

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

Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 7.30 pm at Holcombe Village Hall

Councillors Present Cllr Phil Gait (Chair)
 Cllr Helen Kerr
 Cllr Simon Eade

In attendance: District Cllr Philip Ham and District Cllr Alan Townsend
 There were 2 members of the public.

1. Public forum

A member of the parish attended the meeting and said that he had lived in the village for 28 years and over recent years he had seen the volume of traffic and speed vehicles are travelling increase. He said people are driving too fast and on one occasion he was actually hit by a car wing mirror. The situation is exacerbated by poor parking at the farm shop and the lorries accessing the concrete works and something needs to be done.

Another resident attended and said he had witnessed vehicles driving at excessive speed on the wide straight part of the hill. They questioned whether a police enforcement van could visit to act as a deterrent.

Cllr Gait suggested that the letters sent by the Parish Council to Highways be sent so they can see what has been asked of Highways. The Parish Council has agreed to install speed indicator devices to act as a visual reminder but also gather data which will further support future requests for traffic calming.

One of the residents said that the condition of Green Lane was also a problem and if the flooding was not addressed it would cause issues with the bridge. Edge erosion is also a problem. District Cllr Townsend said that he had been highlighting this issue for some time to Somerset Highways and they have confirmed that work will be completed to address the issues on the 8th August 2022.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Simon Brand sent his apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Gait declared an interest in a cheque payment.

4. Approve Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022

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

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

5. Action updates from the last meeting

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

6. Co-option of Councillors

The Clerk confirmed that there were two potential candidates. The Clerk will liaise with the parishioners to help them to understand the role of a Councillor and answer any questions they might have.

Action: Clerk to progress

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7. Reports

7.1 PCSO report

No report had been received.

7.2 Somerset County Council

No report received

7.3 Mendip District Council

Mendip DC Annual Full Council Meeting 23-5-22 – Appointments to Committees were agreed as follows:

Cllr Ham – Scrutiny Board, Substitute member; Audit Committee – Substitute member

Cllr Townsend – Scrutiny, Full member; Planning Board – Substitute; Audit Committee – Full member.

Council passed a resolution to Declare a Cost of Living Emergency. 2 days later the Chancellor announced his support package.

Audit Committee 1-6-22

It was confirmed that the much-delayed accounts for the year ending 31-3-21 will finally be signed off by the external auditors this month. The external audit of the 21/22 account will not start until October and will therefore miss the November target date.

Highways

Stoke Bottom - County Highways have confirmed that maintenance work including drainage repairs, ditching, patching and restoration of verges is scheduled to commence on 8-8-22.

District Cllr Philip Ham said that extensive work was going to be completed in Stoke St Michael which would mean that the road would need to be closed for 10 weeks. Diversion was yet to be agreed but it will cause disruption to neighbouring villages.

He also thanked Holcombe Parish Council for working closely in coordinating the Jubilee events which worked well and ensured a full calendar of events for both villages which was a huge success.

8. Planning Applications

There were none.

9. Planning Updates

There were none.

10. Consider quotes for relocating the litter bin from Longleat Road

Two quotes had been received and were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Kerr and seconded by Cllr Eade that the quote by Nippers Tippers of £100 be accepted.

Action: The Clerk to notify the Contractor

11. Finance

11.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk will ensure that Cllr Gait gets to review the bank reconciliation prior to the next meeting.

Action: The Clerk to drop the bank reconciliation to Cllr Gait.

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11.2 Parish Council payments

The following invoices were presented for payment:

V Watts – Salary £444.84 and expenses £38.55	£483.39
Gallagher Insurance – AJGIBL GB Client Account	£484.34
Julia Evans – Jubilee Gardens materials	£41.93
@ The Hub – Hall Hire	£20.00
Phil Gait – Stationary for footpath map	£19.57

11.3 Playing Field payments

There was no payment to be made.

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

Vote: 2 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention

12. Highway

12.1 Update on volunteer training and installation of Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The Clerk reported that a provisional training slot had been booked for Cllr Eade and a parishioner to attend the Moving Works Operatives on the 5th July at Rooksbridge. The course will start at 8.30 and finish at 4pm. This will enable the volunteers to download data and address any issues with the SID.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been completed and sent to Sara Davis of Somerset Highways for approval but is yet to be acknowledged.

The supplier of the SID is aware of our wish to proceed on a rental basis to start. Once the MOU has been approved and training completed we will be able to proceed.

Action: Clerk to progress.

12.2 Update on existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways

Despite attempts to contact Sara Davis the Highways Engineer, the Clerk had received no response.

12.3 Report of new issues

There were none.

13. Consider and agree meeting dates for July and August 2022

It was agreed that due to the Clerk taking annual leave the July meeting would be cancelled. An emergency meeting could be called if required to address planning applications or other urgent business.

The meeting on Tuesday 2nd August will take place as usual.

14. Update on the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

All agreed that the events held over the extended bank holiday weekend to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee were well attended and a huge success. The bar at the quiz and the BBQ made over £850. The final accounts will be available at the next meeting.

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

There were none.

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16. Meetings/Trainings to attend

17. There were none.

18. Correspondence

25/05/22. CPRE The Countryside Charity – Somerset Appeal funding request. No further action required

01/06/22. Holcombe Hive – Response to Parish Council letter, including accounts for year ending 31/03/22 and a screenshot regarding insurance for the group. It was agreed that the Clerk would request a copy of the insurance policy rather than a screenshot of a letter from an insurance company. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item when Cllr Brand was present.

Action: Clerk to request a copy of the insurance policy. Agenda item for next meeting

01/06/22. Mendip District Council - Amendments to Local validation list following adoption of supplementary planning document: Design and amenity of new development, guidance for interpretation of Local Plan Policy DP7. Consultation 06/06/22 to 04/07/22. No further action required.

18 Next meetings:

As agreed, the next Parish Council meeting will take place on 2nd August 2022

Meeting closed at 20.45 hrs