

HOLCOMBE BURNELL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Holcombe Burnell Parish Council held at Longdown Village Hall on **Monday 12th January 2026** at 7:30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Charles Eden (Chairman)
Cllr Graham Flood
Cllr Sir Henry Studholme
Cllr Sharon Wood

ABSENT

Cllr Chloe Bickley
Cllr Louise Brind (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Marion Bulley

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Roberts (clerk and RFO)

1 Open Forum

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to all. There were no members of the public present.

2 Apologies

Cllr Bullen sent apologies as she was feeling unwell. Cllrs Bickley & Brind sent apologies and, sadly, confirmed their resignations from the Council. Council **RESOLVED** to accept the reasons given.

3 Declarations of Interests & Changes to Registers of Interests

No declarations of interests or changes to Registers of Interests..

4 Minutes

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2025 as a true & correct record. The Chairman duly signed them.

5 Reports of the District and County Councillors

5.1 Devon County Council

No report this month.

5.2 District Council

D/Cllr Parrott sent his apologies due to diary clashes and offered help with any matters sent to him. Clerk to contact the Cllrs and other D/Cllrs about reports and attendance.

6 Village Concerns

6.1 Highways Matters

6.1.1 Buddle Lane Roadworks

Council noted that the B3212 18-week road closure (subsidence at Steps Bridge and Docombe) has reduced the bus service. Cllr Wood advises that Country Bus have changed the service reducing to 4 times a day and currently only from Dunsford to Exeter (not Moretonhampstead). The timetable is normally reviewed in April but the roadworks will be there until August. The reduced bus service is particularly a problem for students and other non-drivers. Clerk to contact Alan Connett to see what can be done.

6.1.2. Kingsford Lane

Council awaits further updates on the completion of repairs to Kingsford Lane.

6.1.3

Clerk will enquire about the schedule for gritting, especially Black Hat Lane.

6.1.4 Perridge Lane SWW Emergency work

Council is disappointed with the slow response of SWW to attend and repair this issue. The work was not started until Friday afternoon and then immediately ceased. This is in addition to the closure of the lane from 5-mile

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Hill across the A30. The leak on that road began in July, was not attended to until 18th November. The lane was closed for 10 days as the leak continued. The team came to fill the hole and reopen the road 3 times only to find that the repair was still leaking. On the fourth visit they filled the hole while pumping out water at the same time. The Chairman has sent details to DCC Highways.

6.2 Council Website and Email Addresses

Clerk will provide cost details for February’s meeting.

6.3 National Grid and Power Cuts

The village trees affecting high-voltage power lines were marked up for work in July 2024 but not worked on until Christmas 2025 . Word from the technicians is that National Grid had changed the process for management and surgery for trees, only to realise the new system doesn’t work and hopefully they are reverting to the old methods.

6.4 Play Area Paperwork and Funds

Still awaiting signature from Longdown Village Hall Committee and no date has been set for the next LVHC meeting. Council currently holds the cheque for the payment.

6.5 Tree for the Bus Stop

Council **RESOLVED** to ask for one tree for the bus stop area opposite the Lamb. Clerk will request a Devon Whitebeam (Haldon Variety) as this is the most suitable tree for the spot.

6.6 Dog Waste Bin Emptying 2026-27

Council **RESOLVED** to keep the schedule as extended last year (£334 for 2026-27).

6.7 Budget and Precept

6.7.1 2025-26 Quarter 3 Budget Review

Council reviewed the budget for 2025-26 against the year-to-date and the clerk’s full year forecast. Council noted that the only expenditure over budget will be the additional vehicle-activated speed sign, the funds for which will be recovered over future years at £400 per year, and the play area funding for LVHC which has been budgeted for in previous years. Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarter 3 Budget Review as presented.

Holcombe Burnell Parish Council Budget v Actuals 2025-26							
Detail	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26			Notes
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Quarter 3 Budget	Oct - Dec 2025 YTD	FYF	
Payments							
Staff Costs	£ 3,223	£ 3,426	£ 3,616	£ 4,000	£ 2,797	£ 3,800	
Admin	£ 456	£ 954	£ 504	£ 650	£ 568	£ 650	
Section 137, s106 & CIL	£ -	£ 5,095	£ 1,560	£ -	£ -	£ -	
Annual Subscriptions	£ 207	£ 171	£ 242	£ 500	£ 258	£ 300	
Parish Maintenance	£ 1,536	£ 1,543	£ 720	£ 2,350	£ 1,449	£ 2,350	
Insurance	£ 618	£ 505	£ 535	£ 700	£ 581	£ 581	
Training	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 150	£ -	£ 150	
Donations	£ 1,300	£ -	£ 350	£ 400	£ 400	£ 400	
Postage & Printing	£ 204	£ 86	£ 22	£ 140	£ -	£ 140	
P3 Footpaths	£ 3,114	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
Elections	£ -	£ 316	£ -	£ 300	£ -	£ 300	
Defib				£ 200		£ 200	
Play Area					£ 2,162	£ 2,162	
VAS					£ 3,108	£ 3,508	
Spare							
Total	£ 10,659	£ 12,095	£ 7,549	£ 9,390	£ 11,323	£ 14,541	

Council requested a bank reconciliation which the clerk will provide with future reviews.

6.7.2 2026-27 Budget and Precept

Council carefully considered the budget for 2026-27 item by item. Next year

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will require funds for the obligatory website and email changes as well as £400 for vehicle-activated speed sign maintenance. There are also inflationary pressures on all costs. Council **RESOLVED** to set the precept at £10,350 for 2025-26. This 9% increase means each average (Band D) household will pay an additional £3.19 next year which is 27p per month from April.

Holcombe Burnell Parish Council Budget 2025-26								
Detail	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26			2025-26	Notes
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Quarter 3 Budget	Oct - Dec 2025 YTD	2025 FYF	Budget	
Payments								
Staff Costs	£ 3,223	£ 3,426	£ 3,616	£ 4,000	£ 2,797	£ 3,800	£ 4,000	
Admin	£ 456	£ 954	£ 504	£ 650	£ 568	£ 650	£ 700	
Section 137, s106 & CIL	£ -	£ 5,095	£ 1,560	£ -	£ -	£ -		
Annual Subscriptions	£ 207	£ 171	£ 242	£ 500	£ 258	£ 300	£ 300	
Parish Maintenance	£ 1,536	£ 1,543	£ 720	£ 2,350	£ 1,449	£ 2,350	£ 2,300	
Insurance	£ 618	£ 505	£ 535	£ 700	£ 581	£ 581	£ 700	
Training	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 150	£ -	£ 150	£ 100	
Donations	£ 1,300	£ -	£ 350	£ 400	£ 400	£ 400	£ 500	
Postage & Printing	£ 204	£ 86	£ 22	£ 140	£ -	£ 140	£ 100	
P3 Footpaths	£ 3,114	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
Elections	£ -	£ 316	£ -	£ 300	£ -	£ 300	£ 300	
Defib				£ 200		£ 200	£ 200	
Play Area					£ 2,187	£ 2,162	£ 750	
VAS					£ 3,108	£ 3,508	£ 400	
Spare								
Total	£ 10,659	£ 12,095	£ 7,549	£ 9,390	£ 11,347	£ 14,541	£ 10,350	
Reserves								
Election reserves	£ 1,300	£ 1,300	£ 1,600			£ 1,800		
Play Area reserves	£ 140	£ 140	£ 140			£ -		
P3 reserves	£ 1,257	£ 1,143	£ 1,371			£ 1,371		
Defib funds	£ -	£ 250	£ -			£ 450		
CIL	£ 7,839	£ 1,839	£ 1,285			£ -		
VAS						£ 400		
Ringfenced reserves	£ 10,536	£ 4,672	£ 4,396			£ 3,621		
General reserves			£ 9,234			£ 4,858		
Bank Balance			£ 13,630	1 Apr 2025				
Precept								
Total Precept	£ 7,588	£ 7,915	£ 8,940			£ 9,390		
Tax base households	260.0	260.2	258.6			265.0		
per Band D Household per year	£ 29.18	£ 30.42	£ 34.57			£ 35.43		
2026-27	No increase on 2025-26			9.0% increase		To Budget + 9.0%		
per Band D Household per year	£35.43			£38.62		£38.63		
Tax base households	267.9			267.9		267.9		
Total Council Income	£9,493			£10,347		£10,350		
Precept Decision for 2026-27	£10,350	+	£3.19	=	27 p per Band D household per month			

7 Planning & Consultations

Planning Decisions

Council **NOTED** the following decisions:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 7.1.1 25/00441/FUL Pitt Farm Demolition and rebuild | GRANTED |
| 7.1.2 25/01621/FUL Montgomery House, Extension | REFUSED |
| 7.1.3 25/01838/VAR West Wheatley Farm Change of use | REFUSED |
| 7.1.4 25/02110/AGR Pitt Farm Agricultural Barn | REFUSED |

Planning Applications

- 7.2.2 25/01958/FUL Lamb Inn, Longdown Conversion to flats

Council noted that this was the biggest change in the village for a long time and noted the almost unanimous support for the conversion on Facebook and in the

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comments already made on the TDC website under this application.

Council **RESOLVED** to support this application and make the following comments:

Holcombe Burnell Parish Council supports this application given the almost unanimous support in the community expressed via Facebook and via the comments already made on the application.

Holcombe Burnell Parish Council would welcome any actions the applicant could take to encourage biodiversity and enhancements for nature. Suggested actions are:

- Ensuring outside lighting is carefully positioned and where possible shaded from above to reduce the impact that lighting has on bats, night flying birds and insects.
- Installing swift bricks.
- Installing bat boxes and/or bat bricks.
- Avoid removing existing tree and hedging as well as consider planting new hedgerows instead of fencing, this helps wildlife move more freely across the parish as well as creating connectivity for species such as hedgehogs and bats.
- Planting berry and fruit-bearing trees.
- Maintaining hedgehog highways.

7.2.3 25/02067/VAR Pitt Farm Demolition & rebuild dwelling and gym variation

Having no objection to the plans Council **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application.

8 Reports

8.1 Clerk’s Report

The clerk reported the following items:

He apologised for the late issue of the agenda.

He reminded the Council that their Registers of Interests need to be kept up to date and TDC had asked him to check

TDC have issued a survey concerning the District budget. The parish Council was not asked to submit comments but TDC hopes for a good number of responses. Council urges all Parishioners to consider completing the survey by which can be accessed via [this link to the TDC Survey page.](#)

8.2 Footpath Warden’s Report

No report this month.

8.3 Defibrillator Report

Cllr Bickley confirmed that the defib is working and has been reported to The Circuit.

8.4 Facebook items

Chairman will post an item in an effort to encourage more new Councillors

9 Finance

9.1 Council NOTED the current balance of £ 18,324.07

9.2 Payments

Council **RESOLVED** to make the following payments:

9.2.1 J P Roberts clerk pay (Nov & Dec)	£ 470.84	
Reimbursements: Pension Fund (Nov & Dec)	£ 153.58	
J Bush Dec Payment	£ 80.00	£ 704.42
9.2.2 HMRC for clerk’s PAYE Income Tax (Nov & Dec)		£ 105.60

10 Date of Next Meeting – 7:30pm Monday 9th February 2026

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:35pm.

Signed Date
Cllr C E G Eden, Chairman