

## **HOLCOMBE BURNELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Holcombe Burnell Parish Council held at Longdown Village Hall on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023** at 7.30pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Charles Eden (Chairman)  
Cllr Chloe Bickley  
Cllr Marion Bulley  
Cllr Graham Flood  
Cllr Kate Morley  
Cllr Sir Henry Studholme

### **ABSENT**

Cllr Louise Brind (Vice-Chair)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** D/Cllr Kevin Lake, D/Cllr John Parrott  
Jim Roberts (Clerk and RFO)

### **1 Open Forum incl. AOB**

No members of the public present.

### **2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Brind who is overseas. Council **RESOLVED** to accept this absence.

### **3 Declarations of Interests & Registers of Interests**

None.

### **4 Minutes**

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 as true & correct record. The Chair duly signed them.

### **5 Matters Arising**

It was pointed out that June's minutes repeated the resolution on the Commemorative Coins that was passed in May. This was an error for which the clerk apologised.

### **6 Reports of County and District Councillors.**

#### **6.1 D/Cllr John Parrott reported that:**

- The draft Local Plan has received 6000 comments that are being analysed. Once this is completed the plan and comments will be submitted to an inspector. Should the inspector find the submission acceptable authority will be given to adopt the plan.
- Markhams Farm, Peamore and Atwell's Farm (approx. 350-450 homes) are the proposed development sites that are the closest to Holcombe Burnell. The Local Plan submission will include sites for development and draft policies. It is due for sign-off in in 2024.
- TDC website has a Customer Experience survey open until 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023.
- The D/Cllrs have a relatively modest community fund which can help to kickstart small, local projects. The form is filled in online and it usually takes about 4 weeks.

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- D/Cllr Parrott confirmed that TDC is chasing South West Water regarding sewage outflows which will have a significant impact on the important local tourist industry. This issue now has a higher political priority; political will is essential for change or the Water Companies will continue as they always have. Investment and the infrastructure by SWW are both problem areas.

**6.2 D/Cllr Kevin Lake reported that:**

- He has liaised with the clerk regarding the bin overflowing in the layby. This had been missed because the pick-ups weren't correctly passed on to a new collection operative, for which the Lead Officer has apologised.
- Kennford Landfill - Parish Cllrs still have the right to call in an application for consideration by the TDC Planning Committee, even if it is a DCC application.
- D/Cllr Lake is still badgering the Planning Officer about the Sylvan fence being temporary.
- PC Orchard & Hawkins (Chudleigh, Teign Valley & Exminster) will come out and look at traffic-calming measures. They have been helpful with other Parishes. D/Cllr Lake will pass on the contact details and they will be invited to the next meeting (and will hold surgeries).
- D/Cllr Lake has asked the MP about the Housing Target as it a set number. Despite announcements that this target has been abandoned nationally, it still seems to influence decisions. The MP advised that guidance should be received from the Government in the autumn.

**6.3 D/Cllr Alan Connett not in attendance. The clerk will check that he is using the correct contact details and if there is anything to report.**

*[At this point the Chairman called item 9 forward]*

**9 Joint Parishes Planning Group**

Cllr Eden reported that there were many Parishes attended the June meeting held at Tedburn St Mary, a good turnout. The Parishes resisted being instructed on matters and challenged the Officers.

The meeting covered:

- Planning applications backlog - The situation has improved since the 20 weeks it took to process an application at beginning of 2023 when the backlog was 300 applications. Class Q applications must be processed in 56 days or permission is granted automatically.
- Ineffectiveness of the planning team - They are relatively new with only one officer having over a year's experience. The Planning Solicitor post is vacant at the moment which hinders efficient working as well.
- PC representations – The Parishes felt these weren't taken into account. The Planning Manager was keen to work with Parishes and would advise Officers to make clear in reports how the Parishes' comments had been germane to the decision-making process.
- Enforcement has to be in the 'public interest', and expense is a major consideration. Bearing in mind the costs of legal action and the low financial penalties TDC doesn't have any teeth. The Manager gave the example of Tower Hamlets Council which fines transgressors and there is no upper limit on these fines.
- There were no TDC Councillors present, which disappointed the Parishes. The D/Cllrs explained that there was some lack of clarity on the inception and nature of the meeting.

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- All parties felt that the meeting was beneficial but it was too onerous to leave the organisation to one Parish clerk. The meeting felt that it would help if the Teignbridge Association of Local Councils (TALC) could be re-launched. Cllr Linda Goodman-Bradbury at TDC will be approached about this.

## **7 Village Concerns**

### **7.1 Fence at Sylvan**

See para 6.2 above.

### **7.2 Play Area Handover to the LVHT**

A meeting will be organised with the LVHT attended by the clerk and the Chairman to resolve the financial implications of the handover.

## **8 Vehicle-Activated Radar Speed Signs**

Council viewed maps of the Parish and identified the sites for the poles on which the VAS signs would be mounted. Caution would be taken when they were installed with buried utility services being identified prior to digging.

Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the draft VAS Policy.

## **9 Joint Parishes Planning Group**

This item had been discussed after para 6 above.

## **10 AGAR Internal Audit Report**

Council noted the Internal Audit document and **RESOLVED** to approve the contents. The Council were very grateful to the Local Auditor for generously giving his time to complete the audit. The state of the noticeboard would be raised in September's agenda.

## **11 Reports**

### **11.1 Clerk's Report**

The clerk confirmed with all Cllrs that their addresses are on the Registers of Interests that are published on TDC's website as the TDC Legal Services team have reminded him that this is required.

The clerk reminded the Council that Teignbridge are carrying out a Customer Experience survey which he had circulated on 6<sup>th</sup> July by email.

The clerk advised the Council that he was attending the Clerks' Summer Social in August that is arranged by DALC.

The clerk will be on leave from Tues 25<sup>th</sup> to Mon 31<sup>st</sup> July inclusive to complete his move of home.

### **11.2 Footpath Warden's Report**

Council noted that FP 1 needs clearing and the Jockey Hill/Telephone Exchange path is very overgrown. The clerk confirmed that the Footpath Warden has obtained quotes for this work and it is in hand.

**11.3 Defibrillator Report** – Cllr Bickley submitted the monthly report to Circuit, confirmed by their email of 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023. New pads expiry date 28/5/2025

### **11.4 Occasional Newsletter Report**

None this month.

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## 12 Finance

### 12.1 Current balance

Council noted the current balance of £ 12,092.46 (10<sup>th</sup> July)  
(Current account £ 8,651.75 + Reserve account £ 3,440.71)

**12.2 Payments** Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

**12.2.1 Longdown Village Hall Trust** Room hire 2023-24 mtgs £ **100.00**

**12.2.2 Grounds Maintenance** Grass cutting in June £ **140.00**

**12.2.3 J P Roberts** clerk pay (June) £ 167.45

**Reimbursements:** Pension Fund £ 56.32

14th June Cash paid for Footpaths' work £ 60.00

22nd June Printer toner cartridge £ 25.95

10th July Internal Auditor's honorarium £ 22.00 £ **331.72**

**12.2.4 HMRC** clerk's PAYE Income Tax (June) £ **41.80**

### 12.3 New Cheque Signatories

The Council duly completed the Lloyds Bank mandate for new signatories.

## 13 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:47pm thanking everyone for their hard work.

Signed ..... Date .....  
Cllr C Eden, Chairman