



# NORTH VALE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held at Holton Village Hall on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Present:** David Young (Chair), David Badham-Thornhill, Jenny Chambers, Douglas Hodges, Janet Down, Simon Ford, Steve Prior, Gillian Freeman and Julian Sincock.  
Nicola Clarke (Unitary Councillor). Barry Druce (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Graham Boaler.

**Electors Question Time /Comments:** No questions or comments were raised.

**Unitary Councillors' Report:** The written report previously received and circulated was taken as read and noted. Nicola Clarke (NC) referred to the bin in the lay-by near Holton and hoped that all problems with it had been resolved now that it was included on the regular collection rounds. The Chair stated that unfortunately it appeared that the problem continues as the bin is currently overflowing and litter is all over the ground. Expressing her disappointment, NC reported on the problems the Council were experiencing with short-staffing, but undertook to chase this up again with the team. NC referred to the inaugural Local Community Network meeting that was due to take place at Queen Camel on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, she stated that both Unitary Councillors would be there and encouraged members to attend. NC referred to the recent resignation of the local MP and stated that this potentially may lead to a by-election in the near future.

**23.52 Declaration of Interest/Dispensations:** No declarations of interest were submitted.

**23.53 Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, as PROPOSED by Simon Ford and SECONDED by Janet Down, were approved and signed.

**23.54 Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**23.55 Planning Applications: The following planning application was received since the last meeting**

23.55.1 **23/01236/S73A** - S73A application for the removal of Condition 3 (The temporary classroom hereby permitted shall be removed and the land restored to its former condition (grassed amenity land) on or before 29th October 2023), of planning application 18/02449/FUL. (The siting of a temporary classroom unit) - **Marchant-Holliday School Higher North Cheriton Road North Cheriton** – This application having been distributed off-agenda was discussed and members AGREED that the proposal should be allowed to go ahead so that the school can continue to meet the current and expectedly rising demands being placed on it with regards to student numbers. The Clerk undertook to advise the planners accordingly.

**23.56: Planning Decisions** – The following Planning Decisions that had been received since the previous meeting were briefly discussed and noted.

23.56.1 - **22/03588/COU** - Change of Use of an agricultural building to Commercial use (Use Class B2) - **Higher Clapton Farm Higher Clapton Lane Maperton** **PERMISSION REFUSED**

23.56.2 - **23/00984/TCA** - Notification of intent to fell No. 2 trees within a Conservation Area. - **The Old Smithy Holton Road Holton** **NO TPO REQUIRED**

23.56.3 - **23/00990/TCA** - Notification of intent to fell No.02 trees included within Conservation Area - **Thistledown Holton Street Holton** **NO TPO REQUIRED**

**23.57: Planning Other** – No other matters had arisen that required discussion.

**23.58: Correspondence:** All correspondence of interest received by email had previously been distributed and were taken as read. The Clerk referred to the items that had been circulated with the agenda, and particularly mentioned the following responses that had been received from Somerset Council: (a) The pothole near the lay-by at Holton had been attended to; and (b) The need for repairs to the Ticky Stile had been added to the Council's work schedule for attention.



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The Clerk referred also to an email that had been received from Greenways Ground Maintenance which requested that they be added to the Parish Council's tender list for future works, and it was AGREED that they should be accepted and invited to tender.

### **23.59: Financial Matters**

**23.59.1 Review balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023** – The schedule was reviewed. The balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 stands at £16,421.68

**23.59.2 Authorise Cheques** – The following items were authorised for payment:-

(a) Barry Druce - Clerk's salary and expenses for May 2023 - £290.28

(b) Chloe Palmer – Audit Fee 2022/23 - £50.00

**23.59.3 - Lloyds Bank Business Online Service:** A number of Councillors signed and counter-signed applications for On-line banking access with Lloyds Bank, and the Clerk undertook to forward them on.

**23.60: Speed Indicator Device latest update** – Simon Ford reported that the local, volunteer electronics expert had found many problems with the current device and was still attending to them. He has also discussed the problems that he has found with the machine with the suppliers, and they have admitted that they have changed their whole engineering approach on these devices. The device we have is still undergoing repair by the local expert, and the overall view now is that this is throwing doubt over from where a second device should be obtained. The current device has proved not to be durable, and our expert has described parts he has found in the device as unsuitable for the purpose; even the battery charger supplied for the device does not work properly. Simon stated that he wished to visit the Company and examine the newly designed device before finally deciding whether or not to purchase a second device from them. Steve Prior stated that he had undertaken some research to try to identify which S.I.D.'s prove to be the better buy, and had found that there are a multitude of different opinions and there really is no 'outright winner'. The general success of the current device was discussed at length and it was finally decided that experience had proved that it was not fit for purpose, and did not fulfil the requirements of its use. The Clerk suggested that there may be grounds in that case, for the Company to be approached to replace the device at no cost to the Parish Council, as a sign of good faith., and undertook to discuss this approach with Simon before contacting the Company on that basis.

### **23.61: Matters of report and items for next meeting.**

**23.61.1** Steve Prior raised the subject of problems being encountered with speeding traffic in Holton despite the 20 mph speed limit signs that have already been erected, but stated that it was difficult to know what to do about it. He suggested that the introduction of speed bumps was one possible solution, but accepted that was probably an unpopular remedy. Members noted the concern.

**23.61.2** Discussion turned to the continuing traffic speed problem on the old A303. Various improvements to signs and road markings had appeared to make little difference. Questions were raised on what was happening with regards to the tragic fatal accident that had occurred last year on the main road outside Holton Brickyard Farm, and the Clerk undertook to make enquiries to try and identify the current situation on the plans to improve road safety and instigate an inquest.

**23.61.3** Steve Prior raised the subject of the Old Inn at Holton which was again closed, and asked should the Parish Council now apply to register the property as an Asset of Community Value as previously discussed. David B-T stated that the owner had indicated during the earlier occasion that he had more than one party interested in taking over the pub, and suggested that he may already have someone set up ready to take over. The Chair stated that the most appropriate way forward therefore was for David B-T to contact the owner and identify what his intentions are with regards to the property and if he was not satisfied with the answers he received, to advise the Clerk to submit the application.

**23.61.4** Gillian Freeman announced that she had finally sold her property and was leaving North Cheriton. She stated that she had greatly enjoyed her time on the Parish Council, but had now decided that it was time she stood down and had tendered her resignation with immediate effect. Gillian was thanked for all her hard work during her time as a Councillor and was wished the very best of luck for the future.

**The Meeting closed at 8.50pm**

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