

HOLCOBME ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held in the King George V Memorial Hall on Thursday 28th April 2022

At 7.15pm

DRAFT

1.1 Present:

Chairman Adam Pilgrim

Parish Councillors: John Butler, Rupert Snook, Jane Lock, Nikki Orchard, George Triggs and Sally Barker

District Councillor Jo Norton

Clerk Leslie Findlay

One member of the public

1.2 Apologies:

Parish Councillor Andy Cooling

Five members of the public

- 1.3** The Chairman opened the meeting and with only one member present it was decided to leave all the reports available to read on the table and to chat informally with the wonderful refreshments provided by Jane Lock and Gordon Czapiewski.

1.4 20 is plenty signs:

This subject was not discussed as it was not raised by any member of the public. Cllr Barker informed the meeting that she had witnessed a tractor driving at speed up through the village and did not slow down past the play area. With vans parked in the layby, the driver would not easily spot children exiting the play area.

1.5 Play area:

Work will commence on Tuesday 3rd May. The Council had also agreed further expenditure to include the matting underneath the picnic table.

1.6 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:

- 1.6.1** The street closure has been approved and the village hall has been booked in case of rain.

- 1.6.2** There will be a requirement for street signs, so it was asked if anyone knows how to obtain these ahead of the day, please contact Annabel Steaggles.

- 1.6.3** Residents will be leafleted shortly with details and posters will be put up around the village, on telegraph poles and the Notice boards.

- 1.6.4** Rosina Hasell will be organising games for the children.

There will be prizes for:

1. the longest length of bunting
2. The longest length of bunting
3. The most creative bunting
4. Adults "Right Royal Hat"
5. Children – Royal themed fancy dress
6. Children - make your own crown when you arrive

- 1.6.5** Music through the seven decades – in hand.

- 1.6.6** Helpers will be required on the day to move furniture from the village hall.

1.7 Road Safety in the village:

Not discussed.

1.8 Prince of Wales update:

As shown in the April PC Meeting the comments from the residents public meeting has been forwarded to both the owner's agent and planning consultant. We, await a further response.

1.9 Points raised by residents:

No points were raised

All the reports will be published on the website.

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm after thanking Jane and Gordon for the extremely delicious homemade small eats.

**Adam Pilgrim
Chairman**

Attached – All Reports

Chairman's Report for 2021-2022

The past year has been challenging with attempts to reduce the impact of Covid on our lives. Your Parish Council has followed its timetable of meetings throughout the pandemic preferring to have virtual meetings until the Government insisted upon face to face meetings after 6th May 2021.

Annoyingly, District and County Council meetings were allowed to continue in virtual mode.

Membership has been good with two new Councillors joining and another enquiring about becoming a Councillor. I'm pleased that our age range is broadening which encourages good quality discussions and decisions. We are determined to make our Parish Council's voice heard so that our Community's opinions are noted, by District Councillors in particular. Thanks to our Clerk, Leslie Findlay's skills we enjoy good relationships with the District Council's Officers who help us navigate some of the bureaucracy.

Covid has delayed many things including finalising our ownership of the Play Area generously gifted to us by the late Mary Fewings. Her daughters, Tracy Fewings and Sally Waite have been very helpful with carrying out the transfer of ownership.

The future of the Prince of Wales pub has been a matter of great concern and the Parish Council has helped with Communications between the Community and the owners.

I'm worried that we often make decisions about things that affect our Community without input from the public. Please help us by not ignoring your Parish Council. Our meetings are open to all and have time set aside for your questions. I try to restrict meetings to one hour so watching how we work shouldn't be too painful!

You can contact any of us by phone or email if there's any matter that you feel we should deal with. Our contact details are available on our website or in the Parish magazine. A phone call usually gets a quicker response.

I'll finish by thanking all our Councillors for donating their time and expertise to our Community. Also, thanks must go to our Clerk, Leslie Findlay, who makes sure everything runs smoothly and legally.

Adam Pilgrim
Chairman of Holcombe Rogus Parish Council.

Planning Report by John Butler, Chair of Planning Committee

1. Planning Applications & Appeals considered in 2021 and in January- March 2022

- 1.1. The Council and its planning committee considered some 33 applications for planning permission, listed building consent and notifications to carry out tree works (in the Conservation Area) in 2021. In the main, these were not contentious.
- 1.2. The Council also made representations in respect of an Appeal of MDDC's refusal of planning permission for the construction of an agricultural barn east of Battens Cottage. The Council supported MDDC's decision. The result of this Appeal is awaited from the Planning Inspectorate.
- 1.3. As previously reported, the Parish Council also made representations in respect of a planning application submitted to Devon County Council relating to the construction of an asphalt plant and associated development at Broadpath, Uffculme. This proposal will involve the transfer of the existing asphalt plant from Westleigh Quarry and potentially reduce the number of quarry lorry movements to and from the Westleigh Quarry. Planning Permission was granted by Devon County Council.

2. The MDDC Local Plan Review 2023/43

- 2.1. As previously reported the Local Plan Review 2013/2033 was adopted on 29th July 2020.
- 2.2. In January 2022 MDDC embarked on an Issues Consultation for Plan Mid-Devon 2023/43. This further review will take into account revisions made to the (NPPF) National Planning Policy Framework in 2021 and other planning changes expected to be made by the Government. -see below - as well as responses made to the Consultation Paper.
- 2.3. The Parish Council met to consider issues raised in the Consultation Paper that were relevant to our village community and in particular the challenges that our village faces in seeking to retain facilities including the Prince of Wales Pub which is designated as an Asset of Community Value.

On this particular issue the Consultation Paper stated at Paragraph 13.2 under the section on 'Our Rural Areas and Villages':

"The current Local Plan includes a policy to help prevent the loss of community facilities such as local shops, public houses, allotments, cultural and recreational facilities and other important local services where this would damage a settlement's ability to meet its day to day needs or result in a total loss of such services to the community. Only in circumstances when the facility is proven to be no longer economically viable, including for alternative community uses, will applications for alternative use be considered acceptable. Assessment of viability will require the submission of detailed evidence relating to trading accounts, valuation considerations and the marketing of the business or property at a reasonable price for a minimum of 12 months.

The new Local Plan provides an opportunity to continue to have a policy to prevent the loss of community facilities at Villages."

3. Changes to Legislation and Planning policy

- 3.1. The controversial planning reforms expected in 2021 did not happen. Since the Government published its planning White Paper in 2020 there have been expectations that a planning bill would be published but it now seems that this has been put on hold following Michael Gove

- 's appointment as Secretary of State at the renamed Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. It has been suggested that there will no longer be a Planning Bill but that there will be some changes to planning in a Levelling Up Bill.
- 3.2. The levelling-up White Paper published in February 2022 confirmed that several of the objectives that were contained in the 2020 White Paper remain on the Government's agenda. In particular, the following matters seem to be still on the Government's agenda:
- The development of new models for the payment of a new infrastructure levy
 - Digitalizing of the planning system
 - The encouragement of part virtual and part face to face models for planning committee meetings
 - The encouragement of more neighbourhood planning
 - Proposals to enhance compulsory purchase powers to support town-centre regeneration and provide further support for re-using brownfield land for development.
- 3.3. It has been suggested that in any event the announcement of new legislation will be delayed until after the May elections.
- 3.4. The 2021 NPPF introduced new limits on Article 4 Directions which remove Permitted Development rights in specific areas.
- 3.5. There is a new Use Class MA which grants prior approval for a change of use from retail to residential use but subject to certain prior approval requirements.
- 3.6. The Environment Act 2021 sets a Biodiversity Net Gain standard of 10%.
- 3.7. It is anticipated that legislation will be introduced in 2022 to require electric charging points in new homes in England including existing buildings requiring major refurbishment.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT

The baton was passed again this year as resident Gordon Czapiewski and Councillor George Triggs took on the role for overseeing public rights of way in the Parish from former Councillor Guy Orchard. This took place in November 2021.

Several successful bids were made for the installation of new gates, and final approval of the amendment to footpath 15 is due. The new route for footpath 15 is already commonly used and is directed around rather than through Whipcott Farm.

SURVEY

The survey has been completed for the year 2021-2022. There were no significant issues identified on any of the Parish footpaths and some improvements have been agreed with Mid Devon Council.

Improvements:

- New 2-in-1 gate (pedestrian gate within a large gate) at the south end of footpath 16
- New 2-in-1 gate on footpath 20

PARISH PATHWAYS PARTNERSHIP SCHEME (P3) FUNDING

We currently have £581.24 in the budget for future funding.

George Triggs
Councillor

CLERK REPORT

The Parish Council accounts are in an extremely healthy state as we have been raising funds for the new equipment in the playarea. I am delighted to report we have now reached our target of £66357.60 with assistance from various grants (see below) and the fantastic fundraising by the community. In addition, we have received our annual funding from the Redhill Solar Farm (Lightsource Solar) £ 6012 and have made a grant to the play area fund of £3000. This money can only be spent on capital expenditure and this past year we have not received any applications for a grant.

The Parish Council received the following funding in this financial year:

	£
Precept	11275
Interest	1.82
Lightsource Solar	6012.82
P3 grant	160.00
DCC verges grant	69.00
VAT reclaimed	991.60
for play area	28,617.56
TOTAL	47,127.80
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	13,382.44

The accounts were closed at the end of March and will be audited by an external auditor once all the accounts have been approved by the Parish Council. These documents will be available to view on the website.

I thought it might be of some interest to see how much the precept has risen over the years and what we spend it on.

PRECEPTS FOR HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL FROM APRIL 2010

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT £</u>
2010/11	5500.00
2011/12	5500.00
2012/13	5500.00
2013/14	5500.00
2014/15	6000.00
2015/16	6300.00
2016/17	6300.00
2017/18	6800.00
2018/19	7300.00
2019/20	11000.00
2020/21	11110.00
2021/22	11275.00
2022/23	11500.00

The simple reason for the “hike” in 2019/20 has been having to include the maintenance of the play area. We now have to all costs associated with the playarea.

Outside of the playarea costs, the Council employs one member of staff, (the Parish Clerk who works part time), all subscriptions for the various organisations, parish maintenance (which includes clearing the drains in the village), audit fees, training courses for councillors, website costs and the usual miscellaneous bills that arise. The precept is discussed and agreed annually at the November meeting of the Parish Council. The aim to cover our costs and balance the books! We keep a general reserve fund of £3000 for emergencies but being a public account do not make a profit.

Playarea

The extremely generous gift from the late Mrs Mary Fewings has been so much appreciated in the community and given the village a wonderful opportunity to give the playarea a new lease of life. The fund raising has gone extremely well and we are very grateful to the committee for the tremendous efforts they have gone to and we have been able to achieve our goal quite rapidly. The new equipment will start to be installed on the 25th April and it is very much hoped (but not guaranteed) that it will be open in time for the Queen’s Jubilee. The Council will be planning an official opening in due course.

It was the request of the family that the play area be named “**The Mary Fewings Playpark**” and we are in the process of purchasing a sign made to put on the gate.

Ownership does bring maintenance and we are now paying for both monthly and annual inspections of the equipment and getting the grass cut. Another high cost is the emptying of the bin so we are trialling having it emptied fortnightly. This will be kept under review as we appreciate, we do not want overflowing litter bins.

The fundraising for the playarea is:

DATE	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	COMMENTS
02-Dec-19	10.00		Transfer from Solar Fund
02-Dec-19	9990.00		Transfer from Solar Fund
28-Feb-20	6000.00		Transfer from Solar Fund
07-May-20	2400.00		Transfer from Current Account (reclaimed VAT)
26-Mar-21	3000.00		Transfer from Solar Fund
26-Mar-21	600.00		Transfer from Current Account (reclaimed VAT)
09-Aug		798.00	Transfer Fees Risdon Hosegood Solicitor
15-Sep		1909.20	Transfer Fees Ashfords Solicitors
25-Oct	75.00		Donation S Barker
26-Oct	5000.00		Donation local Benefactor
05-Nov	140.00		Craft morning
08-Nov	55.00		Craft morning
18-Nov	9834.00		Community Lottery
12-Nov	460.00		Sale of guitars
16-Nov	125.00		Sale of guitars
16-Nov	15.00		Craft morning
17-Nov	80.00		Sale of guitars
18-Nov	1000.00		Donation local benefactor
22-Nov	25.00		Craft morning
23-Nov	15.00		Craft morning
29-Nov	25.00		Craft morning
01-Dec	30.00		Craft morning
09-Dec	500.00		Locality budget
13-Dec	374.00		Raffle Christmas lights

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20-Dec	500.00		local donation
20-Dec	665.00		money returned as not required to top up crowdfunder
20-Dec		1114.00	money given to Crowdfunder to top up total
24-Dec	1000.00		Donation SWW Actionfunder
06-Jan	50.00		Craft morning
21-Jan	3372.34		Crowdfunder
24-Jan	1880.00		Crowdfunder
05-Feb	223.00		Burlescombe Café
05-Feb	17.00		Nearly New Sale
07-Feb	1000.00		All Saints' Church Holcombe Rogus Parochial Church Council
24-Feb	1440.60		Nearly New Sale
10-Mar	1250.00		Elmgrant Trust
18-Mar	20.00		local donation
25-Mar	991.60		vat reclaimed
25-Mar	3000.00		Solar Fund
25-Mar		47.20	land registry fee
07-Apr	350.00		Drive way Café
10-Apr	10091.00		106 monies from MDDC
10-Apr	661.05		106 monies held in reserve
14-Apr	5397.58		106 monies - from general reserve fund
SUB			
TOTAL	71662.17	3868.40	
<u>TOTAL</u>			<u>67793.77</u>

Assets of Community Value

With the closure of the Prince of Wales Pub it became a huge concern to both residents and the community that, if at all possible, it should remain as the village pub. It was decided to request to MDDC to have it added to their list of community assets and this was approved last year. The community, are now in the process of discussions with the owner as to the future of the pub.

Councillors

We had two resignations this past year and have welcomed George Triggs and Sally Barker onto the Council. We still have one vacancy.

Training

All training has been virtual and our new Councillor George Triggs has attended four DALC new councillor courses. In addition, MDDC have been running several planning workshops. Material planning considerations – Permitted Development – 106 considerations, which have been attended by various Councillors.

All the parish council documents are available to view on the website at www.holcomberogus-pc.gov.uk

Leslie Findlay
Parish Clerk/RFO

HIGHWAYS REPORT

Drainage seems to be still our most problematic part of the parish road network. The road up to Wiseburrow always floods in heavy rain and there are still problems with the drains from Marjories Farm to Ford House in extreme weather. The problems with Twitchen/Timewells flooding are partly solved although there does seem to be a problem with the bungalow wall against the road.

In the storms earlier in the year we were grateful to our local farmers for a quick removal of fallen trees.

The state of the surface of the parish roads still leaves a lot to be desired with 2 roads still quite dangerous to negotiate. The road past Pond Ground and that past Lower Besley Farm. The road past Whipcott has been looked at but not a lot done to it.

All in all, another frustrating year on local roads.

Rupert Snook
Parish Councillor

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR RAY RADFORD

As a County Councillor, not only do we have to look after our own division (Willand & Uffculme) we have to serve on various committees. I serve on the Community, Infrastructure and Regularity Scrutiny (CIRS) also I am placed on the Devon & Somerset Fire Authority. There is also the Highways & Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC), we deal with all traffic orders in the Mid Devon Area, as well as administering the `Locality Budget` this is very small budgets for local issues.

It has been another challenging year again, not only financially but with Covid, in the later part of the year there has been more Covid than ever before, but thankfully it is re-ceding a bit now, summer coming on, that should help.

The prime issues of any Authority is managing budgets, with not enough money to go around, particularly in Adult Services and Child Services.

As you will have gathered by now, County have put together their 22/23 budget, I have included again the basic figures that make up the budget, it was agreed at our Budget meeting on 17th Feb.

Immediately below are the figures for this current year up to month 10 (End of January). The final figures have to be audited and finalised later in May. You will see below the financial pressures we are under.

Adult Care and Health services are forecast to overspend by just over £3.8 million, a reduction of £1.3 million from month 8. The forecast includes budgeted savings of £283,000 still considered deliverable.

Adult Care Operations is forecasting to overspend by just over £4.1 million, this continues to be a mix of price and volume pressures but the improved position is the result of a funding agreement being reached with health around costs associated with the hospital discharge programme. Within Learning Disabilities and Autism higher demand has continued into this year with client numbers in these areas being 164 more than the budgeted level of 3,569.

Older People is also experiencing significant pressures, mainly due to price pressures on residential and increase in the number of nursing placements which are 47 more than the budgeted level of 516. Adult Commissioning and Health and Mental Health is forecast to underspend by £359,000.

Children's services are forecasting an overspend of £8.8 million a reduction of £300,000 from month 8. However, this figure does not include the projected deficit of £39.9 million on Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The targets set for each service area have been subject to different pressures and influences. The table below shows the 2022/23 Budget Targets by service area, I thought you might like to know.

Adult Care & Health	21/22, £283.294m; Inflation etc	22/23 £312.928m	increase of	£29.634 (10.5%)
Children Services,	21/22. £159.036m; “ “	22/23 £17.112m	“ “	£17.112 (10.8%)
Communities, Public Health,	21/22. £340.280m; “ “	22/23 £41.243m	“ “	£.963 (2.4%)
Corporate Services.	21/22. £40.937m; “ “	22/23 £41.793m	“ “	£.782 (1.9%)
Highways Infrastructure.	21/22 £57.124m; “ “	22/23 £57.324m	“ “	£.200 (0.4%)

Totals for this year's budget 21/22 was £580.671m inflation etc.

Totals for 22/23 £629.362m increase of £48.691 (8.4%)

I know that roads and their conditions are of interest to all Parish Councils, so I have included some information regarding this.

Network Condition, Highway Authorities are required to collect and submit data on the condition of their highway network on an annual basis. In Devon, this information is collected via a driven machine survey. The main measure of condition is the Road Condition Indicator (RCI). This is made up of several parameters, such as cracking and rutting, which combine to give an overall measure of the state of the road.

Potholes, another indicator for the condition of the road network is the number of recorded potholes. In general, the number of potholes recorded each month in 2021 has been below the five-year average. In addition to the general improvement in the condition of the network discussed above the relatively benign weather throughout autumn and the start of winter has been a benefit. The above average figures recorded for June and August were due to the wet weather experienced in May and June and the reprogramming of annual inspections to the summer months.

Gully Cleansing The gully cleaning gangs are slightly behind programme but are confident of addressing this gap by dedicating some 'hand clean' gangs to some problem areas and increasing resources if necessary.

Grips, Easements and Buddleholes, the cleaning of grips, easements and Buddleholes remains slightly ahead of programme.

Management of Drainage Issues. This financial year has seen in excess of 25,600 referrals made by the gangs. In response to these referrals the gangs have been able to address more than 22,000 of these requests. This is an area of the work that the team would like to continue developing by increasing capacity to meet the demand and reducing response times. However, this is going to be difficult in the next financial year with a proposed reduction in both revenue and capital budgets.

Winter Service The start to the winter season has been relatively quiet with below average levels of salt spread in both November and December. The forecast for the start of 2022 was indicating milder, damper conditions. The risk of a short, sharp winter event has not been discounted.

Devon, along with other councils, continue to raise concerns with the DfE over the rising costs and demand of special educational needs, and although government has responded nationally with £730 million for 2022/23 and a further £325 million in the recent spending review. Devon's share of this funding is £12.5 million which is not sufficient to deal with the demand on the High Needs Block

Local authorities have a statutory requirement to meet the needs of people eligible for care, to support them and their carers, and to fund care for those people with needs who meet financial eligibility criteria. The Adult Commissioning and Health team work with NHS colleagues to assess the strategic health and social care needs of the Devon population, and ensure there are solutions to meet those needs through integrated commissioning and joined up services. Commissioners work with the independent sector, helping to shape the local market to encourage quality, choice and sufficiency of provision. Local authorities have a responsibility to ensure care is maintained where a provider fails financially and services cease – for everyone, including self-funders, to ensure people's needs can continue to be met.

The team are also responsible for commissioning intelligence, statutory returns and surveys, internal performance management, and involvement in sector-led improvement; for commissioning and operational policy development and strategic planning; and engaging the users of our services and their carers.

This is just a flavour of what is going on at County, if there are other issues you would like to know about, please ask, and I will find out. Of course, any issues around Holcombe Rogus, always want to know about and I will try and do my best to resolve.

Ray Radford
Devon County Councillor
Willand & Uffculme Division
Email: ray.radford@devon.gov.uk

Holcombe Rogus: District Councillor Jo Norton's report

I have again loved serving Holcombe Rogus as a district councillor for Canonsleigh. I enjoy this responsibility and am always thankful to the parish council for always being so welcoming and helpful – especially as we have now gone back to meeting in person again. Thank you for keeping me well-informed

With regard to planning this year, things have been quiet in terms of domestic planning. However, I have been keeping aware of the plans for the Prince of Wales pub. This has clearly become a big issue for the village and I will continue to support the parish council and residents if needed in relation to this. The Mid Devon Local Plan that was approved by members of Mid Devon District Council in July 2020 mentions the status of the village. By this point, it was too late to consider changing the status of the village due to the closure of the shop, however, this should be considered for the next local plan as the amount of facilities a settlement has determines if and where new housing could and should be built. The boundary commission review was also carried out during the latter half of 2020 and although Holcombe Rogus has no direct changes, it should be noted that from 2023, Uplowman parish will also be included within the ward of Canonsleigh. The new Public Spaces Protection

Order was also finalised this year and will be applicable for the new play area. If owners are not following the legislation outlined in the Order, they can be fined and prosecuted for their actions.

I am extremely pleased to have been able to help secure part of the funding for the new play area – and am extremely impressed at how the community has come together to raise the funds needed. This is something that the village should be incredibly proud of and I know has been the work of years of planning and preparation. This is just another of the many examples of fantastic work the parish council has been doing for the local residents. In terms of the environment, I have also been involved in conversations about moving to 3-weekly bin collections. This is due to be rolled out (we have been told) by September. Seeing as this has already generated much debate, I would like the residents to speak to me regarding this if they need to due to my seat on the Environment Committee. I can bring this feedback directly to the group and to the Cabinet Member for The Environment and Climate Change so that Holcombe Rogus residents' views will be heard.

I'd also like to remind residents that I sit on the Environment Policy Development Group, the Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Group, the Licensing and Regulatory Committees and of course I represent the ward at all full council meetings. If any member of the public would like to get in touch regarding any of those areas of interest, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish you all the very best for the coming year and I look forward to working with you and for you all again.

Jo Norton

Ward member for Canonsleigh (Mid Devon District Council)