

HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the March Meeting
Held in the King George V Memorial Hall on Thursday 26th March 2026
At 7.00pm

3.1 Present:

Councillors: Adam Pilgrim (Chairman), Nikki Orchard, Frances Freeman, Polly Page, Rupert Snook, Sally Barker, Gordon Czapiewski & Jane Lock.
Jackie Lyons Parish Clerk/RFO

Guest:

CLLrs Gill Westcott, Simon Clist & Andy Gregory.
Three members of the public.

3.2 Declaration of Interests:

Cllr Gordon Czapiewski abstained from commenting on planning.

3.4 Environment

3.4.1 PROW:

Cllr Frances Freeman explained how the system has changed. DCC will provide the materials needed eg: markers/posts, however they will not pay direct for installation. It now appears that we source our own contractor then invoice DCC. Cllr Frances Freeman has emailed John Boyd (Rights of Way Officer) and is waiting for confirmation on the above. **FF**

3.4.2 Canal Report

Cllr Adam Pilgrim – Helen Nesbitt Enforcement Officer says there is limited budget and the canal needs funding. MDDC want to keep an Enforcement officer in place. **AP**

3.5 Highways

3.5.1 Members of the public shared their concerns with Cllr Simon Clist on potholes, drains and ancient hedged being destroyed. Cllr Simon Clist said to report all problems onto the DCC website and to Copy him in on any complaints. Cllr Simon Clist said that a change in climate change has had a big impact on our roads. There was also concern that the work being carried out was not done to a good standard. Devon Highways use contractors to carry out the work and the general consensus of opinion was that standards are low because contractors are paid, job well done or not. The reporting system is inefficient – potholes are reported on the system and then put the status noted as completed, but the pothole is still there. The average cost of filling a pothole is as follows:-

Devon £146

Somerset £123

Cornwall £85

Cllr Simon Clist is going to look at more affordable options and will report back.

Cllr Adam Pilgrim added the following on Facebook.

“Residents suggested that there is anger about the perceived wasteful practices; attending to a pothole but ignoring an adjacent one and the lack of quality control that allows poor repairs to perpetuate. There were complaints about farm vehicles, too wide for our small roads, damaging the hedges and, as a consequence, blocking our roadside drains so that flooding has

AP

Holcombe Rogus Parish Council Minutes March 2026

become more prevalent. Devon County Council's Highways doesn't seem to react to this at all adequately. Councillor Clist is well aware of these issues and did his best to explain how the severe budget limitations imposed by our central government often resulted in substandard road repairs being the best that could be done."

3.5.2 Black Lane – Cllr Rupert Snook is going to speak to Josh Reed for an update as to when the work on Black Lane will start/be completed.

3.5.3 To Receive reports of repairs. None to report.

3.6 Planning

AP

3.6.1 Applications to be discussed:

3.6.2 26/00270/FULL - Proposal: Erection of accessible toilet and garden store following removal of existing shed and construction of access path at Church of All Saints Holcombe Rogus Devon. No objections were raised.

As had been previously agreed, the Parish Council will give the Church a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of a new toilet.

3.6.1.2 MDDC Decisions:

3.6.1.3 None to report.

3.7 The Mary Fewings Playpark

JL

3.7.1 February inspections. There was nothing to report from the February checks and everything was ok.

3.8 Clerk/Finance

3.8.1 Income

3.8.2 February Bank Interest £16.15

3.8.3 Solar Fund Payments – Revising how we use solar funds – to be discussed at a future meeting.

3.8.2.1 Expenditure to be approved

Nothing to report.

3.8.3 Expenditure paid out of Committee:

Nothing to report.

3.8.4 Signing of monthly bank reconciliation

3.8.5 The Chairman signed the monthly bank reconciliation/accounts for February.

3.9 Matters brought forward for information or future agenda

ALL

Holcombe Rogus Parish Council Minutes March 2026

- 3.9.1** The Council voted unanimously to co-opt Andy Gregory on to the Parish Council. Councillor Gregory was welcomed by those present. **SB/PP**
- 3.9.2** The Emergency Planning zoom meeting was cancelled half-way through, and is due to be rescheduled. **PP**
- 3.9.3** Village Litter Picking - This has been organised for Easter Sunday 5th April, meeting at the Village Hall at 3.00pm. Cllr Polly Page will be putting more details about this on FB and is mentioned in the April parish magazine. **JL**
- 3.9.4** The possibility of a youth club at the village hall – Cllr Jane Lock is looking further into the set up and funding. **JL**
- 3.9.5** Annual reports need to be ready by Friday 10th April ready for displaying and publishing for the public at the Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd April

Councillor and Chairman Adam Pilgrim told the meeting that he will be resigning from the Council at our May meeting. Adam has been a Councillor since 2014 and Chairman since 2018. The Clerk thanked Adam for all his support. Councillors agreed that he has done an excellent job as Chair and that they will miss him. Fortunately, Adam would like to continue reporting on the canal. The Clerk and Councillors wish Adam all the best in his retirement.

Future Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 23rd April at 6.45pm. This is the Council's Annual Parish Meeting when Councillors will report on the previous year. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Adam Pilgrim

Chairman

Holcombe Rogus Parish Council