Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Holne Village Hall on Tuesday 1 September 2026 at 8.00pm

Present
Cllr B Owen, D Fisher and L Grun

Also present
Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Thomas, District Cllr Pannell, Ross Gray (Tree Warden) and one member of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Owen at 7.30pm.

010926.01	**Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from: • Cllr McLean • Cllr Applegarth • Rob Steemson (DNPA)
010926.02	**Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation** There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.
010926.03	**Open Forum** Ross Gray advised that the larch trees and rhododendron at Venford are being removed. This may impact other trees there. The yew tree in the churchyard has been watered over the summer which, thankfully, has encouraged growth on three quarters of the tree. The other quarter appears to have died of old age. Ross was thanked for his persistence and care for this ancient tree. A resident asked whether Holne and Scoriton could show the Climate Emergency film in the parish. Cllr Grun intended to raise this as an item for discussion at item 10.
010926.04	**Minutes** Members received the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 7 July 2026. It was agreed unanimously that they be signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the meeting.
010926.05	**Reports** 5.1 **County Council** Cllr Thomas reported on the LGR. He advised that it had been revealed that only 19% of the statutory consultees had supported the government's decision for four unitary authorities in Devon. The County Council is mounting a judicial review to challenge the legal process/ manner in which the decision was made. In November, joint committees of existing councillors across the four unitary authorties will be set up.

	Four rapid highways response teams have been set up across the county; these teams have started by prioritising heavily used roads but they will also have the capacity to look at other roads that historically have been lower priority. Temporary 'lego' blocks have been installed on one side of Holne Bridge. DCC are waiting for permission from Highways England to start work on repairs to the other side of the bridge. Works to both Holne Bridge and Newbridge are ready to go once permission is given. The Chair pointed out that the signage approaching the bridge is poor and does not give sufficient warning. Cllr Thomas asked if the Council could send him some photos and he will follow it up with Highways. 5.2 **District Council** Cllrs Pannell reported on the drafting of the wards; Holne will be within South Hams North. This will become a one-member ward and area committees will be established. 5.3 **DNPA (District Cllr Pannell)** Wildfires remain a high risk as the grass is still very dry. The bluetongue virus is actively circulating across Dartmoor causing significant concern for local farmers. The virus is spread by biting midges, and populations have surged due to recent hot and humid weather conditions. Thankfully, it does not affect humans or food safety. There has been an increase in flytipping. South Hams are going to be using more cameras in an attempt to catch flytipping in popular places. A lot of schemes are coming forward for FiPL funding (Farming in Protected Landscapes. DNPA has also been given £1.6m in capital funding this year to spend on capital projects, and is exploring different opportunities, such as purchasing shops, which, once purchased, will generate an income for DNPA. 5.4 **DNPA (Rob Steemson)** The tree, fence and stiles in the O Brook valley are subject of a Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) bid.
010926.06	**Finance and Governance** 6.1 **Payments for Approval** The following payments were approved: • EDF (DAAT mast - invoices 26 & 27) - £32.03
010926.07	**Planning** 7.1 **New applications/appeals** None 7.2 **Decisions** None
010926.08	**Playpark** Cllr Fisher advised that a technical drawing is needed before a pre-application can be submitted; it is hoped that this will be available by mid-September. In response to concerns raised in the parish, alternative materials/surfacing products are being looked at. Members discussed in detail how parishioners can put forward their views on the project. If a planning application is required, there will be a formal process for residents to comment. However, members are very keen to ensure that parishioners are engaged in the whole process (regardless of whether planning is required or not) and have an opportunity to put forward their comments to the Parish Council. It was noted that this is a community asset for all residents to enjoy, old and young, and that support from residents is very important to the Parish Council. There was a discussion about funding; Cllr Fisher will speak to the funding coordinator about opportunities. He will continue to pursue the pre-application with

	DNPA. It was thought that the sign directing users of the playpark to the toilets at the shop and tea rooms, has now been put on the gate.
010926.09	**Holne Bridge** This was discussed at item 5.1.
010926.10	**Climate and Biodiversity Emergency** It was proposed to show the Climate and Emergency film as a joint project with the Church. This was supported by members present, and it was agreed that Cllr Grun will follow this up with a view to showing it before Christmas/January.
010926.11	**Highways, Footpaths & Leats** *Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:* *https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/* It was agreed to follow up items previously raised with Rob Steemson. The knotweed in the field at Church Park is growing back. The landowner is aware, but the clerk will write again by way of a reminder.
010925.12	**Chairman's urgent business for action by the clerk if covered by delegated powers or for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting** A parishioner has an idea to have a nativity event in the parish. It was agreed to invite him to October's meeting to provide more information. A resident suggested that the section of highway from Chase Gate Hill to the cattle grid is put forward for surface dressing by the rapid response team (as discussed at 5.1)
010926.13	**Correspondence** None
010926.14	**Date of next meeting** The next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th October at 7.30pm.

……..

Cllr B Owen
Chair