



**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting
on 5 May 2026
in Holne Village Hall at 7.00pm**

Present

Cllr Owen (Chairman), Cllr Applegarth, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Grun, Cllr McLean, members of the Playpark Working Group, 6 members of the public and the clerk (Suzanna Hughes)

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.

APM050526.01	Apologies for Absence None
APM050526.02	Chair's Introduction The Chair advised that the theme of the meeting was Playpark and to hear more about the recent work of the Playpark Working Group who are looking at ways to upgrade the current play area and its equipment. This meeting was also an opportunity to raise any other parish matters.
APM050526.03	Playpark Working Group Cllr Fisher led a presentation on the plans for Playpark. He advised that the current playpark, in its current state, is coming to the end of its life and needs to be upgraded. Plans have been presented to the Holne Church Charity (HCC) as owners of the land and, as a result, HCC have come back with some issues which the Working Group are now starting to work through. The main concerns are around protection of the land into the future. The group feels that the playpark is an excellent space and is not being used to its full potential. They would also like to diversify so that it is a space that can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. From surveys which have been done, it is clear that playpark is an important part of the community. Cllr Fisher showed an AI generated plan of the proposals. The most recent survey showed that the children would like an area to ride bikes safely, and therefore the plans showed an area for a pump track which can be used for bikes, scooters, roller skates etc. They are also looking at creating an area for an all-weather football pitch/multi-purpose area (max 15m x 15m) which could be used for football, hockey, basketball, bowls etc. The area will not be fenced. Examples of other pump tracks were shown (Chudleigh & Dartington), aspects of which can be taken for the proposed pump track in Holne. The surface is an important consideration for durability and drainage. It was noted that the Dartington pump track was very well landscaped in. In terms of replacing the equipment, the construction is key so that it is as durable as possible. There is equipment which looks natural and in-keeping with the surroundings, which have metal bases and will therefore have a longer lifespan. They are also looking at installing a soft rubber membrane underneath the equipment, which protects the children if they fall, but also helps to prevent rotting. It is intended to be natural-looking with sympathetic colours. The equipment will be no higher than what is already there.

	The group will also ensure that the equipment is maintained to the standard required so as not to nullify the warranty. There was a discussion about using astroturf surfacing in the multi-use pitch. The durability of astroturf and the impact on the environment are matters which need to be carefully considered. The group are keen to keep the area as natural-looking as possible, and incorporating hill tunnels and all the things which are already there, which the children love. A question was asked whether it was the intention of the group to obtain advice about the drainage. The group believes that advice on drainage will be mandatory. Another concern is parking once the park is completed. This is a general concern within the village. A question was asked about whether the parish wishes to change the current ethos of the simple playpark that currently exists, and whether development will encourage more people from outside the area, more traffic etc. Is this wanted? It was noted that the amount of traffic in the village prevents children from riding their bikes safely and a designated pump track would provide a safe environment for them. A question was asked about whether there would still be a space to encourage wild flowers etc. Would there be space for anyone not wishing to use the pump track, sports pitch or play equipment? It was agreed that it is important to be sympathetic to other users as well. It is suggested that once firm plans have been agreed, and a scaled drawing produced, they are circulated in the community and/or presented at another village meeting to give everyone the opportunity to express their views. Funding also needs to be secured once the project details have been refined. The group advised that they have employed a person whose job is to source funding for such projects. Ongoing maintenance also needs to be factored in as this is something which the Parish Council will need to consider as part of its precept. It was suggested that the group focuses on producing more accurate drawings to allow parishioners to envisage what is being proposed. An approach to DNPA is also required in order to seek their approval.
APM050526.04	Close The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and giving their views. The Parish Council and Working Group will keep the community informed of progress and continue to invite comments from residents. The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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Cllr Belinda Owen