

HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.30pm. in the Holford & District Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cty. Cllr. H. Davies (from 7.40pm), Dist. Cllrs. S. Goss & C. Morgan
Cllrs. T. Ayre, P. Grandfield, C. Hayes, D. Salvidge, N. Venner, G. Weed.
Also present P. Brimson (Clerk), + 3 members of the public.

Cllr. Grandfield (vice-Chairman) took the Chair, welcomed those present and offered condolences to Mrs. J. Swash on the death of her husband Ron, who had been Internal Auditor of the Council finances for 13 years.

APOLOGIES Cllr. D. Talling,

Minute 073/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Salvidge declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 – planning application at Ge-Mare.

Minute 74/15 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM SCC Cty. Cllr. Davies highlighted issues including:

1. Fire hydrants. A recent incident in Kilve has resulted in the hope that Parish Councils will identify the precise location of hydrants in their parish and visually assess their condition.
2. A £5k fund has been set up to support the ideals of the new Care Act.
3. A Home Improvement Survey will be taking place to discover those who need medical equipment.
4. In January 2016, 20 new social workers will begin a one year training programme in Somerset,
5. A review of subsidised bus services will be carried out – it is not likely to affect Holford bus services,
6. The budget for those with mental health problems in Somerset is to be reduced from £800k to £300k,
7. Information on traffic calming methods is available.

Questions to Cty. Cllr. Davies:

1. Cllr. Grandfield said CDS had failed to respond to enquiries about the roll-out of superfast broadband. He understands that there is extensive corrosion in the existing wires and he would like to know who best to contact.
2. Speeding on the A39 through Holford. Some money may be available for Holford in 2016.

Minute 075/15 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM WSC Dist. Cllr. Morgan reported:

1. CIM funds. The application process is being reviewed and improvements can be expected,
2. Rate relief policy re: businesses. £205k of discretionary rate relief is given annually. The award, once given, continued indefinitely but, in future, will have to be applied for each year,

Dist. Cllr. Goss reported:

1. Rate relief for Hinkley point. A 5 year plan is to be drawn up.
2. 100,000 litres of diesel fuel was feared to have leaked into the ground between the 'A' and 'B' stations, but the total is now thought to be much less.

Questions to the Dist. Cllrs.:

'When will construction work on the 'C' station begin? Answer: Jan/Feb 2016

Public comments on agenda items only

No comments were made.

Minute 076/15 MINUTES

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th September 2015 were taken as read having been circulated to Cllrs., and were accepted as a correct record upon a proposal by Cllr. Salvidge and seconded by Cllr. Ayre,
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5th October 2015 were taken as read having been circulated to Cllrs. and were ratified by the Council as representing its views on a proposal by Cllr. Ayre and seconded by Cllr. Hayes.

Minute 077/15 MATTERS ARISING and not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

1. Fire hydrants. The Clerk was asked to write to the Avon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service to enquire as to whether it is aware of the location of the hydrants in Holford parish and whether they are fit for use. the island at the Stowey Lane ay-by. These have now been cut back and Cllr. Hayes 2. Bushes on will treat them with 'Round-up'.

Minute 078/15 CHAIRMAN TO REPORT

Cllr. Grandfield reported:

1. Cllr. Salvidge is organising a children's Christmas Party and the Chairman proposed the Parish Council donated £50-00 towards the cost. This was unanimously agreed.
2. 'Superfast broadband'. The Chairman expressed frustration and sadness at the impression being given to the public that great things are happening when, in reality, nothing is going on.
3. Cllr. Grandfield reported on a meeting he had attended where Martock's precept was discussed. He said he was very impressed with what is being achieved. Some of this could be taken on in Holford: "we can do something about it", he said, and gave the defibrillator is an apposite example, though it is going to cost over £700 more than the grant we were given to purchase it.
4. The Quantock Hills AONB JAC elections for Parish Representatives are imminent. Cllr. Weed agreed to join with the Clerk to oversee the voting in Holford PC.

Minute 079/15 PLANNING

Report on applications received:

1. Ge-Mare. Cllr. Salvidge, having declared an interest, withdrew from discussion on this item. The Planning Cte. had held a site meeting with 4 Cllrs. present and a report had been submitted to the Council. Cllr. Ayre reported that sewerage will be piped to the main sewer which is nearby. Cllr. Weed proposed and Cllr. Hayes seconded that the report be accepted by the Council, and this was agreed.
2. Coach House at Alfoxton. The Chairman explained that the application is being made because occupation of the building is deemed illegal. The application is retrospective and Cllr. Grandfield said he was happy to propose that consent be given and hoped the Council would support this. Cllr. Salvidge seconded and approval was unanimous.
3. Tree works at Copse Cottage. A site meeting will be arranged.
4. Application 3/16/15/006. The Clerk was asked to check on the status of this application.

Minute 080/15 FINANCE

1. the following payments were authorised:

Clerk	salary	Sept/Oct	£262-50	proposed by Cllr. Salvidge seconded by Cllr. Hayes
	expenses	Sept/Oct	£10-56	proposed by Cllr. Salvidge seconded by Cllr. Hayes

2. the following payment was ratified:

QH&GM ground maintenance work	£163-00	proposed by Cllr. Ayre seconded by Cllr. Salvidge
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3. The appointment of Mr. T. Tennant, Woodlands Farmhouse, Holford as Internal Auditor to the Council for the year ending 31st March 2016 was confirmed upon a proposal by Cllr. Ayre and seconded by Cllr. Salvidge.

4. Consideration of budgeting for the future. Cllr. Grandfield outlined his vision for planned increases in the precept so that the Council has the resources to do more for the residents of the parish. He considered that about £700-00 increase per annum would make a significant difference. Dist. Cllr. Goss said that these increases could be used as match funding in grant applications. Cllr. Hayes said he would make up the shortfall of £700-00 for the defibrillator from his award – he was warmly thanked for this.

Minute 081/15 HIGHWAY and RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

1. WSC provision of 20kg bags of de-icing material for self-help. Cllr. Ayre offered to collect on 21st Nov.
2. Speeding on A39. Cllr. Grandfield said he has arranged a site meeting during next week to discuss this issue.
3. Moving the advisory sign in Back Lane back to its former position. Cllr. Grandfield will request this.

Minute 082/15 MAINTENANCE MATTERS including BOWLING GREEN

1. Consideration of responses to tenders for ground maintenance in 2016. On a proposal by Cllr. Ayre and seconded by Cllr. Hayes it was agreed to ask for a quote from QH&GM for cutting the verges adjacent to the A39 between the last buildings in the village and the Stowey Lane lay-by, with a view to accepting this tender.

Minute 083/15 DEFIBRILLATOR PROJECT

Cllr. Hayes was thanked for his generous contribution which now makes the project achievable.

Minute 084/15 MOUNTAIN BIKES ON THE QUANTOCK HILLS

Some walkers are becoming anxious about walking on the Hills due to the large numbers of mountain bikes that are using even the narrow pathways. The Chairman said he was aware that a group of 50 cyclists were on the Hills yesterday. Cllr. Salvidge said the Commoners Association are also exploring what can be done to restrict

the cyclists to certain tracks; she suggested writing to Chris Edwards of the AONB, with a copy the Natural England. Cllr. Grandfield undertook to pursue this.

Minute 085/15 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - and not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda
There was no such correspondence.

Minute 086/15 ITEMS TO REPORT

1. It was agreed that Council would meet on 11/01 ; 14/03 ; 09/05 ; 11/07 ; 12/09 ; 14/11 during 2016
2. Poles 13 & 14 (around the Bowling Green) have a covering of foliage which will be removed by Western Power.
3. Cllr. Aye gave a brief report of a recent SSG meeting at which the safety record of the Station was said to be very good.
4. Cllr. Ayre apologised for missing the last meeting of the Community Forum but he had not received notice.
5. Cllr. Ayre reported that a talk on pied fly catchers was given at the recent meeting of the JAC.
6. Cllr. Grandfield said the Dog Pound will be 'signed off' any day now.
7. Cllr. Grandfield said it was very likely he would not be able to attend the January meeting of the Council. He also thought it unlikely that Cllr. Talling would be able Chair the meeting.

Open Discussion at the discretion of the Chairman

1. Bus shelter. This will be repaired in the near future.
2. Fire hydrants. Mrs. C. Taylor said she knows where they are located.
3. It was suggested the hydrants could be coated with a paint containing a 'luminous' additive.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

Next meeting **MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2016**