HOLCOMBE ROGUS PARISH COUNCIL 10/26
Minutes of the October Meeting
Held in the King George V Memorial Hall on Thursday 22nd October 2026
At 7.00pm

Present

10.1 Councillors: Nikki Orchard, Sally Barker, Frances Freeman, Gordon Czapiewski, Jane Lock, Rupert Snook & Polly Page.
Parish Clerk – Jackie Lyons

3 Members of the public

Apologies
Cllr Andy Gregory
MDDC: Cllr Gill Westcott

OPEN FORUM

A member of the public aired their concerns over the collapse of the road at Whitebrook Terrace and had been informed that work would not be carried out for 2 years. Cllr Rupert Snook to send an email to Devon highways to say that road has already been marked and is it possible to give a time line.
Concerns were also brought up about the speed of cars going through the village when parents are dropping off their children. Cllr Nikki Orchard is going to contact the school/governors about the number of complaints the Parish Council are receiving on the subject of speeding parents. It was suggested that the Parish Council should look into obtaining a moveable flashing speed sign.
A garage in Whitebrook Terrace raised concerns as the garage is no longer in use but appears to contain oil and other flammable materials. The house associated with the garage is empty. Cllr Jane Lock said she will contact Devon Council to see if they can intervene, although it is not their responsibility.

10.2 Declaration of Interests – None

10.3 **Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters arising**

10.3.1 Signing minutes of September's meeting. Signed by Cllr Nikki Orchard. NO

10.4 **Environment**

10.5 PROW - Cllr Frances Freeman has spoken with Stuart Britton and John Boyd with regards to picking up the Fenacre post. Cllr Frances Freeman has spoken with Sarah Smith who has agreed for Cllr Frances Freeman to continue. Need to confirm who pays for the collection of the post as it falls under Westleigh Parish Council. FF

10.5.1 Canal Report – Cllr Gordon Czapiewski is looking for supervised volunteers to help weed and tidy the Lime Kiln along the canal. Cllr Gordon Czapiewski is going to contact Mark Baker to gain further information on how to move forward. A grant to help towards hiring a stone mason for maintenance on the lime kiln was approved, a figure for this will be discussed at our next meeting in November. GC

10.5.2 Report to Holcombe Rogus Parish Council on 2nd October 2026 from Adam Pilgrim. AP
The Grand Western Canal Joint Advisory Committee met at Phoenix House, Tiverton on Monday 5th October 2026.

It's at the October meeting that the Chairman for 2026/7 is elected. County Councillor Simon Clist was elected. Chairmanship alternates between Mid Devon District and Devon County Councillors. Councillor Jane Lock was elected as Vice Chairman.
Unexpectedly, I was detained in hospital and couldn't attend this meeting but was advised of the content of the meeting and have also studied its Minutes.
Apart from the circulated comprehensive Progress Report from the Canal's Manager, Mark Baker, an important update was reported about the Fenacre Water Transfer Scheme to the Canal which has been greatly delayed by the Environment Agency requesting increasing amounts of information about many features of Fenacre Stream. Devon County Council's and Holcim's Hydrologists have provided this to the extent that the EA shouldn't be able to continue the procrastination of its permission for proceeding with the Scheme.
Apart from my representing our Council, I carry out the Committee's Planning Watch. This has to continue after I am unable to do this and Councillor Frances Box from Burlescombe has offered to help arrange the continuation.
Councillor Jane Lock is one of the Councillors asked to encourage the Canal's Parish Councils to participate in the Local Green Space Consultation which continues until 7th January 2027.

10.6. **Highways**

10.6.1 To report on work carried out by Highways Dept –
Cllr Rupert Snook was concerned about the number of pot holes on the Westleigh Road and this is still being reported on a regular basis. Cllr Rupert Snook also mentioned the fact that larger holes were being filled and smaller ones that were right beside the larger ones were not. RS
Cllr Sally Barker is going to put details into the Parish magazine to remind people to continue to report potholes and where possible add photograph evidence. SB

10.6.2 Update on Road Wardens **–** GC
6 people attended the 'Road Warden Scheme' which was held by Cllr Gordon Czapiewski. Out of the 6 that attended the original meeting 5 have remained. The first stages of training have now been completed and there are potentially 2 going forward for full training (which will include pot holes, cleaning sends etc) which is the minimum needed to proceed. Cllr Gordon Czapiewski is aiming for the programme to be up and running in the first quarter of 2027.

10.7 **Planning**

10.7.1 Applications to be discussed:
Nothing to report.

MDDC Decisions:

10.7.2 26/00005/ACV - Application to List Prince of Wales Inn, Holcombe Rogus, as an Asset of Community Value, the property to be included in that list dated 5th October 2026. The entry will expire 5 years after listing.

10.8 **The Mary Fewings Playpark**
Monthly Inspections – Nothing to report. JL

10.9 **Clerk/Finance**

10.9.1 Income

10.9.2 September Bank Interest £23.72

10.9.3 MDDC £6750

10.9.3.1 **Expenditure to be approved:**
Nothing to report.

10.9.3.2 **Expenditure paid out of Committee:**
10.9.3.3 J Lyons - £38.95 – ink cartridge
10.9.3.4 J Lyons - £46.00 – 2 x wreaths as requested by Cllr Sally Barker
10.9.3.5 Scribe - £446.40 – annual membership

10.9.5 Signing of monthly bank reconciliation
10.9.6 Approval of September's Summary of Accounts.
10.9.7 Signing of Receipts & Payments.

10.10 **Matters brought forward for information or future agenda**

10.10.1 Councillor vacancies – There is currently one vacancy. ALL

10.10.2 Phone Box update – We are waiting on two further quotations to give our phone box a makeover, once we have received three quotations we will make a decision.

10.10.3 Ayshford Trust – Cllr Nikki Orchard will be joining Cllr Rupert Snook as a trustee.

10.10.4 Village Hall Defibrillator – Cllr Sally Barker was strongly of the opinion that the defibrillator should be the responsibility of the Parish Council, not the Village Hall. A discussion took place, but the question was not resolved. Cllr Barker put forward the suggestion of moving the defibrillator from the village hall to another more accessible location within the village, possibly the phone box. Cllr Barker was asked to look further into where the defibrillator could be moved to and what would the cost be for a new defibrillator and heated cabinet and the cost of supplying electricity to the unit. SB

AOB

It was agreed that a grant of £5,000 would be given to the Church towards the new toilet. JL
Cllr Jane Lock to obtain an emergency box which will be kept in the village hall. This will include note books, lanyards, pens, a wind-up or battery-powered radio, a wind-up or battery-powered torch/flashlight, spare batteries etc

Future Meeting

The next Meeting will be on Thursday 26th November 2026 at 7.00pm.

Jackie Lyons
Parish Clerk