

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 4th October 2022 at 7.30 pm at Holcombe Village Hall**

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

In attendance: District Cllr Philip Ham
There were 12 members of the public.

1. Public forum

- 1.1 The Holcombe Hive requested the use of the playing field and car park on the 8th and 9th September 2023 for the duration of the evenings up to 11.45pm. The Clerk said that the use of the playing field would be a decision for the playing field committee and would be dealt with at the next meeting. The Parish Council noted the request to use the car park outside of the usual conditions.

Action: Agenda item for future meeting

- 1.2 A member of the public attended the meeting to discuss the application submitted for a community project grant to create Community living room. This would be discussed later in the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Simon Brand, District Cllr Alan Townsend, County Cllr Tony Robbins and County Cllr Edric Hobbs sent their apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interests and dispensations

Cllr Eade declared an interest in agenda item 8.1 – planning application 2022/1794/PAA

4. Approve Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022

The Clerk had circulated the minutes prior to the meeting. Cllr Kerr proposed that they should be approved which was seconded by Cllr Eade. 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 is hopeful that there will be a co-option at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to progress

7. Reports

1. PCSO – No report had been received.

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2. District Council report – District Cllr Townsend submitted the following report:

PLANNING

It was noted that after 9 months Mendip Planning office have approved application ref 2021/2815 for the construction of a house to replace the stable beyond No 7 The Mead, Brewery Lane. All objections were over-riden by the fact that Mendip cannot demonstrate a forward 5-year supply of housing land. As the Parish Council had recommended refusal the application should have been referred back to the Ward Councillors if the Planning Officer was minded to approve. It would appear that this did not happen on this occasion and Cllr Ham said they were asking questions as to why this protocol was not followed.

Leigh on Mendip – application at Quarry Lane for 40 dwellings – The District Councillors plan to attend the Informal Appeal Hearing starting on 4th October to support the Parish Council’s objections.

Stoke St Michael – the Informal Appeal hearing for the development of 40 houses along Coalpit Lane will be heard in November.

Gypsy and Travellers – Mendip have lost their appeal against a site for 9 pitches at Emborough, The Inspector ruled that as Mendip have failed to allocate enough formal sites there are no grounds to refuse. A cross party proposal has been submitted to the Head of Planning to urge them to issue Certificates of Lawfulness to the dozens of acceptable sites already in existence around the District. This would immediately rectify the shortfall and remove at a stroke the risk of random settlements being approved without defence. At Cabinet last night there was a disturbance when they discussed the Public Space Protection Order to provide a simpler means of removing offensive illegal dwellings.

FULL COUNCIL

The meeting endorsed the Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan. It still envisages 31 x 450 ft high wind turbines in the district by 2030 with 10 in place by the end of 2023. The Plan also envisages that freight emissions will be reduced by “10% increase in use of waterborne transport”. It was later accepted by Mendip District Council that this was not achievable in Mendip due to the lack of waterways.

There were three emergency motions. The first was to promote better public transport in Mendip with County support. The second was a requirement to amend planning procedures so that Wessex Water are required to address the impact of major developments on watercourses and treatment works. They were both passed despite multiple objections. The third sought to impose a vegan culture on our local agriculture – this was withdrawn at the last minute without explanation.

Glastonbury – It was announced that the town has been successful in obtaining a Town Deal Grant from the Government of £23M to provide a facelift, improve its attractions and car free routes.

3. County Council report – No report was received.
4. Update on Unitary – The Local Community Network Consultation has been received and circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Philip Ham explained that he has proposed two further options for the rural parishes details of which have been circulated to those that it could affect. He also confirmed that he had been successful in negotiating an extension in time to compensate for the time lost due to the period of mourning for Queen Elizabeth II. The consultation will now close on the 1st November.

Action: This will be further reviewed at a working party meeting.

8. Planning Applications

1. 2022/1794/PAA – Prior Approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for associated operational development.
Southmead Farm, Charlton Road, Holcombe, Radstock, BA3 5EX

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All Councillors had considered the application prior to the meeting. The Clerk clarified that the Planning Officer had confirmed that Prior Approval application do not go to Parish Councillors for consultation however we were welcome to submit comments if we so wished.

The applicant attended the meeting and gave the reasons why they wanted to develop the site and the proposals. After discussion it was agreed that no comments would be submitted to the Planning Officer.

9. Planning Updates

There were none.

10. Request for improvements to be completed at Jubilee Garden – consider quotes to remove stumps, tree and shrubs.

The Clerk confirmed that 2 quotes had been received. It was agreed that a further quote would be sought.

Action: Clerk to seek a further quote

11. Finance

1. Bank reconciliation – Cllr Gait to check the reconciliation prior to the next meeting.

2. Second quarter budget review – Agenda item for the November meeting.

Action: Clerk to prepare 2nd Qtr review and discussion document for the next financial year

3. Review and agree applications received for the Community Project Fund

Cllr Kerr confirmed that there were 5 applications had been received with a total of £1293.47 from a total budget of £1800.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Awarded</u>
1st Coleford Scouts	Racking	£372.00	£300.00
Holcombe Breakfast Club	Coffee pots/cups etc	£100.00	£101.94
Bluebells Early Years - Stoke St Michael School	Light Table & accessories	£291.53	£291.53
Holcombe FC	Pop up goals	£352.93	£300.00
Holcombe Village Living Room	Village Living Room	£300.00	£300.00
	Total requested		£1,293.47
	Total available		£1,800.00

A representative attended to speak about the Holcombe Village Living Room (HVLR) and said that further grant funding could be sought from Wessex Water by Holcombe Parish Council to run this group. If successful it may be that the funding from Community Fund might not be required, however the decision on the Wessex Water grant would not be known until Christmas. It was agreed that the Clerk in conjunction with the parishioner would complete the application form and submit it along with a copy of the council's standing orders, a risk assessment and a safeguarding policy, which the Clerk will complete and circulate for approval at the next meeting.

After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would hold the £300 on behalf of the HVLR, would pay the hall charge directly and repay any other expenses for refreshments etc to the Clerk from the allocated funds.

Cllr Kerr proposed that the above applications be approved along with the arrangement discussed for the HVLR which was seconded by Cllr Eade.

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Payments to be made.

Clerk to circulate the safeguarding policy & agenda item for November meeting

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4. Invoices for payments -

The following invoices were presented for payment:

V Watts – Salary £219.05 and Expenses £20.46	£239.51
V Watts – Expenses	£ 45.38
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£125.00
John Swift – Replaced lock at the barn on the playing field	£ 20.00
Village Hall Hire (Aug & Sept)	£ 36.00
1st Coleford Scouts	£300.00
Holcombe Breakfast Club	£101.94
Bluebells Early Years - Stoke St Michael School	£291.53
Holcombe FC	£300.00

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

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions

12. Highways

1. Update on the installation of speed indicator device

The Clerk enquired as to when we could expect delivery but was told that there was still a delay due to the global lack of microchip. The SID remains on order and they will be in touch once able to deliver.

Action: Clerk to progress

2. Update existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways

The Clerk had tried to make contact with Highway engineer Sara Davies to establish if any progress had been made on:

- The extension of the 30mph zone on Brewery Lane.
- The request for white lining on the junction of Longleat Lane be extended into Scott's Close and the existing white lining be repainted.

Unfortunately, there has been no response.

Action: The Clerk to progress.

3. Report of new issues

There were no new issues reported.

The Clerk confirmed that the grit bins had been checked and a request submitted for those that required topping up to be done.

Cllr Eade said that he had heard that a one-way system was being implemented for the lorries accessing Stowells. It was agreed that if this was being implemented then it would be sensible to publicise this so that residents are aware of the arrangement.

Action: Clerk to establish if the one-way system is being proposed.

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

The Clerk and Cllr Gait had attended the Town and Parish Council Conference which was informative. It was said that the slides from the presentations will be circulated to those that attended which will in turn be emailed to the Councillors

Action: Clerk to ensure presentations are circulated.

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14. Meetings / Training to attend

27/09/22 @ 19.00hrs @ Doultling VH for Unitary discussion. Cllr Gait attended
04/10/22 @ Westlands Entertainment Venue, Yeovil. T&PC Conference – Cllr Gait & Clerk attended
08/10/22 @ 10.30hrs Playing Field Community clear up
13/10/22 @ 18.30hrs on Teams Parish Forum Climate & Ecological Meeting – Cllr Gait to attend
20/10/22 am & pm Site visit to Somerset Wildlife Trusts Honeygar Reserve
20/10/22 @ Time TBC Strategy meeting location TBC
05/11/22 10 – 16.30hrs SCOP II Climate Conference at Edgar Hall, Somerton – Cllr Gait to attend
Various SALC training dates shared to all Councillors

15. Correspondence

01/10/22 - Surviving winter. A parishioner had responded to the Chairmans report in On the Map with suggestions to mitigate the challenges of winter. No further action for the time being.
15/09/22 – A complaint from a parishioner had been received regarding noise levels from the music event held on 10/09/22. This was noted.

16. Next meetings:

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st November 2022

Meeting closed at 21.00hrs