



Clerk's Report –July 2026 Holbrook Parish Council

Training/Meetings attended:

8th July: Employment rights

13th July: AGAR becoming digital

The People's Emergency Briefing: the film was shown at Holbrook Village Hall with approximately 30 people attending, some from Holbrook but also visitors from other parishes. A discussion took place after the film. There were some very stark facts about climate change, but also some positive news about the way forward. We will try and get this discussed at the next Peninsula Parish Councils Alliance Meeting.

Removal of dead tree: a dead tree outside the electricity substation opposite the doctors' surgery has now been removed. It had been reported several times. The contractor who removed the tree said that the other trees surrounding the sub-station should be removed but it was not within his remit to follow this up. Branches are overhanging the substation and are also blocking out the light from 1 and 2 Shepherds Lane. The residents of those properties are going to make reports.

Football pitch: Negotiations have taken place with Holbrook Hornets and they are liaising with Stour Girls' Football team over sharing maintenance/marketing out the pitch on the Reade Field. The Stour Girls would like to try and upgrade the existing pavilion, by cleaning and tidying up so that it can be better used until a new pavilion can be funded. A draft agreement is on the agenda for the hire of the pitch.

Councillors' Registers of Interests: there is no longer a requirement for local authorities to publish the home address of a councillor. The address will still need to be filled in in answer to section DP15 "***A beneficial interest in any land in the Council's area, including your place(s) of residence***", but the address will be held by the monitoring officer and will not be published.

The White Van which had been parked at the Heathfield Road end of Reade Road has now been removed.

Basketball additional lower hoop: I tried to find out what the actual regulation BS EN 1270:2005 to see if any adjustments could be made to be able to utilise the basketball nets purchased for younger players. The regulation is "Playing field equipment. Basketball equipment. Functional and safety requirements, test methods" but there was only a summary of the standard which could be viewed and this did not specify anything (!) – we would need to pay £234 to obtain the detailed standard. Obviously the standards only apply to public equipment, not home installed equipment. I contacted ROSPA but they said they couldn't give me an answer. I will try and contact the company who carried out the inspection.

Advertising in the Parish Papers: I came across a post on the SLCC forum which said that Parish Councils have no power to seek advertisements in their publications (or words to that effect). I looked into this further and looked at the legislation and a brief report is attached – this is also on the agenda.

Planning – interesting article in the SLCC bulletin: I recently read that some Local Authorities have been stripped of their power to deal with major planning applications :

“The government has announced that nine local authorities have been stripped of their power to deal with major planning applications due to (in the government's opinion) slow and poor quality planning decision making in dealing with major planning applications. These are: Epping Forest District Council in Essex Dacorum Borough Council in Hertfordshire Hertsmere Borough Council in Hertfordshire Rossendale Borough Council in Lancashire Cherwell District Council in Oxfordshire Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in Staffordshire South Tyneside Council in Tyne and Wear Malvern Hills District Council in Worcestershire Wychavon District Council in Worcestershire Applicants can now choose to apply to the government's Planning Inspectorate for a decision” The article went on to say that it is likely that other authorities will face these special measures soon.

Jo Hazlewood – July 2026