

HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL held on MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2016 at 7.30pm. in the Holford & District Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cty. Cllr. H. Davies (from 7.50pm); Dist. Cllrs. S. Goss and C. Morgan
Cllrs. T. Ayre, S. Coleman, P. Grandfield, C. Hayes, E. Prince, D. Salvidge, G. Weed.
Also present P. Brimson (Clerk), PCSO P. Bolton + 2 members of the public.

Cllr. Salvidge took the Chair and welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES None received

Minute 065/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS
No declarations or requests were made.

Minute 066/16 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM SCC Cty. Cllr. Davies reported:

1. Bus service. A new County Ticket initiative is being launched under the title "Love the Bus Scheme". Also a new through service from Minehead to Bridgwater on 'College Days' will start in October, but may be for a limited period only.
2. Libraries. From Gloucester southwards it is now possible to borrow a book from one branch and return it to any other branch.
3. Road closure. A stretch of the A39 near St. Audries will be closed overnight from Sept. 19th to October 20th to deal with subsidence issues. Work will also start later this month on the new Bishops Lydeard roundabout.
4. Schools. A new primary school is being built on the site of the former police station in Bridgwater. All existing academies will be permitted to continue with unchanged status.
5. Williton Post Office will be closed from October 12th to 20th for an upgrade.

Minute 067/16 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM WSC Dist. Cllr. Goss reported:

1. Waste management. 'Aoli' is to be replaced by Somerset Landscaping Co. and Parish Councils will be able to buy into services it offers.
2. Area Panel. Tomorrow's meeting will include a presentation by Tim Burton, Assistant Director, Planning & Environment. The December meeting will include a visit by Police & Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens.

Dist Cllr. Morgan reported:

1. WSC Council Offices. 55 WSC employees presently occupy premises built for 150 people. Some SCC staff will also use the building and there are plans for it also to be used as a police station (with the addition of a 'holding cell'), as a library and possibly as a solicitors' office.
2. Future of WSC. The Council has voted to work towards amalgamation with Taunton Deane Council. The Boundaries Commission is likely to be involved and so some changes to district boundaries will probably emerge from this decision.

Public comments on agenda items only

1. Concern was expressed at the growth of gorse on the A39 verge near Kilton Cross. This would be reported on in item 10 of the agenda.

Minute 068/16 MINUTES

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2016 were taken as read having been circulated to Cllrs., and were accepted as a correct record upon a proposal by Cllr. Ayre and seconded by Cllr. Grandfield.

Minute 069/16 MATTERS ARISING and not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

1. Fire hydrants. The Clerk presented a list of the locations of all hydrants in the parish; it will be released after one or two possible additions.
2. Councillor training on planning matters. Cllr. Goss said that the presentation by Tim Burton at the Area Panel meeting forms part of the WSC undertaking to provide training for Parish Councillors; additionally Mr. Burton is willing to visit any PC for more specific help.

Minute 070/16 CHAIRPERSON TO REPORT Cllr. Salvidge reported:

1. Thanks to Cllr. Hayes for installing the defibrillator and to ARM for making the electrical connection.
2. The Annual Pony Roundup on the Quantock Hills took place last week

Minute 071/16 PLANNING Report on applications received:
CA/16/16/001 Tree works at Quantock House, Holford. No objections were raised by the PC.

Minute 072/16 FINANCE

1. the following payments were authorised:

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| Clerk | salary | July/Aug | £262-50 | proposed by Cllr. Ayre |
| | | | | seconded by Cllr. Hayes |
| | expenses | July/Aug | £7-12 | proposed by Cllr. Weed |
| | | | | seconded by Cllr. Grandfield |
2. the following payments were ratified:

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| | QH&G maintenance work | £296-00 | proposed by Cllr. Grandfield |
| | | | seconded by Cllr. Hayes |
3. The Clerk reported that the external audit of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 had been completed and published on the Holford Village website.

Minute 073/16 HIGHWAY and RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS Cllr. Grandfield reporting:

1. Following the site meeting of Cllrs. he had gone back to Somerset Highways which agreed with the suggestions put before it, relating to Back Lane and the 'Triangle'. Upon a proposal put by Cllr. Grandfield and seconded by Cllr. Hayes, it was resolved to accept the signage arrangements as now proposed by the Authority.
2. Lay-by i) at 'No Man's Land. This was described as looking 'scruffy' due to uncut grass on the small island and on the verge inside the lay-by.
 - ii) at Stowey Lane. Another waste bin is apparently needed. The idea was floated that the PC would share the cost of a bin with the license holder.

Minute 074/16 MAINTENANCE MATTERS including BOWLING GREEN Cllr. Grandfield reporting:

1. Lengthsman project. He has prepared a draft for an advertisement to be displayed locally, and would like to have ideas about what equipment to purchase. It was agreed that applications should be submitted by 14th October.
2. Parking outside the Plough Inn. It was stated that this is not currently a problem; and also confirmed that the Highways Dept has 'no interest' in the area covered by hatching.

Minute 075/16 AONB REPORT Cllr. Grandfield reporting:

A modest under-spend of resources was recorded for the year ended 31st March, which included 2.5 thousand volunteer hours completed. A new staff ranger has been appointed. Some complaints had been received about the swaling programme. Both the numbers and condition of adders were a cause for concern. Doormouse numbers are being monitored. 'Fly camping' is becoming a problem as are both the numbers of mountain bikers using the hills (200 in one recent event), the routes they take (now using animal tracks) and increasing use of night riding activities.

Minute 076/16 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - and not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda
There were no such items of correspondence.

Minute 077/16 ITEMS TO REPORT

1. SSG Report. Cllr. Ayre reported that the SSG attendees were recently given a tour of both 'A' and 'B' stations. The 'A' station ponds have been shaved to make them safe.
2. Appointment of new Clerk. Cllr. Grandfield reported that he has assembled information to create a 'job description' for the position of Clerk, obtained current details of the salary scales relating to the position, and written a draft advertisement for local publication with responses due by 14th October. He proposed that interviews should be timed so that the Council could receive a recommendation from the (yet to be formed) interview panel in time for the next meeting, and could formally agree an appointment at that meeting. Cllr. Grandfield further proposed that the present Clerk be retained, on salary, to oversee the process of 'handover' and provide his successor with as much support as may be needed in the many aspects of role. These procedures were supported by a proposal from Cllr. Weed and seconded by Cllr. Hayes.

Open Discussion at the discretion of the Chairperson

1. It was pointed out that the Ordnance Survey puts a mountain bike on the cover of one of its maps of the area and this sends a message of invitation that, whilst in accord with the Government's hopes for healthy living, does little to promote respect for the countryside or conservation.

The meeting was closed at 9.38pm.

Next meeting on **MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2016**