

# HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL held immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting on MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016 in the Holford & District Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cty. Cllr. H. Davies, Dist. Cllr. C. Morgan  
Cllrs. T. Ayre, P. Grandfield, C. Hayes, D. Salvidge, N. Venner, G. Weed.  
Also present P. Brimson (Clerk), + 2 members of the public.

Cllr. Grandfield took the Chair, welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES: Dist. Cllr. S. Goss

## Minute 030/16 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr. C. Hayes proposed that Cllr. D. Salvidge be Chairperson of the Parish Council for the next year. Cllr. Salvidge indicated her willingness to take this office and Cllr. T. Ayre seconded the proposal. Cllr. Venner then proposed that Cllr. Grandfield be Chairman; he was willing to take the office and Cllr. Weed seconded the proposal. A paper vote was then taken in which 6 votes were cast, Cllr. Salvidge receiving 4 votes and Cllr. Grandfield received 2 votes. Cllr. Grandfield declared Cllr. Salvidge to be elected as Chairperson and congratulated his successor. Cllr. Salvidge duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, took the Chair and thanked Cllr. Grandfield for his work as acting Chairman over the past eight months.

## Minute 031/16 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Cllr. C. Hayes was unanimously elected upon a proposal by Cllr. Ayre and seconded by Cllr. Grandfield, there being no other proposals.

## Minute 032/16 APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairperson proposed that all Cllrs. be members of the planning committee and that a Chairperson be appointed to co-ordinate the council's response to applications for planning consent. Upon a proposal by Cllr. Hayes seconded by Cllr. Weed, this was accepted.

## Minute 033/16 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE HOLFORD & DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs. Salvidge and Weed agreed to represent the Parish Council on this committee.

## Minute 034/16 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIFIC OVERSIGHTS

1. Highways and Rights of Way – Cllr. Grandfield was appointed.

## Minute 035/16 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

By general agreement the Council wished that Mr. T. Tennant be reappointed as internal auditor.

## Minute 036/16 APPOINTMENT OF STEWARD OF THE BOWLING GREEN

Mr. J. Anderson was thanked for the watchful eye he keeps over the Bowling Green and reappointed as Steward.

## Minute 037/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations or requests were made

## Minute 038/16 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM SCC   Cty. Cllr. Davies reported:

1. Academy scenario. Some rural Somerset primary schools may be affected by the Govt.'s change of heart,
2. A new cycleway and footpath in Cannington has been financed by EDF.
3. The 'Broadway' in Bridgwater will be closed to road traffic from 0800 next Sunday, 22 May 2016
4. A reminder that all dogs must be 'chipped'.

## Minute 039/16 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM WSC   Dist. Cllr. Morgan reported:

1. On the hazard arising from the failure of contractors to remove road signs after work has been completed,
2. WSC. The Planning Dept is to make training available to all Parish and Town councillors.
3. Hinkley Point 'C' is currently subject to a 60 day consultation demanded by French unions re: financing.

Public comments on agenda items only

Concern was expressed about the speed of traffic in Stowey Lane.

Minute 040/16 MINUTES

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were taken as read having been circulated to Cllrs. and were accepted as a correct record upon a proposal by Cllr. Grandfield and seconded by Cllr. Ayre.

Minute 041/16 MATTERS ARISING and not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

1. Fire hydrants. The Clerk reported he hopes to present a list at the next meeting

Minute 042/16 CHAIRPERSON TO REPORT

Cllr. Salvidge expressed thanks to the former Chairman and vice-Chairman for their work whilst in office.

Minute 43/16 PLANNING

1. Application 3/16/16/001 works at Longstone. A site visit has taken place and the Council raises no objections to the proposals. Background information to the application refers to the property being within a flood zone but this is not now believed to be the case due to reassessment of the area by the Environment Agency,  
2. Application 3/16/16/002 works at Combe House Hotel. This has just been received by the Parish Council.

Minute 044/16 FINANCE

1. the following payments were authorised:

Clerk	salary	March/April	£262-50	proposed by Cllr. Ayre seconded by Cllr. Hayes
	expenses	March/April	£11-56	proposed by Cllr. Hayes seconded by Cllr. Ayre
AON	insurance premium		£451-80	proposed by Cllr. Ayre seconded by Cllr. Weed
H&DVH	hire during 2015-16		£72-00	proposed by Cllr. Ayre seconded by Cllr. Hayes
C. Hayes	repairs to bus shelter		£200-00	proposed by Cllr. Weed seconded by Cllr. Grandfield

2. concerning the 2015-2016 accounts:

a) Council received a summary of the receipts and payments account for the year ended 31-03-16 as published and circulated..

b). Upon a proposal by Cllr. Ayre and seconded by Cllr. Hayes it was resolved to approve Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31-03-16 = Annual Governance Statement

c) Upon a proposal by Cllr. Weed and seconded by Cllr. Ayre, it was resolved to approve Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31-03-16.

Minute 045/16 HIGHWAY and RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

1. A site meeting with Highways Engineer Jo Sharp has been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> May which will consider:

a) the position of the advisory sign in Back Lane,

b) the signage problem which resulted in 29 cars passing up Holford Combe over a period of 5 hours last weekend, only to have to turn around at Combe Cottages and return down the Combe.

c) the junction of Stowey Lane with the road that leads to Holford Combe by 'Ramblers', where there have been 5 recent incidents,

d) the walls underneath the hedges in Back Lane that are being eroded,

e) gorse on the verge of the A39 as Kilton Cross corner is approached from the South, is growing again.

2. It is pleasing to report that some of the road signs in Holford village have recently been cleaned by residents.

3. It was reported that a black Land Rover is often parked for long periods on the A39 outside the 'Plough Inn'.

Minute 046/16 MAINTENANCE MATTERS including BOWLING GREEN

1. Lengthsman Project. Cllr. Grandfield said he was very pleased to be able to announce that a grant of £3000 has been received from SCC towards the purchase of equipment and the launch of the scheme in this parish

2. Bus shelter. Cllr. Hayes was thanked for his work on the shelter and he said it is now almost completed.

Minute 047/16 SUPERFAST BROADBAND IN HOLFORD

Cllr. Grandfield reported that we have all been let down badly by BT, but he is meeting with the man who runs SWISP (supplier to the H&DVH) to explore possibilities for the village.

Minute 048/16 AONB REPORT

1. Rebecca West is leaving her Ranger's job and the area for a post in the Mendips. It is hoped she will be succeeded by a full-time replacement.
2. A bid is being made on behalf of the AONB with the Landscape Partnership Scheme. Cllr. Grandfield said he is disturbed by the absence of provision for protection of the legacy of precious flora, fauna and landscape.
3. Communication with the public. Cllr. Grandfield said that, although increased use is being made of 'twitter' and 'facebook', these means only reach a limited section of the public.
4. Unauthorised camping on the hills. There is insufficient policing and a rather lenient attitude taken with those who happen to be discovered sleeping on the hills in tents and/or vans.

Minute 049/16 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - and not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.

No such correspondence had been received.

Minute 050/16 ITEMS TO REPORT

1. The Clerk formally declared the casual vacancy on the council arising from the resignation of David Talling,
2. The Clerk announced that the Highways Dept. would commence grass verge cutting from 16<sup>th</sup> May.
3. Publicity was given to SCC's Road Safety Team plan to hold a presentation for older drivers, 'Route 60+'
4. It was reported that a shed on the 'strawberry field' contains an earth closet. Cllr. Grandfield undertook to investigate and report to the next meeting.

Open Discussion at the discretion of the Chairman

1. Retirement of the Clerk. Following brief discussion, Cllr. Grandfield offered to meet with the Clerk to discuss arrangements for advertising, handover etc.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Next meeting **MONDAY 11th JULY 2016**