

**Minutes of Full Council of Holsworthy Town Council held in
Holsworthy Youth Centre, Sanders Lane, Holsworthy
On Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Councillors: Kenneally, De ste Croix, Parker, Preston, Piper, Stone

In attendance: Assistant to the Town Clerk (ATTC), Dr. Harpreet Jones-Pahdi

5196. Apologies for absence

Councillors: Dentlinger, Hosie, Hutchings, Shepherd, Stroud
Town Clerk (TC)

5197. Declaration of Interest - To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on this agenda.

The Mayor asked Councillors to declare any relevant interests as they arose.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders.

5198. Public Question Time - *To receive questions from the Public.*

No members of public were in attendance.

5199. Presentation by Dr Harpreet Jones-Pahdi, Ruby Country Medical Group

Dr Harpreet Jones-Pahdi introduced himself to the Council. He began by stating that the Medical Centre has recently been struggling with providing Primary Care due to capacity issues.

'There is a large volume of patients whilst also being understaffed, underfunded and with limited resources. Currently, we have inherited an issue where we are managing Stratton, Holsworthy, Shebbear & Hatherleigh which creates a challenge with the geography. The Ruby Country Medical Group covers the largest square miles area in the country. Nationally the number of available GPs have decreased due to retirement, moving country or leaving the industry. Within our medical group we have made several structural changes to benefit the communities covered. Previously, patients have had to wait between 6-8 weeks for an appointment, there were more telephone appointments than in person which had a strain on staff and patients alike. Staff felt demoralised and were working late hours. We did not believe this was fair on either parties and now have limited booking to up to 2 weeks in advance to prevent longer waits. Doctors can choose to see the patients and staff now start at 8am and finish no later than 6:30pm and are looking happier. Receptionists can now also benefit from the support of the doctors when talking with patients to get assistance when needed. A new Practice Manager has joined temporarily. Unfortunately, we are unable to please everyone and have issues with our phones. We are looking into how we're using our phones; urgent calls can be assisted with all day whereas routine appointments can be made from 11am. For this year we are monitoring access for all and changing phone providers. Currently we are unable to inform people if there are no appointments available, but a new provider will be able to.'

Cllr. Stone queried whether a post could be made stating how many appointments have been missed. Discussion ensued. Online booking was discussed, Dr Jones-Pahdi stated the model isn't perfect and alterations are being made continuously to improve the service. It is a training practice, and 3 doctors are currently being trained and will be staying with us. Cllr. Stone queried whether the RCMG is prepared for the new houses being built in the Town? However, Dr Jones-Pahdi stated they do not received funding and are unsure how it

will affect them yet. Money is per registered patient not through grants or funding from the Government. Holsworthy hospital is part of the Trust and did not receive the funding to continue to practise as a functional hospital. Dr Jones- Pahdi mentioned that the Medical Centre would like to know more about what the Town needs and may be able to look into however other things they may not be able to change. They are looking into advertising and have thought about the use of the local paper. Councillors recommended the Council noticeboards as well as social media. Dr Jones-Pahdi to contact TC and ATTC to join Patient Participation Group (PPG) and Communications.

Mayor Councillor Kenneally thanked Dr Harpreet Jones-Pahdi for attending and opening up communications with us.

5200. County Councillor's Report

No report or apologies were sent in. Councillor Kenneally requests that DCC Councillor Morrish at least forward a report when unable to attend.

5201. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Shepherd's Report 12/7/23

Sorry I can't be with you in person tonight due to work commitments, however, here is my TDC report:

Torridge

We had our Full Council on the 19th of last month. Police Superintendent Toby Davis gave a short talk, the bullet points are:

- There are 600 new officers on the force after a recruitment drive, more officers are still needed.
- Potential grants available for CCTV to combat Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Encourage reporting ASB online at: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/> the more people who do this the more resources can be allocated.
- Supt. Davis explained Operation Loki which combines efforts in one location to stop illegal behaviour.
- He also invited all Torridge Councillors to get in contact with him if there are any specific issues in our area so please do let me know.

Also at the meeting Lead members were agreed. Congratulations to Cllr. Piper who is the Lead member for Leisure.

It was agreed to create a focus working group to look into the pollution in our local rivers by South West Water and hopefully hold them to account.

Correspondence

Firstly bad news, I've had an email from Ian McIver, TDC Neighbourhood Officer regarding the Dog Warden visiting Holsworthy who stated dog patrols 'are conducted when we are in the area completing other tasks or attending other jobs'. I asked when the last time the Dog Warden visited Holsworthy and if they plan to visit the area to complete other tasks in the future. I've had no response as yet. I find this unacceptable as other areas in Torridge get regular visits and Ian's manager Dean Smith said my last email will 'enable fouling patrols to be commenced'. This will be continued...

I contacted Jon Wynne, Estates Manager about an update for the Market Hall and Chambers and when they can use them again. Sarah Pennington came back to me; Torridge are waiting

for quotes from contractors but are 'hoping that the works to replace the fire doors should be completed by September.'

An email from Cllr. Hames regarding drinking water fountains being located in certain areas of Torridge was sent to councillors. I thought it would be a good idea to have one located in the Square for people to refill water bottles especially cyclists who visit the area. Donna Sibley, Sustainability and Climate Officer, North Devon and Torridge Councils will look into the practicality of this and if any funding can be sourced to help.

I had a correspondence about the Market Arcade lower gates (Fore Street side) being closed during working hours. I have been informed that Torridge are sourcing new combination padlocks to allow every tenant in the Arcade to open the gates when required.

Lastly, the Rowland's fair issue. After the social media post from Rowland's cancelling coming to St. Peter's Fair and the following posts stating, 'it's all Torridge's fault', 'Torridge is being greedy', 'complain to Torridge' and calls for mine and Cllr. Piper's resignation in protest my Monday afternoon was quite busy as I'm sure was Cllr. Piper's. I was on the phone and emailing the Leader of Torridge, the head of Communities and Place, members of the St. Peter's Fair Committee and others to get the facts and find a suitable compromise with my last email being sent at 10.55pm that evening.

I have been critical of Torridge in the past, but this situation was not of Torridge's making. The increase in charges were agreed long before this, also Rowland's didn't provide Torridge with the correct paperwork and safety assurances, something that wasn't mentioned on social media.

The situation wasn't handled well and should never have become a social 'witch-hunt'. Having to find out there is an issue via social media is embarrassing for all involved, especially when members of St. Peter's Fair Committee knew of problems on the Thursday before. Myself and Cllr. Piper are the Town's elected representatives at Torridge and are here to be the link between TDC and others.

I hope lessons have been learnt and this will not be repeated.

Saying that we worked together to make it happen and now our County Councillor has pledge £500 towards the shortfall then there is no reason we as a Town Council couldn't get our free day parking back from TDC. I would like to note it was nice to be publicly thanked by the Portreeve at Court Leet.

Other

Talking of Court Leet, it was a humorous occasion as usual. Congratulations to all involved including our own Lyndon Piper delivering a petition to the Portreeve with equal amounts of comedy and self-promotion!! I will have to move this side of the Tamar to avoid getting a mention or two next year!

I would like to say thank you to the Mayor for the invite to the Pretty Maid Ceremony Luncheon. I sat next to the Mayor of Launceston, where it again showed me how under resourced us a Town Council we are compared to our wealthier Cornish neighbours.

Thanks also to the Bowling Club for the charity day back in June. Myself, Cllr. Hosie and Cllr. Kenneally were drawn against some stiff competition but when we subbed out Nigel for Tegan's mum Steph, we managed to win a game!

Lastly, my first lot of Torridge Councillor Grant money has been given to St. Peter's fair Committee, the next lot is earmarked to go to the Food Hub which was professionally opened by Cllr. De ste. Croix last Friday. A worthy charity and one we as a Town Council should champion.



District Councillor Piper's Report

TDC Councillor Shepherd is more operational whereas I am more strategic, which aids us in working well together.

- Attended Full Council on 19th June – Finalised £30k funding to The Plough Arts Theatre.
- Working Group RE: Water Quality made a proposal which I abstained from, I did not feel the approach was right as SWW are performing abysmally.
- I had an active Torridge Meeting today, there are exciting plans, and it looks to be doing well however, it will take some time for the changes to filter down to us. Cllr Hutchings fought hard for Holsworthy when he was our District Councillor, and I will continue to carry that out.
- I have visited Rydon Path which has received a patch repair. I had an informal meeting with the site manager, and they are intending to deliver entry to west croft and would like me to visit the site at a later date and visit the director. The work is progressing.
- I attended the Court Leet, St Peters Fair with TDC Cllr Shepherd and I working together to assist the fair going ahead.
- TDC – There is £27k available Government funding for people struggling with financial problems.

The Chairman returned to Standing Orders.

5202. Council Meeting Minutes – *To approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 14th June 2023*

Cllr. Piper proposed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th June 2023 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Parker and agreed. (Unanimous)

5203. Matters Arising – *To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the 14th June 2023 Meeting, not already covered by the Agenda. For information only.*

No matters arose

5204. Mayor's Announcements – *To receive a report from the Mayor.*

I'd like to thank Councillors Parker, Piper and Stone for attending the Civic Service and representing the Town Council.

On Monday I judged the Holsworthy in Bloom Competition. There were many entries, and all had made great efforts.

On Tuesday I attended the Court Leet - The petition from Cllr Piper was entertaining and referenced a pirate. (I might wear an eyepatch). It was brilliant and my highlights were Chrissy Osborne and Cllr. Piper's petitions.

On Wednesday we had the Bread Weighing and proclamation followed by the Pretty Maid's reception organised by the Town Clerk. I then headed over to the Church for the Pretty Maids ceremony. After the ceremony I looked after the dignitaries and visited the Museum and our Market before attending the Luncheon in the Memorial Hall. It was fantastic and the White Hart staff did a great job, though they did forget to put the coolers on. Cllr. Hutchings did apologise for it. The Pretty maid, Porteeve, Town Crier and I visited Deer Park and Abbeyfield which was followed by an evening of Music and the Fair.

On Thursday I managed traffic for the furry dance.

On Friday, Cllr Debbie De ste Croix opened up the Community Food Hub and on Saturday there was more music in the square.

On Sunday, I attended the Gesar Karate tournament in the Memorial Hall and did a speech.

5205. Account Due for Payment and Budget Review – *to receive and approve the accounts due for payment*

The ATTC pointed out that a new payment is on the accounts which is the cost of the Market Survey.

Councillor Parker proposed that the accounts for payment be approved. This was seconded by Councillor De ste Croix and agreed. (Unanimous)

5206. To receive and Note, the Minutes of the following Committee Meetings:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a) Markets | 14 th June 2023 |
| b) Planning & Highways | 21 st June 2023 |
| c) Parks | 21 st June 2023 |
| d) Finance & General Purposes | 28 th June 2023 |

5207. To agree the membership of a Christmas Switch On 2023 Working Group

Cllr Piper cautioned regarding leaving things too late and the importance of reporting regularly to Full Council to keep everyone informed. Discussion ensued.

Cllrs: Kenneally, De ste Croix, Parker & Preston would be interested in joining the Working Group if one is formed. Cllr. Preston stated if there are enough members on the working group and we work together, we can still gain information from experienced councillors that are not on the working group. It was suggested a meeting is held in August to discuss the Christmas festivities.

5208. To consider the provision of a Youth Shelter within Stanhope Park

Councillors were provided with a Youth Shelter survey created by Cllr Stone. Cllr Stone stated that her preference would be choice A because it is hidden in plain sight. Cllr Stone has spoken with young people within Holsworthy and recently spoke with them at the Jubilee Event and have stated they are keen for a shelter. If possible, it could be covered, include muted solar lighting, charging ports and be located at the entrance to Stanhope Park. Cllr. Stone stated that there was previously a shelter there. Cllr Piper stated in terms of planning, the structure cannot be too close to the boundary and to be aware of this. Cllr Stone stated that the Youth Centre has changed over the years and the people that would have attended then may not go there now hence wanting to provide a place for them to be responsible for. ATTC to print surveys and to remove personal suggestions and ensure it is from the Town Council. Discussion ensued. All are happy with the amendments.

5209. To consider whether all Councillors should have a basic DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.

Councillors reviewed the documentation provided prior to the meeting by the Town Clerk. Cllr. De ste Croix queried whether it would be appropriate for us as Town Councillors to have a DBS check. Cllr Piper stated as a TDC Councillor they are encouraged to have one. Cllr Piper feels it would set an example to the town and especially vulnerable individuals. Discussion ensued. Councillors felt they would like further information on the financial implications before deciding and once this is obtained the matter be placed on a future Council Agenda for discussion.

Cllr. Piper proposed that the discussion is deferred until more information regarding the financial implications is sourced. This was seconded by Cllr. Kenneally and agreed. (Unanimous)

5210. To note the amended Council and Committee dates and time for 2023

The ATTC provided Councillors with a copy of an amended calendar of meetings for the year. Councillors discussed the alterations and were made aware that there may be times at which the calendar is not followed therefore to look out for Agendas.

5211. To discuss the Council's representatives on Specotts Charity

Currently the Town Council's representatives on Specotts are Cllrs, Parker & Stone. Cllr. Hutchings has requested to be a representative however, there can only be 2 representatives. Cllr. Parker explained about the role of the Specotts Charity and what it does. Cllr. Hutchings previously requested to remain as a representative. Cllr Piper queried the connection between the Pretty Maid and the duties of a representative were explained, and discussion ensued. It was agreed that Cllrs. Stone & Parker remain as the Council representatives on the Specotts Charity.

5212. To Receive External Committee Updates

Cllr. Stone – Specotts AGM may occur shortly.

Cllr. Kenneally -I will be hosting a Mayors Charity Garden Party at Cllr. Parker's in August.

5213. To Receive Correspondence

- Pride and Prejudice Sat 12th August 6.30pm Badock Gardens
- 80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings Thursday 6th June 2024
 - 8am D Day Proclamation
 - 11am Poem for Schools D Day Heroes
 - 9.15pm Lighting of the Beacon followed by the International Tribute
 - Suggestion of Fish and Chips supper?
- Email from Joseph Knight “ I was thinking if the council could use go fund me pages and charitable means to buy up the site off windmill hill that is earmarked for a potential parkway station. This might safeguard its use for a reinstated railway. As Holsworthy is adding 170 new homes on north road these houses could use a railway to commute further afield for work. Perhaps Cavanna could get involved with connect Bude aims as it will help give them an extra selling point for their homes. The yellow area on the map is the site I'm thinking of.”
- Email from Oliver Williams “Hi there I own Odins Tattoo Parlour in Holsworthy and I'm a longstanding member of the community and a longstanding business.
I am writing to you to talk about the possibility and potential to do art works in selected places in Holsworthy or around to add some creative features and visual impact to our community that people young and old can enjoy please get back to me with your thoughts.”
- Email from John Gray “ Sir Geoffrey will be in Holsworthy on Wednesday 26th July and will be available from 315pm onwards. If the Town Councillors are able to meet him around that time to discuss levelling up, that would work well.”

5214. Town Clerk's Report

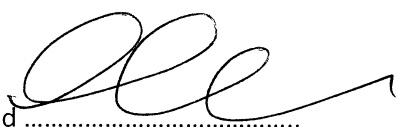
The ATTC informed councillors that the Deputy Mayor's chains are now with Coombes. The next Skatepark Meeting is Tuesday 18th July at 6pm.

5215. Exchange of information

Cllr. Kenneally stated that he has contacted several skate businesses in regard to the skate park event, two cannot do it however, and he is awaiting responses from three other companies.

5216. Close

Cllr. Kenneally closed the meeting at 21:22

Signed 

Dated 