

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 - 01749 880428

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 2nd January 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Graham Crowe
Cllr Stephenie Chorley
Cllr Simon Brand
Cllr Terry Dumbrell
Cllr Patricia Jordan
Cllr Sue Robinson
Cllr Russell Stokes

Also, Present: County Cllr Mike Pullin, District Cllr Ham and District Cllr Townsend. There were no members of the public.

In attendance: Vickie Watts taking the minutes

Public forum.

There was nothing raised.

1 Co-option of new Councillor

There is currently one vacancy. Clerk to chase up people that have shown an interest.

VW

2 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Philip Gait and PCSO Mike Storey had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

There were none.

4 Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2017

The draft minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Stokes and seconded by Cllr Dumbrell that the minutes resulting from the meeting held on the 5th December 2017 were an accurate record so were duly signed by the Chair.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

5 Action points from last meeting and matters arising.

All actions had been completed or would be discussed later in the meeting apart from the following item:

- The Clerk had received a response to her email seeking information on whether any Holcombe residents were benefitting from the services provided by Mendip Community Transport. 15 residents are registered but they were unable to confirm what services they were interested in. Councillors were still not convinced whether a donation should be made to the charity. District Cllr Ham confirmed that he would be speaking with Mendip Community Transport and would try to seek more information regarding this matter. PH
- Quotes for work on Jubilee Gardens to be carried over to the February meeting to allow 1 final quote to be sought. Ag
VW
- The Emergency Plan Training will take place on the 3rd February 2018 starting at 10am until 1pm. The Clerk to book the village hall for the training. ALL
VW
- At the December meeting it had been agreed that Russ Stokes should be included as a bank signatory. The Clerk felt that further Councillors should be added to ensure adequate options and highlighted that it was easier to do this within 1 application. Current signatories are Cllr Dumbrell, Cllr Chorley and the Clerk. It was agreed that Cllrs Stokes, Crowe, Brand and Robinson should all be added to the mandate. The Clerk will ensure that the paperwork is completed to add new signatories and during the process will remove all Councillors that have since resigned. Once the mandate is up to date the Clerk will apply for online banking.

6 Planning Applications

2017/3067/HSE – Proposed timber garden room building
Tower House, Charlton Road, Holcombe BA3 5EW

All Councillors had considered the application prior to discussion. The proposed structure would be visible from the roadside above the new fence although it was noted that no negative comments had been submitted to Mendip Planning office.

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It was therefore proposed by Cllr Crowe that the application be recommended for approval which was seconded by Cllr Robinson.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

7 **Planning Updates inc consulting on the Pre-submission Draft of the Mendip Local Plan Part II**
Planning Updates

- 7.1 2017/2056/HSE – Demolition of existing workshop and single garage. Erection of single dwelling, improvements to existing access serving three dwellings, formation of new access to Sunnyholm. 2 Sunnyholm, Charlton Road, Holcombe,
Mendip District Council approved with conditions
- 7.2 District Cllr Townsend said that the planning application for 8 Stones Paddock, Holcombe had been referred to District Councillors for comment. The planning officer's report showed that they wished to recommend approval of the application, which was contrary to the decision of the Parish Council. After some discussion the Parish Council requested that due to the strength of feeling of Stones Paddock residents the District Councillors should ask the application to be referred to the Planning Board for a decision.

It was agreed that Cllr Brand would put together an email highlighting why the application should not be approved. This would then be sent to the District Councillors to put forward as their views; recommending that the application be referred to the Planning board. The hearing could be Wednesday the 17th January or the 21st February.

SB

- 7.3 Consultation on the Pre-submission Draft of the Mendip Local Plan Part II
The Clerk had circulated an email which explained that Mendip District Council is consulting on the Pre-submission Draft of the Local Plan Part II from Tuesday 2nd January to Monday 12th February 2018. At this point Councillors did not have any comments or points that they wished to query. Cllr Dumbrell was tasked with considering the section relating to the green spaces, which was different to what had been requested by the Parish Council earlier in 2017.

TWD

8 **Report**

- 8.1 PCSO Report
PCSO Mike Storey did not attend but had sent an email reporting crime figures for Holcombe during the last month, which showed that there were no incidents.
- 8.2 District Councillor report
District Cllr Townsend reported that he had attended the planning board meeting on the 20th December which discussed the planning application for the old EMI site on the outskirts of Wells, seeking permission for in excess of 200 homes. There was much objection from neighbouring residents. The application was deferred to allow a travel plan to be put in place.

Retiring farmers of Manor Farm, West Pennard had applied for planning permission to build a new property for them to retire into. The proposed site was half a mile outside the development limit and so was refused. Interestingly at another site in West Pennard approval was given for 3 temporary mobile homes to the rear of a residential care home to provide accommodation for staff.

District Cllr Townsend attended a presentation on Climate change. Mendip District Council has signed up to become a green council.

District Cllr Ham reported that:

- As part of Transformation 2 assets have been purchased. The first is a very large warehouse located in Chepstow, which has a tenant agreed for the next 24 years. The second is a very large retail premises in Swindon which also has a tenant secured for the next 20 years. These will generate good income for the Council. There are more schemes in the pipeline.
- The Council has put together a comprehensive training program for the year which will be undertaken by both staff and members together for the first time.
- The dispute surrounding the minimum wage and living wage has been resolved by Core Services.
- The 5 Council contract has been settled in principle. Printing and copying has been brought back in house in the same way as Licensing. This will save the Council 11.8% on the old contract so still a good saving.
- Fusion Leisure have given their report to Cabinet, which shows that they have invested £1 million more than they originally agreed. Take up on activities throughout the centres has been really good.

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- The markets across the district are doing well apart from the Wednesday market at Frome.
- The Tax bases have been agreed and passed on to Clerks to enable Councils to make decisions on the Precepts for 2018/19.
- Mendip District Council has agreed their budget for the coming financial year which will see a small increase in the Council tax but no services will be cut.
- Recycling – 750 million plastic bottles are used a day. Cllr Ham has put forward a proposal that MDC should campaign for the district to stop the use of single use plastic bottles.
- Mendip District Council is consulting on the Pre-submission Draft of the Local Plan Part II from Tuesday 2nd January to Monday 12th February 2018.

Cllr Brand questioned an item in the press recently which challenged Councils that were borrowing money to invest to generate income. Cllr Ham said that there had been incidents where 2 councils were bidding on the same business opportunity, which was inflating the price. This would not happen at MDC and there is a very stringent process in place.

District Cllr Townsend stated that if this approach was not used then Council tax would need to be raised by 85%

8.3 County Councillor report

County Cllr Pullin reported that Holcombe's application for funds from the Small Improvement Scheme had not been successful. Cllr Pullin had met with a Highway engineer who was unable to recommend any scheme which will slow traffic on Holcombe Hill.

Somerset County Council is currently waiting for the Ofsted report after the recent inspection. It is thought that the report will arrive before the end of the month and will reflect the improvements made by the Council in Children's services.

County Cllr Pullin said that a recent report showed that Somerset Highways were the safest they had ever been.

9 Agree locations of dog waste bins & consider quotes for dog waste bins

After consideration it was proposed by Cllr Stokes and seconded by Cllr Chorley that the new sites for dog bins would be:

1. Brewery Lane – opposite the top of Budds Lane by the playing field car park
2. Common Lane – by the stile opposite Blanning's Farm
3. Top Wood - near the entrance to the footpath leading to the fields at the back of Stone's Paddock
4. Longleat Road – at the end where the lane meets the footpath to the fields
5. Silver Street – beside the stile at the end of the footpath from the fields

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

It was noted that the dog waste bin at Jubilee Gardens would be substituted with a combined litter/dog waste bin and the dog waste bin used in a new location. The Council would therefore need to purchase 2 litter bins and 3 dog waste bins.

Cllr Stokes to put together a document showing site locations to include photographs. The Clerk will then use this to seek approval from IDverde in advance of obtaining land owner permission.

RS
VW

10 Finance

10.1 Income – There was none.

10.2 Bank reconciliation – The Clerk had completed the bank reconciliation which Cllr Crowe would check at the end of the meeting.

10.3 Precept 2018/19 – The Clerk had provided an updated spreadsheet which now showed the bank balances as at 31/12/17, the tax base for the village and the charge to band D Household. After consideration it was proposed by Cllr Brand that the precept remains the same at £11,300 which was seconded by Cllr Chorley.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstained

The Clerk will notify Mendip District Council.

VW

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- 10.4 Agree new bank signatory – As covered in the matters arising, at the December meeting it had been agreed that Russ Stokes should be included as a bank signatory. The Clerk felt that further Councillors should be added to ensure adequate options and highlighted that it was easier to do this within 1 application. Current signatories are Cllr Dumbrell, Cllr Chorley and the Clerk. It was agreed that Cllrs Stokes, Crowe, Brand and Robinson should all be added to the mandate. The Clerk will ensure that the paperwork is completed to add new signatories and during the process will ensure that all Councillors that have since resigned will be removed. Once the mandate is up to date the Clerk will apply for online banking. VW
VW

- 10.5 Payments
The following payments were read out for payment:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Vickie Watts – Clerk Salary for December £202.60 & Clerk expenses of £37.16 | £ 239.76 |
| Jeremy Weare Ltd - Grass cutting – Cemetery £998 and Playing Field £1663.20 | £2661.20 |

The Clerk explained that due to the summer weather the grass had grown more than usual so there had been more cuts than anticipated resulting in the higher than expected invoice.

Payments were recommended for payment by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Stokes. Cheques were signed by Cllr Chorley and Cllr Dumbrell.

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstained

11 Consider potential night flying landing site for the Air Ambulance

Cllr Dumbrell highlighted that the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance are looking for night flying landing sites which they like to approve in advance. All Councillors agreed that we should support the request but asked Cllr Dumbrell to establish if the Council would have any responsibilities that would have a financial implication and what times they were referring as night flying. Cllr Dumbrell should inform them that in principle we would like to support their request. The proposal was made by Cllr Dumbrell and seconded by Cllr Brand. TWD

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstained

This will be raised as an agenda item at the next Playing field later this month. VW

12 External meetings to attend and reports on meetings attended

- The next PACT meeting will take place on the 24th January 2018 at Coles Gardens @ 7.30pm – Cllr Robinson is unable to attend and it was agreed that Cllr Chorley would stand in. SC
- Emergency plan training will take place at the Village Hall on the 3rd of February 2018 starting at 10am until 1pm. Clerk to ensure that the hall is booked. ALL
VW
- Mendip District Council Planning training will take place on 10th January at 6.30 pm, in the Council Chamber, Mendip District Council offices
- Mendip District Council Parish Forum will take place on the 18th January 2018 ALL

13 Discuss whether the Parish Council should have its own Facebook page

Cllr Stokes confirmed that he, Cllr Brand and the Clerk had now been made moderators to the Holcombe Village Facebook page which meant that each could now approve posts. This will ensure that posts are current and not subject to delay.

14 Councillor Reports/Updates

- 14.1 Village Hall – The next meeting will take place next week on Tuesday, 9th January.

- 14.2 Playing Field – The next meeting will take place on Wednesday the 24th January at the Duke. Agenda items will include:

1. Review the quotes for play area maintenance
2. Christmas Tree
3. Night landing sites for Air Ambulance
4. Forthcoming projects

- 14.3 Cllr Chorley reported that the defibrillator cabinet was found open the other day but fortunately the unit was all in order. It was asked what would be the protocol if it was used? The Clerk to try to find out. VW

It was agreed that the Christmas tree would be taken down on Saturday the 6th January at 10am.

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14.4 Highways – including the SID scheme

The 30mph signs are now installed on the Stoke St Michael side of the Duke. Everyone agreed that it would be interesting to see if speeds recorded by Speedwatch are reduced as a result.

Cllr Chorley said that new volunteers were needed. Cllr Crowe and Cllr Stokes both agreed to sign up. Training will need to be arranged.

SC

Cllr Crowe will investigate further the implications of the SID scheme coming to an end. The general consensus at this point is that it would make sense to buy our own unit. Agenda item for the February meeting.

GC
Ag

14.5 Holcombe Gala – Cllr Brand confirmed that the next meeting will take place on the 8th January 2018. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no luck tracing the paperwork for the Gala account. The Clerk will ask Adrian Mason if he would be prepared to go into branch to try and trace the account.

VW

14.6 Cemetery – The Clerk confirmed that a complaint had been received regarding a prohibited plant which had been planted next to a memorial tablet within the Cremation plots. The plant foliage is now impacting on the neighbouring tablet. The Clerk has written to the next of kin requesting that the plant be removed. Clerk to monitor and ensure that the matter is resolved.

VW

14.7 Speedwatch – Stats were provided which continue to show the extent of the speeding problem on Holcombe Hill.

15 **Correspondence –**

The newsletter for Campaign for Rural England – Circulated to all.

All

16 **Reports and items for next meeting**

1. Local Plan Part II consultation.
2. Emergency Plan
3. Clerk to report on the Playing Field meeting
4. Gala report to be provided.
5. Third Quarter budget review (Report from the working parties meeting on the 09/01/18 @ 7pm held at Cllr Crowes home)

Ag
VW/GC
RS/PG

Cllr Stokes and Cllr Brand will be attending the MDC Planning training in Frome on the evening of the next Parish Council meeting and therefore gave their apologies.

17 **Dates for next meetings**

Tuesday 6th February 2018 – Parish Council meeting

Meeting finished 21.45hrs