

**HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL  
IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET**

**[www.holcombepc.org.uk](http://www.holcombepc.org.uk)**

**Clerk: Debbie Widdows, 19A Union Street, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2PU  
[clerk@holcombepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@holcombepc.org.uk) 01749 880428 / 07872 857885**

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council Meeting, which took place on  
Tuesday 4 March 2025 at Holcombe Village Hall**

***Councillors Present*** Cllr Brand (Chairman)  
Cllr Davies  
Cllr Eade  
Cllr Gait  
Cllr Govier  
Cllr Kerr  
Cllr Roberts  
Cllr Stratford

***In attendance:*** There were 6 members of the public present.  
Clerk Debbie Widdows taking the minutes.

**1. Public Forum**  
Nil.

**2. Apologies for absence**  
Cllr Emery sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

**3. Declaration of interests and dispensations**  
There were none.

**4. Approve Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday 4 February 2025**  
The Clerk had circulated the minutes prior to the meeting for councillor consideration. There was one amendment to the list of councillors present which was accepted and duly amended. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Kerr and seconded by Cllr Davies.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**5. Actions/matters arising from the previous meeting**  
All actions had been completed.

**6. Reports**

6.1 PCSO – The PCSO report would be circulated to all Councillors once received.

***Actions: Clerk to circulate PCSO report.***

6.2 Somerset Council – This report would be circulated to all Councillors upon receipt.

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## 7. Planning Applications

- 7.1 2025/0079/HSE Herons Green Longleat Lane Holcombe Shepton Mallet Somerset. Demolition of existing attached garage and erection of new two storey side extension with integral garage

The chair introduced the application and outlined what was involved. He explained that the current garage would be demolished and replaced with a new 2 storey extension comprising of a sitting room/study plus garage on the ground floor and 2 bedrooms plus an ensuite bathroom on the first floor. The chairman then invited the applicant to add any further details in support of the application. He explained that it was similar to the extension next door and the materials proposed would blend in with those already present. After a short deliberation, the chairman suggested that as there were no breaches of the material considerations the application should be approved. This was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Davies.

***Vote: Unanimous***

***Action: Clerk to notify the Planning Officer***

- 7.2 2025/0145/FUL Quercus Common Lane Holcombe Radstock Somerset BA3 5DP. Proposal: Erection of a single-storey detached self-build dwelling with integrated garage

The chair introduced the application and explained that it related to the building of a 3 bedroom single-storey detached dwelling to the rear of Quercus with integrated garage, associated landscaping, with access via the existing shared driveway. The chairman added that the building was outside the development limit of the village and contravened the Village Design Statement. The applicant outlined the rationale for the build which was due to changed personal circumstances and that every effort had been taken to ensure the sustainability of the building and the protection of the environment. 2 additional members of the public spoke in support of the application. One member spoke in opposition to the proposal. The councillors discussed the application taking into account the impact of building outside the development limit of the village and the recommendations of the Village Design Statement. On balance it was agreed that due to the extenuating personal circumstances involved, coupled with the fact that no material considerations were breached, the application should be approved. Cllr Brand proposed to approve the application which was seconded by Cllr Eade.

***Vote: 6 For; 0 Against; 2 Abstentions***

***Action: Clerk to notify the Planning Officer***

## 8. Report on Planning Updates

There were none.

## 9. Finance

- 9.1 Agree Bank Reconciliation for February and March – This item is to be deferred to the next meeting due to problems with reconciling the bank statements. The clerk is to liaise with the bank and ensure that all payments and balances are agreed.

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9.2 Parish Council Payments:

The following invoices were presented for payment:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Debbie Widdows (Salary)                                       | £489.13 |
| Springfield Garden Plus (Jubilee Gardens bark mulch and grit) | £133.45 |

It was proposed by Cllr Stratford and seconded by Cllr Kerr that the cheques should be signed.

***Action: Chair to ensure that cheques are signed.***

**10. Highways**

10.1 Update on Auto Speed Watch

Cllr Stratford stated that he was still waiting to speak to the PCSO. Cllr Brand asked for a quarterly report to be submitted to him for inclusion in the next edition of the CHCM

***Action: JS to contact the PCSO and provide the quarterly report to the chairman.***

10.2 Update on existing issues already reported to Somerset Highways

Missing Village Nameplate

Cllr Davies briefed that the cost of replacing the nameplate would be approximately £500 if sourced through Highways. It was agreed that alternative suppliers would be sought provided the nameplate met the required standards. Once the quotes had been received, all councillors would be invited to select the approved supplier and the order would be placed.

***Action: DR and Clerk to seek additional quotes and advise councillors accordingly.***

10.3 Report of any new issues

There were none.

**11. VE Update**

The planning for the VE80 celebrations continues and good progress is being made in terms of support to both events. To recap, the timings of the events are as follows:

Friday 2 May - VE80 themed quiz in the VH. bar opens at 1830 and the quiz starts at 1900. £3 per person to enter

Monday 5 May - Shepton Mallet Big Band performing on the PF. Free entry with bar & food from 1830. Beacon lit at 2015

Please note that the VH will be open on Sunday afternoon for tea courtesy of the VH committee.

The scouts have confirmed that they will be providing the food and the planning committee has secured the services of an electrician, and booked benches and tables. The graphic designer has produced the first draft for the banner and posters and these will be displayed by the end of March around the village. The planning committee has written to every local business requesting their support and the response has been positive. Some have pledged donations whilst others have offered raffle prizes. Councillors are requested to support as follows:

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Fri 2 May from 1400 to set up VH

Mon 5 May from 1000 to set up marquees, beacon, tables & chairs

Tue 7 May from 1000 to de rig.

**12. Councillor Reports/Updates including highways, playing field, Village Hall, SALC etc.**

Cllr Brand briefed that he had attended the latest Shepton Mallet LCN on 3 March. He reported that the main topic of the meeting was to discuss the formulation of the Somerset Council Local Plan which is being developed and will eventually replace the Local Plans Part I and II produced by the previous district councils. Every local authority is required to have a local plan which acts as a policy document to determine how land is to be used ensuring that development is fair, balanced and meets the need of the community, as well as providing guidance on change and investment decisions over the next 30 years. The plan is very much in its initial stage at present and the meeting allowed the attendees to input their ideas on a range of topics covering homes, health and wellbeing, culture, character, services and employment. There are 7 stages to the development of this plan over the course of the next 3 years prior to its adoption in 2028. Cllr Brand stated that all attendees were advised that there will be ample opportunity for councillors and parishioners to input to this process during this time.

A lorry was stranded due to the weight restrictions on the way into Stoke St Michael. Cllr Roberts said that he had spoken to Cllr Tony Robbins about it and was expecting some feedback.

***Action: Cllr Roberts to request feedback on this issue and report at the next meeting.***

**13. Meetings/Training to attend**

Cllr Brand to attend the Councillor as Employer training on 31 March given by SALC.

**14. Correspondence**

There was none.

**15. Next meetings:**

|                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm | Annual Meeting of the Parish |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm  | Parish Council Meeting       |

The meeting finished at 20:22hrs