

HOLFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Cty. Cllr. H. Davies (from 8.30pm); Dist. Cllr. S. Goss
Cllrs. T. Ayre, S. Coleman, P. Grandfield, E. Prince, D. Salvidge.
Also present P. Brimson (Clerk) + 3 members of the public.
Cllr. Salvidge took the Chair and welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES Dist. Cllr. C. Morgan, Cllr. C. Hayes

Minute 078/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS
No declarations or requests were made.

Minute 079/16 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM SCC Cty. Cllr. Davies reported:

1. Route 14 Bus Service. The problem is more severe in the Williton – Bridgwater section of the route and it is recognised not to be a commercially viable section, especially as a high proportion of users hold concessions. Though the need is small, it is very important to the users. Discussions to meet this need are ongoing.
2. Stroke bed closure at Williton Community Hospital. The proposal to transfer stroke patients to Minehead Hospital is seen as part of a wider plan to close hospitals and increase home treatment. There is dismay at the proposal among residents of the Williton hinterland.
3. SCC is writing a letter to Chancellor Hammond to draw his attention to the difficulties experienced county councils in low density population areas financing the services to widely scattered rural communities.
4. SCC is replacing South West 1 which has been managing IT needs at County Hall.
5. 10 bags of salt for self-help, if needed, are ready for collection from the Highways Dept. depot at Minehead on Sat 3rd. December between 0930 and 1300. Cllr. Ayre undertook to do this.
6. Dates for collection of recyclable waste over the end of year holiday period are available.

Minute 080/16 MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM WSC Dist. Cllr. Goss reported:

1. The upward rateable valuation by 300% of Hinkley Point ‘B’ station is certain to have serious consequences for WSC finances.
2. A new community hub has opened at Stogursey to join the 3 others in the district.
3. Hinkley Point ‘C’. Work will start shortly on construction of the jetty, this will involve extensive piling. 1000 employees are currently working on the site, to be increased to 3000 by the year’s end.

Public comments on agenda items only

1. Peter Atkins, prospective lengthsman for the parish was introduced to the Council.

Minute 081/16 MINUTES

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th September 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. Coleman.

Minute 082/16 MATTERS ARISING and not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

No such matters were raised.

Minute 083/16 CHAIRPERSON TO REPORT Cllr. Salvidge reported:

1. The Annual Children’s Party has been arranged for Friday 16th September 5.00pm to 8.00pm. Tickets (£5.00) are available from Cllr. Salvidge and Emma Down (741159).

Minute 084/16 PLANNING

Report on applications received:

3/16/16/005 Works at Copse Cottage. The PC raised no objections though the application prompted a discussion regarding the considerable visual changes that would arise from the proposals.

3/16/16/006 Works at Sir Alick's Reservoir tower. The PC raise no objections to this.

Minute 085/16 FINANCE

1. the following payments were authorised:

Clerk	salary	Sept/Oct	£262-50	proposed by Cllr. Grandfield seconded by Cllr. Ayre
	expenses	Sept/Oct	£39-98	proposed by Cllr. Grandfield seconded by Cllr. Coleman

2. the following payments were ratified:

QH&G maintenance work	£296-00	proposed by Cllr. Ayre seconded by Cllr. Prince
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3. Preliminary consideration of PC budget for 2017-18. Cllrs agreed that discussion on this would be held over to the January meeting of the Council.

Minute 086/16 HIGHWAY and RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS

Cllr. Grandfield reporting:

1. Improvements to signage in Holford village as discussed at the September meeting. These will be implemented as requested before the end of this year.
2. Cllr. Ayre reported he had cut the grass verge at 'No Man's Land' lay-by and he will cut the willow saplings on Stowey Lane lay-by island. Cllr. Grandfield proposed thanks to Cllr. Ayre for doing this.
3. Gorse on A39 verge approaching Kilton Cross. Cllr. Grandfield undertook to contact PCSO Bolton and ask for his support in arguing the case to Somerset Highways for its removal to improve visibility.

Minute 087/16 MAINTENANCE MATTERS Cllr. Grandfield reporting:

1. Lengthsman project. 3 applicants responded to the advertisement and Cllr. Grandfield proposed that Peter Atkins be offered the work on a trial basis. He would be self-employed and paid by the hour, must only take instructions from a designated Cllr. and must not let any other person use the Council's equipment. The work would need to be directed and Cllr. Grandfield is willing to do the directing. This was agreed by Cllrs.
2. Dog Pound. A replacement contractor has been found and a new contract has been prepared which will have to be approved by the PC.
3. Willow saplings at Stowey Lane lay-by. Cllr. Ayre said the roots really need to be dug out.

Minute 088/16 AONB REPORT

Cllr. Grandfield reporting:

1. Redesigned 'Interpretation Panels' have been prepared and will be erected soon.
2. Orchard Workshops. One workshop took place earlier in the year and was successful; more will be held.
3. Nature & Health & Wellbeing: a new appointee will publicise this.
4. The next meeting will take place on 22nd. November at Fyne Court and will consider issues relating to cycling and the increasing number of burnt-out cars being left in the Area.

Minute 089/16 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - and not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda
There were no such items of correspondence.

Minute 090/16 ITEMS TO REPORT

1. Appointment of replacement Clerk. Cllr. Grandfield reported a poor response to the advertisement (5 enquiries including 2 from the job centre) and it had not been possible to make a recommendation to the Council about appointing a replacement. Philip Brimson will continue until 31st March 2017. Cllr. Ayre proposed and Cllr. Coleman seconded that up to £30-00 may be spent by Cllr. Grandfield on advertising. This was agreed.
2. Dates for routine PC meetings in 2017. Cllrs. agreed, upon a proposal by Cllr. Ayre and seconded by Cllr. Prince, that the PC would meet on 09/01; 13/03; 08/05; 10/07; 11/09; 13/11.

3. Broadband Matters. Cllr. Grandfield reported that a new additional cabinet for Holford has been installed at the telephone exchange with the aim of improving the speed at residences in parts of the Combes. BT say it will be completed by the end of the year. Virgin is looking at this area with a possible view to offering a 'fibre to the door' service.

4. Union of Holford and Dodington Ecclesiastical Parishes. The Clerk reported that this had formally taken place on 1st November. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the new parish has the option of making an application for closure of the burial ground at Dodington and, if such an application were to be made and granted, then the PCC would have the option of passing maintenance responsibility to this Parish Council. This Council would have the option of exercising that responsibility – and raising the cost via the precept or, of passing it to the District Council. However, no such application has been made and this information is by way of *knowledge-in-case-it-is-needed*.

5. SSG meeting. Cllr. Ayre attended the recent meeting where it was reported that plans for the storage of 'intermediate waste' have been upgraded. However, it was also confirmed that 'not at this moment' is there any intention to use the facility for storing radioactive material at Hinkley Point.

Open Discussion at the discretion of the Chairperson
No matters were raised.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

Next meeting on **MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2017**