

# HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016 at 7.30pm. in the Holford & District Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cty. Cllr. H. Davies, Dist. Cllrs. S. Goss and C. Morgan  
Cllrs. T. Ayre, P. Grandfield, D. Salvidge, N. Venner, G. Weed.  
Also present P. Brimson (Clerk), + 2 members of the public.  
Cllr. Grandfield (vice-Chairman) took the Chair, welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES Cllrs. D. Talling, C. Hayes.

## Minute 015/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations or requests were made.

## Minute 016/16 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM SCC Cty. Cllr. Davies highlighted issues including:

1. Council tax will be increased by 1.9% + the extra 2% for care for the elderly
  2. The 'devolution scenario' has been accepted and HD is hopeful that it may prove worthwhile. It could lead to a Mayor being elected to take charge.
  3. The Community Transport subsidy remains intact for this year.
  4. Potholes. The public can now be updated on progress with repairs by email.
  5. The Chair of Natural England will formally 'open' the newly completed Brean Down to Minehead section of the England Coast Path, on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
  6. Fracking. Cllr. Davies attended a meeting at Washford recently when it was reported that no applications have been lodged in Somerset.
- In reply to a question on news about superfast broadband, Cllr. Davies said a stalemate seems to exist.

## Minute 017/16 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM WSC Dist. Cllr. Goss reported:

1. Finance. A budget has been agreed for 2016-17 and it appears possible that a budget for 2017-18 can be produced which will provide all statutory services. Thereafter the position is less clear.

Dist. Cllr. Morgan reported:

1. Councils may in future be able to keep all of the business rate but it could mean that community benefit will have to be paid out of this resource. Discussions with central govt. representatives are ongoing.

Public comments on agenda items only

Celebration of 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birth of HM Queen. It is hoped the occasion will be marked in Holford.

## Minute 018/16 MINUTES

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 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. Venner,
2. The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 specifically to consider a planning application were taken as read having been circulated to Cllrs. and were accepted as a correct record on a proposal by Cllr. Salvidge and seconded by Cllr. Venner.

## Minute 019/16 MATTERS ARISING and not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

1. Fire hydrants. The Clerk reported on progress with compiling a list of the locations of all hydrants in the parish, saying he has a map with the 3 hydrants and ponds located in Dodington.
2. It was reported that £760 had been received from Cllr. Hayes and the purchase of the defibrillator can now go ahead.
3. Condition of Alfoxton House. The Clerk said he had received no reply or acknowledgement of the letter he had written to Mrs. Peeks. It was agreed that a reminder should be sent.
4. 'Visit Somerset' No date is yet available for the proposed joint meeting with Kilve PC by Visit Somerset

## Minute 020/16 CHAIRMAN TO REPORT Cllr. Grandfield reported:

1. The intention of the Clerk to retire during this year was announced.
2. Fracking. Cllr. Grandfield had spoken to the Chair of Kilve PC and the two councils will co-operate in the event of an application being lodged.
3. Broadband. Cllr. Grandfield said he is saddened by the opportunity that has been lost to the villages.

4. Hunting. An example of misbehaviour by followers of the Quantock staghounds was reported via Cllr. Hayes and led to an immediate apology from the Secretary of the Hunt.
5. Lengthsman. There is a possibility of funding towards the cost of the part employ of a 'lengthsman'.

Minute 021/16 PLANNING

Report on applications received:

No new applications had been received.

Minute 022/16 FINANCE

1. the following payments were authorised:

Clerk	salary	Jan/Feb	£262-50	proposed by Cllr. Salvidge seconded by Cllr. Venner
	expenses	Jan/Feb	£7-78	proposed by Cllr. Ayre seconded by Cllr. Salvidge

Minute 023/16 HIGHWAY and RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

1. Notice has been received that the part of Footpath WL10/14 which forms the footbridge in the glen will be closed from 1<sup>st</sup> April for necessary repairs.

Minute 024/16 MAINTENANCE MATTERS including BOWLING GREEN

1. Bus shelter. Cllr. reported the wood for the repair work is still in his shed.
2. Dog Pound. Cllr. Grandfield reported that refurbishment work should be starting in May.

Minute 025/16 AONB REPORT

The vice-Chair reported on a recent meeting he had attended where the key issue was finance. DEFRA has guaranteed core funding for the next four years (+ 1.7%). Friends of Quantock and a local landowner have each contributed £1k. WSC has reduced its funding by 80% to £1k.. Cllr. Grandfield queried the 'one size fits all' approach to communication and public relations and said better exposure is needed. The ranger system is heavily dependent on volunteers but the employed rangers do not work at weekends when there is most activity on the hills.

Minute 026/16 PROCESS FOR REPORTING HUNTING INCIDENTS AND ISSUES

As illustrated in the Chairman's Report (Min.020/16), the system put in place earlier in the year is proving to be effective.

Minute 027/16 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH

It was agreed that representatives of the Parish Council would join with representatives of the Parochial Church Council at a meeting of the Trustees and Management Committee of the Holford & District Village Hall later this week to make arrangements for marking this event in the parish.

Minute 028/16 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - and not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda

1. The Clerk was asked to ensure PCSO Bolton receives invitations to meetings of the Parish Council

Minute 029/16 ITEMS TO REPORT

1. Deer fence in Alfoxton Park. This is to be erected by the owner of the woodlands part of the Park as part of a strategy to return the woodland to better condition.
2. SSG Report. Cllr. Ayre reported that the SSG attendees were told that there is a good safety record in the dismantling of the Hinkley Point 'A' Station. The working life of the 'B' Station has been extended to 2024.

Open Discussion at the discretion of the Chairman

No matters were raised.

The meeting was closed at 8.54pm.

Next meeting = APM and APM **MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016**