

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 9th August 2022 at 7.30 pm at Holcombe Village Hall**

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

In attendance: County Cllr Tony Robbins and District Cllr Alan Townsend
There were 2 members of the public.

1. Public forum

1.1 Cllr Tony Robbins introduced himself as the new Somerset Councillor for Holcombe and outlined his responsibilities, the role he shares with Edric Hobbs. He is also a Councillor for Wells City Council. He explained that the next 2-3 months will be very busy with lots to be ratified at the November meeting. At present there is very little information relating to the Local Community Networks but once there is news Tony said that he would feed the information back to the Council.

1.2 Elaine Emery attended on behalf of Holcombe Hive to ask if the car park gates could be unlocked so that vehicles could move off the Playing Field after the Music event which is being held on Saturday 10th September 2022 which will start at 3.15pm and finish at 11.30pm.

There has been no request to apply to Mendip District Council for the car park to be open.

Cllr Brand said that the car park conditions are stringent, cannot be ignored and therefore must be closed by 8pm. The emergency services will be able to access the field if required on the night.

1.3 It was noted that the waste bin currently along Longleat Road has not yet been relocated to the junction of Longleat Road and Longleat Lane.

Action: Clerk to chase up the contractor

2. Apologies for absence

District Cllr Philip Ham, Cllr Simon Eade and County Cllr Edric Hobbs sent their apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of interests and dispensations

There were none

4. Approve Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2022

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

There has been an expression of interest. The Clerk will liaise with the parishioner to answer any questions and encourage them to sign up.

Action: Clerk to progress

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7. Reports

1. PCSO – No report was received.
2. District Council report – District Cllr Townsend submitted the following report:

Audit – At the Committee Meeting on 3rd August the Accounts for the Year Ending March 2021 were finally signed off.

Planning - The Planning Board of 20th July approved the plans for 270 dwellings at Westfield to the left beyond the White Post. The site was included in the Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) update. Unlike the site at Beauchamps Drive behind the White Post where 70 houses were approved at appeal despite not being included in LPP2. Appeals are ongoing for the sites at Leigh and Stoke each for 40 houses, again both are not included in LPP2.

The Planning Board on 17th August will debate the plan for the redevelopment of Saxonvale in Frome, this is in opposition to the plan already approved by the Board. The new plan claims to be on a not-for-profit basis and to have considerable local support. However, the new applicants do not own the site (Mendip do) and it does not offer the quantum of housing required by the LPP2.

Cabinet on 8-8-22 agreed to defend the Judicial Review raised by Norton St Philip against the legality of Local Plan Part 2 and its allocation of an extra 505 dwellings in the north east of the district

3. County Council report – No report was received.
4. Update on Unitary – The minutes from the Town and Parish Clerk Working Group meeting held on the 3rd August were circulated to all Councillors. These are held fortnightly and the Clerk has said that she will try to attend these going forward as things should start to progress over the next few months.

The minutes from the meeting held at Doultong on the 7th July 2022 to discuss the Local Community Networks had been circulated. The maps for the LCNs which were promised have yet to be provided. It is hoped that they will be forthcoming so that they can be discussed at the next meeting which is planned for 11th August and Cllr Brand will attend.

8. Planning Applications

1. 2022/1143/TPO – TPO (1046) T1 Ash – Fell
Goodwood, Charlton Road, Holcombe

All Councillors had considered the application which stated that Tibbs Tree Surgeons had completed an inspection and advised that the tree needs to be cut down. After consideration Cllr Brand proposed that the application be recommended for approval so that the tree can be removed, which was seconded by Cllr Kerr.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

2. 2022/1399/HSE – Erection of single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory
Greystones, Holcombe Hill, Holcombe, Radstock

All Councillors had had the opportunity to consider the plans prior to the meeting. Cllr Brand outlined that the application was for a garden room which, was slightly wider and taller than the existing conservatory which will be knocked down. Councillors had no concerns relating to the plans.

It was proposed by Cllr Brand and seconded by Cllr Gait that the application be recommended for approval.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

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9. Planning Updates

There were none.

10. Approve the use of the car park for the funeral on the 2nd August 2022

The Clerk had emailed all Councillors to notify them of the request to use the car park for the funeral held on the 2nd August to which all Councillors had agreed. The Clerk to ensure this is to be recorded as one of the additional 12 uses for the rolling year.

Action: The Clerk to add to the record.

11. Finance

1. Bank reconciliation – Cllr Gait to check the reconciliation at the end of the meeting.
2. 1st Quarter budget review – The Clerk had circulated the 1st Quarter budget review prior to the meeting. After discussion it was agreed that the accounts were as expected and should be approved. It was also agreed that a letter would be sent to Somerset County Council to ask if the unspent balance (£531) of the Climate emergency grant, received to create the orchard could be used on other items to ensure the success of the orchard.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstentions

Action: Cllr Brand to write to SCC and the Clerk to send

3. Invoices for payments -
The following invoices were presented for payment:

Parish Council Payments:

V Watts – Salary £215.68 and Expenses £30.90	£246.58
Village Hall Hire – April to June	£ 78.00
TQ Excel – Road training	£468.00
Mendip District Council – Election charges	£100.00
SLCC – Annual membership	£ 46.50

Playing Field Payments:

Play Safety Limited	£189.00
Combe Garden Maintenance – Strimming orchard	£125.00

It was proposed by Cllr Kerr and seconded by Cllr Brand that all payments should be made.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

12. Highways

1. Update on the volunteer training and installation of speed indicator device
The Clerk confirmed that both volunteers had completed the required training to work on the highway and she had made contact with the supplier who explained that there had been a delay in supply of microchips. They hoped that the unit could be supplied August or September.

Action: Clerk to progress

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2. Update existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways

District Cllr Townsend reported that the illumination of the Stop sign at the cross roads of Stratton Road / Brewery Lane and Charlton Road has been restored after much resident pressure. The drainage work on Burrows Lane has been completed, the markings up on Brewery Lane by Dark Lane for making good and Stoke Bottom is closed for drainage and repair work.

Cllr Brand reported that the Stratton Road sign has been relocated by the homeowner due to the removal of the wall at Kingscote but it is a slightly odd angle. If there is negative feedback then it may have to be repositioned.

The Clerk has requested that the white lining at the main cross roads by the Lychgate be repainted after a driver failed to stop and nearly caused an accident.

Action: The Clerk to review outstanding Highway matters with Sara Davis.

3. Discuss entry into Scott's Close from Longleat Lane

A complaint had been received on behalf of Scott's Close, Kingsway and Old Manor Estate. Inconsiderate parking is impacting on the ability of the recycling lorries accessing Scott's Close.

After discussion it was suggested that a letter could be sent to all residents in the area highlighting the issue. A flyer could also be designed which could be left on an offending car window to remind drivers of the issue and hopefully educate to prevent further blockages and failed collections in the future.

Action: Cllr Brand will speak with the parishioner to ask if they think the suggestions would help. The Clerk will ask Sara Davis of Somerset Highways if the white lining can be repainted and extended into Scott's Close.

4. Report of new issues

The village name plate near to the Church Lane isn't straight.

Action: Clerk to ask Sara Davis of Somerset Highways to repair.

13. Discuss whether to allow memorials on Parish Council assets

A request had been received asking for a small 4ins x 2ins memorial plaque to be placed on each of the floral display tubs in memory of Marlene Croker.

After discussion it was agreed that the request would be declined. The Council did not want to set a precedent with memorials on parish council assets. It was stressed that this was no reflection on the voluntary work that Marlene did for the Council which was always exemplary.

14. Councillors reports/update including Playing Field, Village Hall, SALC etc

Playing field – Cllr Brand has requested that there be a 2hr community event for volunteers to undertake some maintenance tasks on the Playing field like weeding, treating the timber benches etc. Refreshments would be provided free of charge. A provisional date of the 2nd of October was agreed but the time is yet to be confirmed with the Playing field committee

Action: Date to be agreed with the Playing field committee and then promoted

15. Meetings / Training to attend

Douling Parish Council – A meeting to discuss LGR Unitary on 11th August 2022 will take place at Douling village hall at 7.30pm. Cllr Brand to attend.

Mendip Parish Forum Hybrid meeting (Teams and MDC Chambers) – 08/09/22 @ 18.30pm

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16. Correspondence

Clerks and Councils Direct – Passed to Cllr Brand

17. Next meetings:

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th September 2022

Meeting closed at 20.33hrs