Councillor should be appointed so that attending the meetings could be split.

8. Planning Applications

- 8.1 2023/1386/HSE - Proposed front porch extension and single storey rear extension
5 Mendip Gardens Holcombe

All Councillors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. Cllr Brand outlined the application and suggested that it should be recommended for approval as there were no material planning reasons to object. It was proposed by Cllr Stratford and seconded by Cllr Davies that the application should be recommended for approval

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

- 8.2 2023/1370/HSE – Single storey extension to dwelling
Erz An Myne Croft Road Holcombe

All Councillors had considered the plans prior to the meeting. Cllr Brand outlined the application and suggested that it should be recommended for approval as there were no material planning reasons to object. It was proposed by Cllr Brand and seconded by Cllr Emery that the application should be recommended for approval

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Hobbs to ask for the address to be corrected on planning correspondence as Holcombe addresses are shown as having Shepton Mallet as the town rather than Radstock.

Action: Clerk to notify planning office and write to Somerset Cllr re amendment to town

9. Planning Updates

There were none. Cllr Brand had requested an update on both the Farm shop car park and for the in-fill at Edford which should have been decided by now.

10. Finance

1. Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Emery to complete the reconciliation at the end of the meeting.

2. Consider 1st quarter review of the accounts for 2023/24

The Finance working party had considered the report which was then circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that there were no areas for concern and that the budget review should be signed by the Chair.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

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3. Parish Council Payments:

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Vickie Watts – Salary & Expenses	£439.41
Holcombe Village Hall – Hire April – June	£ 54.00
Elain Emery – Materials for floral displays	£ 46.80
Coleford PC - Society of Local Council Clerks membership	£ 46.75

It was proposed by Cllr Kerr and seconded by Cllr Gait that the invoices should be paid.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstentions

4. Playing Field Payments:

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Somerset Playing Field Association	£ 15.00
Playsafety Limited – Play inspection	£201.00

It was proposed by Cllr Kerr and seconded by Cllr Gait that the invoices should be paid.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

11. Highways

1. Update on Auto Speed Watch (ASW) and consider whether to purchase

Cllr Stratford and Roberts presented a comprehensive report which investigated the benefits and drawbacks of the ASW system which had been shared with all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Stratford and seconded by Cllr Davies that the Council should purchase:

1 x Autospeed Watch camera, version 2 at a cost of £589 which includes annual subscription to maintain data connectivity (Subsequent years will be charged at £148)

5 x large signs to be installed on each road into the village at a cost of £53.50 per sign.

Action: Clerk to place the order

2. Update on existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways

There was no update.

Action: Clerk to seek update from Philip Ham. Agenda item for August.

3. Report of new issues

Green Lane is still very wet.

Action: Clerk to report to Alan Townsend

12. Consider quotes for inscription work on the stone obelisk in Jubilee gardens

The Clerk had received an offer from Curtis Ilott to complete the additional inscription at no charge. It was proposed by Cllr Emery and seconded by Cllr Kerr that the generous offer be accepted.

Action: Clerk to accept the offer from Curtis Ilott

13. Discuss Beacon lighting event on 6th June 2024 to mark the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings

The working party of Cllr Brand, Davies, Emery and Kerr met and propose that on Thursday 6th June the following events be held:

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18.30hrs	Bar opens in the village hall
19.00 – 20.00hrs	Quiz held in the village hall
20.00hrs	Katherine Jenkins Tribute act entertains on the field
21.15 – 21.45hrs	Beacon is lit & entertainment continues
22.30	Event closes

The event would be free to attend and the quiz and bar would be run by the Parish Council. All agreed that the timetable would work and that the tribute act should be booked and paid for from the Gala fund.

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

Village Hall – Cllr Emery had passed on the request received from a member of the parish that the tiles outside the fire door of the village hall should be repaired as they are loose. Cllr Emery will attend the next Village Hall Committee meeting on 22nd August.

Footpaths – Cllr Emery reported the broken stile on footpath

18. Meetings/Training to attend

Cllr Davies and Emery had both attended Somerset Association of Local Council Training.

03/10/23 - 09:30 til 12:00. Carbon Literacy for Somerset Councils. Online course.

09/08/23 - 17.00 til 19.00. @ the Hub, Church Street, Coleford. Solar Ash Farm Public Consultation

19. Correspondence

27/07/23 – Somerset Council – Mendip Local Plan Part II – Sites and policies adopted 2021 with revisions December 2022. Notification of policy changes to an adopted development plan. Agreed no further action required.

26/07/23 – Geeking It Simple – Notification of increase in price to the annual payment for Premium Anti Ransomware cover from £5.30 to £5.62 from September 2023

01/07/23 - Npower – Notification of increase in tariff for unmetered supply to the Lychgate from 33.80 p/kWh to 50.188 p/kWh.

05/07/23 - Somerset Highways – Information regarding progressing with 20mph zones in Parish. Agreed no action at present. Could be considered at a later date when ASW has provided more data.

20. Next meetings:

Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 5th September 2023 @ 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 20.45hrs