

**HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the February Meeting**

**Held in the King George V Memorial Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 at 7pm**

**APPROVED**

2.1

**Present:**

Councillors: Adam Pilgrim (Chairman), John Butler, Rupert Snook, Sally Barker,  
Jane Lock & Nikki Orchard  
Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Mrs Leslie Findlay  
19 Residents

**ACTION  
TO BE  
TKEN**

**Apologies:**

County Councillor Ray Radford – Report attached  
District Councillor Jo Norton

**OPEN FORUM**

The Council was thanked for taking action in regard to Black Lane. All other comments were in regard to the Pondground Firing Range application and covered under Planning.

2.2

**Declaration of Interests:** None declared

2.3

**Minutes of Previous Meetings and Matters arising**

The January Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record and unanimously approved by all Councillors.

2.3.1

**Matters Arising:**

Street lighting update: The Clerk has been in contact with DCC and Holcombe Rogus is on the list for the trial of new lighting within the village. They have various obstacles to overcome (ie risk assessment, legal procedures, consideration of women walking alone at night, light pollution) to name but a few and finance. The cost of new LED lighting is:

- a. Replace 1no. existing lantern with new LED & central management cell circa £150 - £200
- b. Replace 1no. existing column with a new column circa £1000
- c. New base station to link central management cells £5000 - £7000

The Proper Officer proposed that funding from the Solar Fund could be earmarked to assist with these costs in order that the trial could proceed more swiftly. Councillors approved for £15,000 to be earmarked for street lighting from the Solar Fund. *Clerk to action and inform DCC.*

**LF**

2.3.2

Destruction of hedgerows around Wardmoor– The Highways Officer at DCC has been consulted and his response to our request for advice and assistance is:

*“Unfortunately, this is a common problem which the Council often receive complaints, however, as this location is in the proximity to a farm and with the increased size of vehicles currently being used within the agriculture industry this is something which the Highway Authority have no control over. It is difficult to restrict the movement of HGV’s as they are permitted to use any classification of road for access and deliveries even if there is a Weight Restriction in place (unless it is a structural weight limit). As a main through route, HGVs are directed to use the most appropriate route via motorways, dual carriageways and*

*main roads. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to restrict the size/type of vehicles accessing the highway”*

After further discussions and comments from the residents Councillors asked the Clerk to draft a letter to all the farmers in the Parish, outlining the concerns that the PC and residents have regarding the destruction of the hedges due to the large vehicles accessing these narrow lanes.

LF

It was suggested that perhaps there should be a meeting or workshop(?) for people to understand how these vehicles are damaging the environment and loss of biodiversity. Chairman stated that this will be discussed at a later meeting.

## **2.4 Environment**

### **2.4.1 Public Rights of Way:**

The Clerk has submitted a nil return for a grant for this coming year as the account currently stands at £771.24. The Chairman outlined the duties that are required for the PC to be eligible to receive the assistance and finance from DCC. Mr Gordon Czapiewski and Mrs Frances Freeman volunteered to take on this role. *Clerk to action*

LF

### **2.4.2 Canal Report**

The GWCAC have reiterated their objections to the Pondground Firing Range application following the recent additional information. The Rangers have been busy carrying out the annual maintenance and the next GWCAC will be on 7th March.

### **2.4.3 Westleigh Quarry Liaison Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 attended by Cllr Lock.**

Condition of the roads dominated the meeting, the washing down causing more problems than it is solving. A second wheel wash will be installed within the next 2 weeks. The mud down through the village has been appalling. The Quarry has offered to make a financial contribution towards highway repairs (outside the quarry entrance) but DCC has not responded. The Council Officer present explained it is a matter of priorities. 5 ½ million tonnes to be blasted over the next 10 years. There is to be a site visit before the next meeting in June.

## **2.5 Highways**

### **2.5.1 To report on work carried out by Highways Dept:**

The potholes at Kennel bridge (by Knowles Farm) had been repaired but the recent hard frosts have removed all the repair work and it has once again become a hazardous bit of road. *Clerk reported on DCC website reference W231594109 & W231594110*

The pothole at Wardmoor has been repaired, but rather unsatisfactorily and nothing has been done about the verge.

### **2.5.2 Work to be reported and carried out:**

**2.5.2.1** The broken finger post at Four Elms has been reported W231592743

**2.5.2.2** The pothole at Waterslade has been reported W231594158

**2.5.2.3** Street light at Whitebrook is broken. Cllr Snook to advise Clerk of the number on the pole.

RS

**2.5.2.4** The signposts in the village and Durleymoore Cross need replacing. Clerk to investigate costs with DCC.

LF

LF

## **2.6 Planning**

The following application was discussed:

**22/00907/FULL** Retention of disused quarry for use as two firing ranges- further information (noise assessment statement).

Cllr Butler (Chair of Planning) read out a draft letter that the PC proposed to send to MDDC in response to the latest information. In addition, Cllr Butler is having a meeting with a Planning Solicitor and several residents to clarify the arguments required. Councillors agreed that Cllr Butler will formulate a response from the PC which will be circulated to all Councillors for approval.

**JHB**

The PC had received a letter from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in response to their previous comments.

**2.7 The Mary Fewings Playpark**

**2.7.1** The January monthly inspection was carried out with no faults reported.

**2.7.2** Tim McCabe has kindly carried out a temporary repair on the picnic table and bench and further repairs will be completed later.

**2.8 Clerk/Finance**

**2.8.1 Income:**

Monthly interest – January £22.85

Lightsource SPV payment £6864.64

<b>2.8.2</b>	It was resolved that the following expenditure was approved for payment by the RFO:		
	<b>Amount £</b>	<b>BACS/cheque</b>	<b>Payable to</b>
<b>2.8.2.1</b>	55.98	BACS	LJ Findlay
<b>2.8.2.2</b>	170.00	BACS	Village Hall Trust
<b>2.8.2.3</b>	1500.00	BACS	Village Hall Trust
			<b>Comments</b>
			2 x Memory sticks
			Hall rental 2023/24
			Annual Grant

**2.8.3** Councillors adopted the Disciplinary and Grievances Agreement proposed by the Clerk.

**2.8.4** Cllr Butler and the Clerk will review the Clerks contract for signing at the March meeting.

**LF**

**2.9 Correspondence**

All correspondence had been circulated to the Councillors.

**2.10 Matters brought forward for information or future agenda.**

**2.10.1** Councillor vacancies We have three vacancies, if anyone is interested, please contact the Clerk for further information. The local elections will take place in May. All Councillors will be required to complete a nomination form which is available from the Clerk. These posts are open to all residents in the Parish and HRPC has 9 seats.

**ALL**

**2.10.2** Coronation Party: Cllr Barker is co-ordinating this event. Due to the costs and bureaucracy of closing a street the party will be held in the Village Hall car park with the Hall available for the facilities and inclement weather. Anyone wishing to assist should contact Sally on [parishmaged1@gmail.com](mailto:parishmaged1@gmail.com) . Any ideas for children's entertainment would be appreciated.

There being no further business the meeting closed 8.05 pm. The next Full Council Meeting will be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

**ALL**

Adam Pilgrim  
Chairman Holcombe Rogus Parish Council

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR MONTHLY REPORT**

In previous years, Cabinet has agreed target budgets for services in December, based on financial planning forecasts constructed in advance of the provisional settlement. However, this year, there has been much more uncertainty

- The carbon impact of Waste Management is small compared to other areas with the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, dispose) incorporating actions that naturally reduce carbon emissions.
- Devon is largely meeting the targets set by the CCC around the reduction of all waste including food and that going to landfill, and increase in recycling and using anaerobic digestion for food waste.
- Devon is the second-best performing county in England for recycling, having been at approximately 55% recycling since around 2010

In terms of central government funding to local government, combined with the most challenging budget round that the Authority has faced in recent decades. It has therefore been prudent to defer setting service budget targets until January/February, after the announcement of the provisional settlement. Nevertheless, we will finalise the budget at our Full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

The likely approved service revenue budget targets for the 2023/24 financial year are set out in the table below.

This report provides detailed budget proposals in line with these targets. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24

The 2023/24 local government finance settlement is for one year only and is in line with the Spending Review 2021 (SR21) and updated for the announcements made in the Autumn Statement on the 17 November 2022. Government has outlined national funding levels for 2024/25 .

The key matters in the provisional settlement are set out below –

- Core Spending Power – The government has increased the Authority’s overall Core Spending Power by 9.6% which provides some welcome additional flexibility to respond to national inflationary pressures and protect services that local people rely on as far as possible.
- Council Tax – it is important to note that the provisional settlement confirms that the Core Spending Power includes the flexibility in setting Council Tax for 2023/24 by setting the referendum limit at 2.99% and that social care authorities may increase the adult social care precept by 2% - and therefore raise Council Tax by up to 4.99% overall without a referendum being required.
- Business Rates – the business rates system and government compensation grant for under indexing will overall, increase in line with September CPI (which stood at 10.1%). 2022/23 Adjusted Base Budget

\* Inflation and National Living Wage Other Pressures Savings, alternative funding and additional income 2023/24

Target Budget Net change

Integrated Adult Social Care, 22/23 - £311.968m, 23/24 £339.302m, increase £27.334m, or 8.8%.

Children's and Young Peoples Futures, 22/23 £176.205m, 23/24 £208.603m increase of £32.398m or 18.4%

Public Health, Communities & Prosperity, 22/23 £20.308m, 23/24 £21.395m increase of £1.087m or 5.4%

Corporate Services 22/23 £42.213m. 23/24 £44.848m. increase of £2.635m or 6.2%.

Climate Change, Environment & Transport 22/23 £79.117m, 23/24 £81.900m increase of £2.783m or 3.5%

**Service budget totals 22/23 £629.811m, 23/24 £696.048m increase of £66.237m or 10.5%.**

- The carbon impact of Waste Management is small compared to other areas with the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, dispose) incorporating actions that naturally reduce carbon emissions.
- Devon is largely meeting the targets set by the CCC around the reduction of all waste including food and that going to landfill, an increase in recycling and using anaerobic digestion for food waste.
- Devon is the second-best performing county in England for recycling, having been at approximately 55% recycling since around 2010.

Interestingly, agriculture alone accounts for around 9% of the total UK emissions, i.e. 46MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (million tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent). A large proportion of this is the production of methane by ruminant livestock; and the release of nitrous oxide due to high or inefficient fertiliser use.

I thought you might like some interesting information some of what we manage.

We have **12,990Km Roads**; 3,434 Bridges; **1,810 Structural retaining walls**; 80,914 Street Lights; **53,998 Street Lights to have been converted to part night lighting**; 5,017 Rights of way; **11,403 illuminated road markings and signs**; 151,000 Gullies emptied; **7.78 million metres of grass area**; 235km surface dressed; **41km of Resurfacing/reconstruction**; This is just some of what we do. I will gather more information regarding number of employees, number of vehicles, bus and taxi trips per day etc, etc.

As for Holcombe Rogus, I haven't got much to report about, if there is, please let me know. I know there are many potholes/road defects that have been reported, any that have not been, report them via the web site or let me know. I am always available. Via email or 079 0000 3050.

Ray Radford

Devon County Councillor

Willand & Uffculme Division

Email: [ray.radford@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ray.radford@devon.gov.uk)