

HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Meeting Date, Time and Location:
06 September, 19:00 Holford & District Village Hall, Holford

Holford Parish Council	Initials (XX)	Attendance
Emma Cavendish Chairman	EC	✓
David Talling Vice Chairman	DT	✓
Hema Stanley Clerk/RFO	HS	✓
Erl Plomgren	EP	✓
Michael Copleston	MDC	✓
Michala Crossley	MC	
Peter Grandfield	PG	✓
Stephen Campbell	SC	✓

Somerset West & Taunton Councillor	Initials (XX)	Attendance
Chris Morgan	CM	✓
Somerset County Council Councillor		
Hugh Davies	HD	
Police Community Support Officers		
Sue Thompson; Sue Marks	ST; SM	
Jamie Munro	JM	
Public Path Liaison Officer		
Sue Edwards	SE	

Have your say – Community issues / concerns.
Duration and content at Chairman's discretion.

Key:

Proposed: P:XX

Seconded: S:XX

(XX initials of members)

6 members of the public present.

1. Minute 076/21: Apologies for absence – HD.
2. Minute 077/21: Vacancy – Co-option.
 - Peter Grandfield Co-opted. P:EC; S:DT All in favour.
 - SC welcomed & requested PG to share details of his skills & experience with the council.
3. Minute 078/21: Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations – None.
4. Minute 079/21: Previous meeting minutes – Approve and matters arising.
 - MDC – Minute 068/21 Correction MC -> MDC – requested grass cut by the Village sign.
 - P: EC; S:SC - All in agreement.
5. Minute 080/21: Chairman report – EC.
<https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/20210906-Chairmans-report.pdf>
6. Minute 081/21: Somerset County Council report – HD.
<https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/20210906-SCC-report.pdf>
MDC – Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) information shared not very clear.
7. Minute 082/21: Somerset West and Taunton Council report – CM.
 - (Awaiting SWT report from CM).
 - Highlighted the lack of information available on Unitary Council.
 - MDC asked effect of Staffing with Unitary. CM people are worried about losing their jobs.
 - DT asked views of our local MP on Unitary. CM and our local MP both oppose the Unitary idea.

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- Hinkley C – Leak problems with cooling tunnel. Several high level managers leaving.
 - DT asked CM to highlight the issue of using/allowing ONLY online services/forms for persons who are not IT literate.
8. Minute 083/21: Police Community Support Officer report – ST/SM.
<https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/20210825-CSW-Report.pdf>
9. Minute 084/21: Planning applications.
<https://www1.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/online-applications/>
- 3/16/21/009 - Application accidentally missed.
 - T/16/21/001 – No objections.
10. Minute 085/21: Parish maintenance.
- Inform contractor next cut end of Sept and to include Triangle at the bottom of Stowey Lane.
 - EC informed SCC carries out 2 cuts of verges.
 - Holford Glen – Bridge & Trees responsibility. HS informed bridge responsibility is Somerset County Council – Rights of Way & trees is the land owner.
11. Minute 086/21: Councillors – All.
- EC.
 - i. Traffic Questionnaire.
 - DT asked the purpose of the traffic questionnaire. Understanding was questionnaire was to be for Quiet Lanes.
 - EC – questionnaire was to explore local views on traffic issues, apart from the main road, to see if there was a need for further action.
 - SC informed Quiet Lanes designation was complicated and required a lot of work. If the Parish Council could get a 20mph speed limit in the village that was the simplest way forward.
 - EC - Obtain views on how people felt about the costs involved in traffic monitoring since Police would not recommend a reduction to 20mph without good evidence.
 - PG informed roads within the Holford village are not a traffic accident area.
 - DT – Any device costs would need to be included in next year’s budget.
 - MDC – Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) can be used to monitor speeds in the village roads by temporarily positioning them on our lanes on short inconspicuous posts on private land. They will then provide a detailed traffic survey without SCC involvement. Their batteries last a month for that sort of purpose without recharging. We would not need to use precept funds. If we end up with 20mph then a future survey will indicate how successful it has been as we will have before and after data. We should also have a clear idea of what we would do with any survey results prior to distribution.
 - EC – Traffic questionnaire to be put on hold until SIDs grant application result known.
 - ii. Future Parish Elections
 - EC asked if the council has objections to bringing the elections forward.
 - SC - Wrong to bring the elections forward.
 - DT - Matter of ‘have to’ and not ‘want to’ with costs associated for local parishes.
 - SC requested to write to SALC with views of Holford Parish Council views on Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset.
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<https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Minute-08621-Holford-Parish-Council-views-on-Local-Government-Reorganisation-in-Somerset.pdf>

Parish council voted to accept elections in 2022 to avoid significant costs.

- iii. Community Engagement Grant
 - Opening up safely and reconnection communities fund.
<https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/20210730-Parish-Fund-Guidance.docx>
 - HDVH application:
 - <https://holford-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Grants-for-re-opening-HDVH-Funding-Application.docx>
 - HS to check with SALC about payee details.
 - P:SC; S:DT All in support.
- iv. Verges.
 - EC – A couple of emails objecting to the untidy nature of the wild areas have been received but in general most responses have been positive in encouraging wild life. Councillors acknowledge that this is an ongoing experiment with a lot to learn. Signage for next year would be an improvement and discussion with SCC about timing cuts. EC to contact contractor on next steps.
- DT – Unitary Council.
 - Approached by Nether Stowey Parish Council in February for a joint approach.
 - SC – Acceptance of responsibility with neighbouring councils could lead to boundary issues.
 - All councillors in favour of liaising with neighbouring councils.
 - EC requested PG and DT to take a lead on matter.
- EP
 - i. A39 Kilver Corner – Gorse.
Gorse on Kilve corner is not a PC matter. SCC already does a grass cut twice a year. Neighbours should be consulted if any further work is required.
 - ii. Noise nuisance & ways of de-escalating the issue withing the village discussed.
 - iii. Tree felling in Conservation Areas.
PG declared an interest, family member associated with a recent incident felling a diseased tree. Appropriate authorities have since been informed.
EC to include a note about tree felling & permissions in conservation areas in the local newsletter - Holford News & Views.
- MDC
 - i. Speed Indicator Devices.
 - MDC asked if proposal can be put forward to EDF.
 - PG asked justification of SIDs. MC - there was evidence that just having them there resulted in speed reduction of vehicles. The Community Speedwatch would continue as the SIDs machines did not record number plates. EC pointed out that the CSW could report to the police for action but that the SIDs machines did not have this advantage.

- MDC - EP and MDC had investigated the best position for the posts required and sought the opinion of neighbouring properties
 - DT asked about moving the SIDs every 2 weeks and sharing with other Parishes as was originally discussed. MDC stated this was no longer considered necessary for effective monitoring.
 - DT asked why only 1 quotation had been requested when PC funds required 3 quotations to be assessed. MDC – one chosen was used by majority councils and had a good reputation. EP – Did not involve precept money and only one quotation was needed. EC – alternative quotations would be desirable.
 - MDC – devices could be used within the village roads initially prior to installation on the A39.
 - DT raised concerns about ongoing costs which should be budgeted for next year. MDC battery costs would need to be accounted for every 3 years. EP – not funded from precept money and that if no grant was forthcoming no SIDs would be purchased.
 - P:EC; S:SC Majority councillors agreed except PG to apply for grant application for SIDs.
- ii. Broadband
- MDC proposed to check list of properties included by Airband/CDS with Electoral Register for Holford. HS to forward a copy.
 - PG requested MDC to converse with Jurassic Fibre.
- iii. Village appearance.
- EP/MDC undertake a parish walk & map finger posts in the village.
12. Minute 087/21: Finance matters - HS.
- Approve outstanding invoices
<https://holford-pc.gov.uk/fiscal-year-accounts-2021-2022/>
P:EC; All in agreement.
13. Minute 088/21: Requests via email correspondence – HS.
- Big trucks getting stuck down Corewell. EC to contact Traffic Management.
14. Minute 089/21: Any other business for next agenda.
- Wildlife Trust – River Health.

Meeting closed: 21:05