

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 5th October 2021 at 7.30 pm at Holcombe Village Hall.**

Councillors Present Cllr Simon Brand (Chair)
 Cllr Simon Eade
 Cllr Phil Gait
 Cllr Fran Dawe-Lane
 Cllr Sue Robinson

In attendance: District Cllr Philip Ham
 There were no members of the public

1. Public forum

There were no points raised.

2. Co-option of Councillors

There were none.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Cllr Alan Townsend, which were accepted by the Chair.

4. Declaration of interests and dispensations

Cllr Dawe-Lane declared an interest in agenda item 8.2 – planning application 2021/2089/VRC.

5. Approve Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021

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

Vote: 3 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstentions

6. Action points from last meeting and matters arising

There were no actions carried over from the previous meeting. The Clerk confirmed that she had looked into the guidance relating to making the Farm shop an Asset of Community Value but as there is no report of pending closure or change of use then no action was required to protect the asset.

Cllr Eade arrived 19.34hrs

7. Reports

7.1 PCSO report

The monthly newsletter had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting which highlighted current policing priorities.

7.2 Somerset County Council

No report had been submitted.

7.3 Mendip District Council

District Cllr Ham gave the following report:

Highways – More repairs have been completed at the East end of Stoke Bottom. Cllr Ham confirmed he will be meeting with Sara Davis of Somerset Highways and will again raise the issue of the dropped kerbs in Holcombe.

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

Planning – The Local Plan Part 2 was recommended and accepted by Cabinet and hopefully will be adopted by Full Council as soon as possible. District Cllr Ham said that they have asked for an extra meeting to do this otherwise it will be December before it can bring certainty to the planning process. We still await the Gladman appeal at Anchor Road, Coleford.

Finance – Reserves are low and the budget for next year are looking difficult with still many unknowns and Central Government help is going to be limited. With increases in pay, national insurance, utilities plus the after effects of covid it's all unknown negatives.

Climate change- Progress is being made but what we do here has little effect globally but we can set examples. If all the cattle were bred and fed as well as they are in the UK we could manage with 70% less cattle in the world.

At the recent Cabinet meeting it was agreed that a strategy for Agriculture in Mendip would be developed over the next 6 months with up to six different types of farms to be studied.

A revised Housing Enforcement Policy was also introduced last night to give MDC more powers to make private landlords provide better levels of provision around insulation, electrical and heating standards, dampness etc

Unitary – The establishment of a joint committee for the Unitary transition was deferred until November.

On Thursday there is a meeting at Junction 24, Bridgwater for Parish and Town Councillors and Clerks can attend. There will be presentations and opportunities to discuss and ask questions about the Unitary Council. Local Community Networks (LCN's) will be key but as yet it is not known how they will be put together. Would we want to group with Frome or other Rural parishes? What is the criteria? Who will decide?

8. Planning Applications

8.1 2021/1984/FUL - Erection of single storey granny-annexe style bungalow following demolition of existing swimming pool and decking.
Southwood, Common Lane, Holcombe, Radstock

Cllr Brand briefed that the application refers to the demolition of an existing swimming pool and decking area at Southwood and the building of a one bedroom bungalow in its place. The applicant has lived in the current house for decades and now finds it difficult to maintain and to access the bedroom on the first floor. The applicant wishes to remain in the area and therefore is building this bungalow for personal use. The bungalow is to be built in traditional style using stone, timber and slate as the main materials. A new driveway parallel to the existing one will be built to provide additional space for one car.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Dawe-Lane and seconded by Cllr Eade that the application should be recommended for approval on the basis that this development does not breach any material planning considerations.

Vote:5 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

8.2 2021/2089/VRC - The Shooting Lodge, Moores Farm, Moores Farm Lane, Holcombe, Radstock.
Application to vary condition 3 (occupation restriction) of planning approval 2015/1643/FUL (Retain converted agricultural building for use as non-residential shooting lodge and holiday let) to amend wording

Cllr Brand briefed that this application relates to a request to vary an occupation restriction placed on the shooting lodge when it was granted approval in 2015. The approval was subject to 8 planning conditions one of which (Condition 3) stated that the accommodation shall be occupied for holiday purposes and as a shooting lodge during the season and not as a sole or main place of residence.

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

One of the applicants is currently using the shooting lodge as a principal residence in order to look after his duck rearing business with the adjacent barn used to store feed. Since the original application planning permission has been granted to convert other barns into a residential dwelling without conditions. The applicant accepts that the proximity of the storage barn to the shooting lodge could result in a loss of amenity if the lodge was occupied by someone not associated with the farm therefore the proposal aims to ameliorate this by making clear that occupancy of the lodge is restricted to someone who was or has previously been directly connected with the agricultural use of the barn.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Brand and seconded by Cllr Eade that the application should be recommended for approval on the basis that request does not breach any material planning considerations.

Vote:4 For; 0 Against and 1 Abstentions

9. Planning Updates

2021/0506/FUL – Redevelopment of stables with 1 dwelling and detached car port.

Adjacent 7 The Mead, Brewery Lane, Holcombe, Radstock. BA3 5EG

An email had been received from the planning officer Callam Pearce which stated that the Planning Office had allowed a period for submission of additional information to overcome material issues through consultation. What then transpired was multiple revisions which warranted a statutory re-consultation. Despite this no viable outcome was provided so rather than reconsult the application was refused under delegated powers.

10. Finance

10.1 Bank Reconciliation

It was agreed that Cllr Dawe-Lane would check the bank reconciliation at the end of the meeting to ensure it is in order.

10.2 2nd Quarter Budget Review

The Clerk had circulated the spreadsheet showing the income and expenditure for the first 6 months of the financial year which shows current income received £14,300 against budget of £13715 and expenditure stands at £19340 against £27220.

There were no concerns at present and it was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Dawe-Lane that they should be approved.

Vote:5 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

10.3 Consider and agree Community project grants 2021/22

The working party made up of Cllr Brand and Cllr Robinson considered the applications which had been received and recommended as follows:

Group	Item required	Total cost	Total award
Ladies Club	3 x comfortable stacking chairs	£248.40	£0
Holcombe Junior FC	2 x Mini training goals	£689.91	£300.00
Stoke St Michael School	Book case & Books	£253.93	£253.93
Kilmersdon School PTA	BBQ	£380 -£1600	£300.00

As a grant for 5 comfortable stacking chairs had been approved in 2019 it was decided that the application from the Ladies Club should be refused as it did not provide sufficient evidence to warrant more chairs to be bought.

It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Robinson that the recommendation should accepted.

Vote:5 For; 0 Against and 0 Abstentions

Action: Clerk to notify applicants of the decisions

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

10.4 Parish Council Payments

The following invoices were presented for payment:

V Watts – Salary £205.22 and Expenses £24.08	£229.30
Holcombe village hall	£72.00
Friends of Stoke St Michael School	£253.93
Kilmersdon School PTA	£300.00
Holcombe Youth Football Club	£300.00

Cllr Gait proposed that all payments should be made which was seconded Cllr Robinson

10.5 Playing Field Payments

The following payments were presented for payment:

Stephenie Chorley	£23.45
Vale Signs and Print	£60.00
Vickie Watts	£15.26

11. Review Tree Survey completed by Hillside Trees Limited and consider quotes received for recommended tree work at Jubilee Garden

The Clerk confirmed that the surveys for both Jubilee Gardens and the Playing Field had been complete. A very small amount of work had been recommended on a tree within the garden which the Clerk had asked Isaac Gregory to complete when he was undertaking further works at the Playing Field.

A member of the public had contacted the Clerk concerned about the ivy growing up two trees on Brewery Lane, which had not been included within the Playing Field survey. The parishioner was concerned that if the ivy was not cut back it could in time weaken the tree, break and cause damage to power cables, the wall etc. The Clerk had spoken to a representative from Hillside Trees Ltd and had arranged for them to investigate why the tree had been omitted from the report. Isaac Gregory had also confirmed that he would sever the stem of the ivy to kill it off.

Action: Clerk to ensure work is completed and that Hillside reinspect the field to ensure all trees are included. Clerk to notify the Parishioner of the outcome.

12. Record use of the playing Field car park for the Music event on the 18/09/21 and a wedding 24/10/21

The Clerk confirmed that the car park had been used for both the music event (18/09/21) and a wedding (24/10/21) and had been registered as part of the 12 uses within the rolling year.

13. Highways

Lead Cllr Sue Robinson, Cllr Simon Eade and the Clerk had met to review the issues that were currently outstanding on Highways. A letter had been written which outlined all the issues discussed with Sara Davis since her visit in 2019 and asked for a comprehensive update on each item by the 13th October. A separate letter had been sent covering dropped kerbs and the urgent need for them to be installed. This was sent to Alyn Jones Officer for Somerset County Council and copied to County Cllr Pullin, District Cllrs Ham and Townsend and Highways Engineer Sara Davis.

Action: Clerk to ensure this is followed up on the 14th October

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

14.1 Village Hall

Helen James, the Chair of the Holcombe Village Hall attended the meeting and gave a report.

- Saturday 9th October will see the return of the Big Breakfast running from 9.30 to 11.00am
- Holcombe Hive are running a Christmas trail and will be hiring tables for the event

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

- It has been established that any community group is covered by insurance when using the hall but private/commercial users must provide their own insurance cover.

There was discussion around the events happening in the village and it was agreed that all groups need to pull together to create a Parish Calendar of events to deconflict and ensure maximum take up of the activities offered.

14.2 Playing Field

The Clerk reported that Isaac Gregory had been instructed to complete all the tree work highlighted within the tree survey completed by Hillside Trees Ltd. This included the work recommended for competition within the next 3 years.

A contractor has been instructed to spray either side of the Lychgate, the car park, the boules pitch and outside of the barn. They will return once the growth has died off to clear the area, which is very much needed.

The Clerk has written to contractors for quotes to cut the playing field hedge on both the inside and outside. The work needs to be completed as soon as possible.

15. Meetings/Trainings to attend

07/10/21 @ 12.30 – 5pm	Junction 24, Bridgwater LGR Unitary discussion with MDC, SCC and T & PC PG & VW to attend
12/10/21 @ 6.15pm	Mendip District Council Virtual Parish Forum – VW to attend
12/10/21 @ 2.15pm	Frome TC Unitary discussion – VW to attend
06/11/21 @ 1 – 6pm	Levels Climate Forum's SCOP26+ - PG & FDL to attend
17 & 25/01/21 @ 10 – 5pm	Carbon Literacy Training - PG & FDL to attend

16. Correspondence

16.1 An email had been received on 04/10/21 requesting permission for the ashes of Mr Brian Bennett at the Holcombe Parish Council Cemetery. Mr Bennett's wife had been buried in the old cemetery and Councillors agreed that the link to the village was sufficient for the request to be granted.

Action: Clerk to notify the applicant that the request has been approved

16.2 2 emails had been received asking for the precis of the minutes to be reinstated in On the Map as it enables those without internet access the opportunity to see what has been discussed at the Parish Council meetings. The Chairman's update will also be published.

Action: Clerk to respond to the parishioner who highlighted their concerns that the precis of the minutes will be reinstated

16.3 Julia Evans had emailed with various requests relating to Jubilee Gardens which would be investigated and brought to the next Parish Council meeting if required.

Action: Clerk to forward the email to the Chairman for him to consider points raised.

17. Next meetings

On Tuesday 2nd November 2021 starting at 7pm there will be an open meeting to discuss the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Everyone is welcome to join this meeting and the Council will look forward to hearing your views.

The Parish Council meeting will follow starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 2020.