

Holcombe Burnell Parish Council

MINUTES of the Meeting of Holcombe Burnell Parish Council held virtually (online) on **Monday 8th February 2021** at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Charles Eden (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Marion Bulley
Cllr Louise Brind
Cllr Judith Betney *[left the meeting at 9:01pm]*
Cllr Sharon Wood *[joined at 7:52pm]*
Cllr Sir Harry Studholme
Cllr Kate Morley
Cllr Alan Connett (Devon County Council)
Cllr Andrew Swain (Teignbridge District Council)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Long (Footpaths Warden)
Jim Roberts (Clerk & RFO)

1. **Open Forum incl AOB** - No items were raised.
2. **Apologies** – Apologies were received from Cllr Shipley and Cllr Bickley. Council resolved to accept these apologies.
3. **Declaration of Interests & changes to Register of Interests** - No declarations were made.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** - The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2021 were approved unanimously (prop. Cllr Studholme, sec. Cllr Betney). Cllr Eden signed the minutes.
5. **Reports of the District and County Councillors**
 - 5.1 **Devon County Council Report** - Cllr Connett advised that some of the local resurfacing work had gone well. He had sent pictures of the verge at the turning between Pocombe Hill and the Ide bypass to the Highways Dept but hadn't heard back yet and didn't know what priority it had been given.

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Cllr Connett will encourage DCC to consider whether the corner needs widening to accommodate HGVs and he saw the solution being more complex than just sowing grass seeds.

Cllr Connett advised that some of the cat's eyes were within specification and others weren't. He feared that the solution might be to just remove those incorrectly installed. He thanked the Council for their tenacity on this issue and promised them that some embarrassment had been caused at County Hall. The Chairman repeated that the Council Taxpayers should not have to foot the bill to correct contractor's poor work from 18 months ago. Cllr Bulley added that the white lines had been obliterated and not restored (along with the cat's eyes). She would pass details to the Clerk and Cllr Connett will follow this up. He hoped it could be done by the end of the financial year.

Clerk to action

Cllr Connett also advised that the DCC Budget for Highways will be cut for 2021/22 by £300,000, equivalent to 5000 potholes going unfilled.

A discussion took place regarding the resurfacing of the road to the Church. It was felt that a very good job had been done by Highways, although concern was expressed that it was too smooth and, should it ice up, cars would be stuck at the church and it would be a hazard for horses. Cllr Connett will see if Highways will return and lay chippings on top of the new surface, although this was probably the solution to older road surfaces and the job may be finished. It was generally agreed that a Grit Bin was the only practicable solution to ice/hard-packed snow.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Connett for his comments and Cllr Connett left the meeting.

5.2 Teignbridge District Council Report - Cllr Swain reported that the TDC Budget was still being set and more reductions were being sought.

He advised that the Councillors in Dunchideock had resigned and their Parish Council had folded. Elections would be held in 2022 if the situation could not be resolved beforehand.

The Chairman raised the issue of the Haldon Clearway which Dunchideock PC were leading on. He felt that Holcombe Burnell may well need to take over. Cllr Bulley understood that the consultation was completed (the Locum Clerk had submitted the Council's comments) and the work was due to start soon. The Council resolved to discuss this in March.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Swain and he left the meeting.

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6 Village Concerns

6.1 Footpath Warden's Report - Mr Long reported that the Annual Report to DCC is due and he would be completing it shortly, and a copy would be sent to the Clerk.

The past year's lockdowns had led to much more use of Public Rights of Way (PROWs) which has led to problems. With the restrictions DCC has said to only get grass cut if it is really needed and to only use their contractors.

The general works on footpaths required had been identified as

- A new staggered fence beside the telephone exchange.
- New fingerposts on footpaths 2 & 3 as they come off Kingsford Lane and Tedburn Road.
- Improved footpath by the Village Hall. This had been addressed with chippings and a French drain which seems to be working. It would be better if vehicles could keep off the entrance as this churns up the surface. Further into the wood the leaves on the path have turned into a slushy mess. Mr Long hopes to get the surface scraped away to find the rolled stone underneath, providing a better surface that should even allow pushchairs to be used.
- Past the Church and School (by the old ford that has been piped) there's further erosion. Where the stones have washed away they need to be replaced although the works done previously was money well spent.
- The footpath through Cutteridge Wood near Valley Farm is an issue because there is slurry running down it and the farm work is churning it up. Cllr Morley reported that although it looks firm when walked on it will overflow Wellington boots. It is, in effect, impassable to walkers and makes access to the Community Wood (set up 20 years ago) impossible from this direction. The problem was further complicated by the livestock and gates. The Council identified that DCC would need to enforce keeping this path open with the landowner, but the Woodland Trust should be involved as they set up the wood as a community project in the first place. Grants may be available under the English Land Management Scheme if the land was in Countryside Stewardship. It was agreed to discuss this again in March with clear evidence of what to do. Mr Long would approach the PROW Officer at DCC for assistance.

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6.1 (cont.)The Council gave a vote of thanks to Mr Long for all the work he does and his renewed vigour. Mr Long thanked Cllr Eden for arranging the removal of the fallen oak tree on one of the footpaths.

6.2 Telephone Kiosk Removal – The Council considered the loss of light when the phone box is finally removed, although noted this was not urgent.

6.3 The College Lane Planning Application 20/0615/FUL - No activity on this issue at the moment.

7 Dog bin emptying – The new prices for 2021-2022 have been sent to all Cllrs.

At current rate of emptying (fortnightly in Summer and monthly in Winter) the new cost of 19 x £11.10 = £210.90 + admin fee of £25 = £235.90.

If emptied weekly in the Summer months and fortnightly in the Winter the cost would be £421.80 + admin fee of £25=£446.80. The Council resolved to check the bins to guide their decision at the March meeting, although if dog show classes return there will be greater use of these bins next year. Teignbridge DC will be informed by March 19th and half of the net cost will be sought from the VHMC.

8. Reports

8.1 The Clerk reported that he had received all the files in an excellent handover from the Locum Clerk. He was busy setting up the PAYE system with HMRC and making the necessary changes to the lists held at various organisations. He had looked at the issue of the white lines on the roads and advised the Council that the Department for Transport's Traffic Signs Manual 2018 chapter 5, para 2.2.6 advised that carriageways with an overall width of less than 5.5 metres would not have a centre line. This is to help large goods vehicles, buses etc know that they may need to give way. He had reported the cat's eyes to DCC using their website under case no. W211392457.

The Clerk offered to approach Aylesbeare Parish Council to ask if they wanted to share their Zoom subscription. This would save the Council using Cllr Studholme's account and offer additional services as it was a Zoom Pro subscription. The Council resolved unanimously to accept this offer and to pay half the cost.

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8.2 Cllr Kate Morley, Nature Warden – Cllr Morley had covered the issues in the discussion about the path to Cutteridge Wood (para 6.1 above).

8.3 Cllr Judith Betney, Defibrillator - The form had been filled in online and submitted.

8.4 Cllr Brind, Play Area - The Annual Inspection has been booked for March (email notification 11/01/2021 refers). Cllr Brind believed that the base of the baby swing looks rotten, there is a hole in the fence panel and the bench needed a repair to the front plank. There was overgrown ivy on the fence, but this doesn't look out of place.

Cllr Eden offered to help with these issues and the Council resolved unanimously to accept Cllr Eden's offer for Culver staff to repair the items.

9 Planning - There were no applications or decisions to discuss this month.

10 Parish Online - The Council is now subscribed to this and needs to monitor its use and explore the benefits it gives. It needs to be set up for the Cllrs to access. **Clerk to action**
The Council asked for an outline map of the Parish to go on the website. **Clerk to action**

11 Finance

11.1 Balances – The Council noted the current balances - Treasurer's Account **£ 13920.90**
Bus Bank Account **£ 3425.10**

11.2 Accounts for Payment – The Council unanimously approved the payments below (prop. Cllr Bulley, sec. Cllr Wood)

11.2.1 Locum Clerk – salary and expenses for January 2021 - **£422.06 chq 827**

11.2.2 Cllr Louise Brind – reimbursement of printing costs for Winter Newsletter - **£30.85 chq 828**

11.3 CIL payment - The Council discussed the CIL funds and how to consult the community.

The ideas suggested were -

- A light where the telephone kiosk is (once it is removed).
- Use some funds to help with the footpath problem in Cutteridge Wood.
- Develop the triangle of land next to the play park.
- Use some money to improve the play area.
- Have a shelter or gazebo next to the play area making a community feature and let parishioners know where the money had been spent. Perhaps include a memorial to mark coming through the Covid-19 pandemic.

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The Council also felt that the community will probably have some ideas of their own as well.

Council agreed that the first step was to consult the Parish using the website and Cllr Morley would liaise with Mark Lang to start this.

12 Future meetings – The Council will consider meetings after the current Statutory Instruments expire on 7th May 2021 at March’s meeting. Generally, there was little objection to meeting in person.

13 New Clerk’s Pension – The Council unanimously resolved to offer the same pension arrangements to the new Clerk that had applied to Mrs Radford-Lewis (prop Cllr Brind, sec Cllr Wood).

14 AOB Cllr Brind thanked all the leaflet distributors for their help with the Winter Newsletter. The Chairman felt that much of the credit should go to Cllr Brind herself, to which the rest of the Council agreed.

15 The date of the next meeting is **Monday 8th March 2021** via Zoom.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:29pm.

This is a true record of the meeting

Signed Date

Cllr R Shipley (Chairman)