

**HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
IN 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

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 3rd October at Holcombe Village Hall**

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

In attendance: Somerset Cllr Edric Hobbs
 Clerk Vickie Watts taking the minutes.
 There were no members of the public present.

1. Public forum

There were no points raised.

2. Apologies for absence

Somerset Cllr Tony Robbins and PCSO Lousie Perry sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of interests and dispensations

There were none.

4. Co-option of Councillors

The Clerk confirmed that a parishioner had planned to attend the meeting with a view to being co-opted but had been unable to attend due to a family emergency. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the resident to attend the November meeting.

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting

5. Approve Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on Tuesday 5th September 2023

The minutes had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Emery and seconded by Cllr Davies that they accurately reflected the meeting and should be approved.

Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 1 Abstention

6. Action updates from last meeting

All actions had been completed or would be covered as agenda items during the meeting.

7. Reports

7.1 PCSO – no report had been received.

7.2 Somerset Council – The report for September had been circulated to all Councillors soon after the September meeting.

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8. Planning Applications

There were none.

9. Planning Updates

2023/0611/FUL – Little Tying, Charlton Road, Holcombe. Conversion of an existing garage and workshop to residential accommodation and additional hard standing area with drainage

This was referred to the PB on 3 Oct for consideration as the planning officer's decision was contrary to that of the Parish Council. Cllr Phil Gait represented the Parish Council and made clear the reasons why the Parish Council had approved the application. After representation and discussion, the application was approved.

10. Updates on the Small Grants 2023

The Clerk explained that there was only 1 application received from Holcombe Football Club. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Brand that the application of £300 for paint and ground maintenance should be approved.

Vote: 7 For; 0 Against; 1 Abstention

Action: Cheque to be presented to the Football Club

11. Finance

11.1 Bank Reconciliation

This will be carried forward to the next meeting

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting

11.2 3rd Quarter Budget Review 2023/24

This will be carried forward to the next meeting

Action: Agenda item for the next meeting

11.3 Parish Council Payments

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Vickie Watts – Salary & Expenses	£452.24
Royal British Legion	£ 22.50
Holcombe Village Hall – last quarter	£ 54.00
Vickie Watts – Printer - ¼ share of Epson printer	£ 50.20
Western Web - Create new website	£690.00
SALC / NALC annual subscription	£280.51
Holcombe Football Club – Community Project Grant	£300.00

11.4 Playing Field Payments:

The following invoices were presented for payment:

Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited	
Annual Insurance for the Playing Field	£ 1,002.94
Sign Efix Ltd – Signage for the playing Field	£ 404.40

It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Kerr that the above mentioned payments for both the Parish Council and the Holcombe Playing Field should be approved.

Vote: 8 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention

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12. Highways

12.1 Update on installation Auto Speed Watch

The Auto Speed Watch unit has been installed although the unit has not yet been registered, which it is hoped will be completed in the next week.

Action: Cllr Stratford to progress

12.2 Update on existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways

It was noted that the street light which had been removed on the footpath between Kingsway and Scott's Close has not yet been replaced despite promises that it would be done.

Action: Clerk to contact the Street Light team and ask for the light to be installed as a matter of urgency

12.3 Report of new issues

A pot hole has developed on the Stoke St Michael side of the bridge near the Farm Shop.

Action: Clerk to report

13. Review Grass Cutting contract for 2024 / 2025 / 2026

The draft specification for the grass cutting contract had been circulated to all Councillors. Some minor changes were suggested which all agreed should be added to the contract.

Vote: 8 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstention

Action: Clerk to send the specification to contractors. Agenda item for the December meeting

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

14.1 Village Hall committee meeting – Cllr Emery reported that the steps had been repaired and a sign was to be ordered for the Village Hall.

14.2 Playing Field committee meeting – Cllr Emery has joined the Playing Field Committee.

15. Meetings/Training to attend

26/09/23 - Cllr Davies attended the Briefing on Mendip Local Plan Part II Partial Update. He reported that Somerset Council have sent out notifications at the end of July of the requirement to undertake a partial update of this Plan and a call for sites. This requested submissions for new housing sites and confirmation of existing land registered with the Council as available for development. The call for sites in Somerset East closed on 4th September. Policy officers are currently working through these responses and other potential sites to be assessed.

Since this time, officers have sought clarification on the types of sites which could be counted towards the requirement to identify 505 dwellings as required in the Court Order. The Council is able to consider some sites which have been granted permission since 2019 and current windfall applications. In addition, selection of preferred options will be strongly weighted to sites that can deliver housing in the next five years in the plan period (ie between 2024 and 2029).

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18/10/23 – Local Community Network meeting. Time and location to be confirmed. Cllr Gait to attend.

16. Correspondence

CPRE magazine – Cllr Brand to read and share with other Councillors.

17. Next meetings:

Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 7th November 2023 @ 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 20.34hrs