

Meeting of Clerk with Ines Scillitoe, Highways Devon County Council

Date: 19/08/2025 Time: 10 – 11:30

Joint meeting with Chairman of Holcombe Burnell Parish Council Venue: Longdown

To discuss shared concerns, as neighbouring parishes, particularly the closure of the road at Steps Bridge and the problems it causes for public transport.

Weather: n/a

Points raised: -

1. The main discussion was about the closure of the B3212 from September to December.
The Highways Officer explained that the works are complicated but are made even more so because both sides of the road are SSIs (Sites of Scientific Interest). The work carried out, so far, has been investigatory. Holes have been bored in the road to measure the speed and amount of movement. This has obviously been taking place over a long time, but traffic has been able to continue to use the road during this time. When the main works begin, there will be too much disruption and possible danger for the road to be open. Possible approaches to the work being carried out were discussed. The Highways Officer will try to find out more information. The Chairman of HB said it was beneficial to give as much information to residents as possible so that they could have a better understanding of the problems. **Action Ines/Clerk**
2. The above will have an impact on the Country bus service from Exeter to Moretonhampstead.
Dunsford Clerk has contacts with both Countrybus and Devon County Council who work together to provide a bus service on this route. Plans are already made for the main bus to go from Exeter to Moreton via the A30 and a shuttle bus to go from Exeter to Dunsford, stopping at Longdown on the way. Timetables will be issued asap. Dunsford Clerk will share information. **Action Clerk**
3. Both Holcombe Burnell and Dunsford have been given contact numbers for the Contractors, should they need them.
4. Holcombe Burnell have invited a Western Power spokes person to attend their meeting on Monday 8th September to discuss the high number of power cuts in the area. They will invite other local Councils to attend. Their Chairman will confirm the time and inform the other councils.
Action Chairman/Clerk
5. A question was raised about hedges encroaching on the Highway and whose responsibility it is to cut them. The Highways Officer said that Highways will cut areas where visibility is important i.e. junctions and sometimes on corners/sharp bends. They would do this twice a year. Otherwise, it is the landowners' responsibility to keep their hedges cut back to their own land.
6. All agreed it was a worthwhile meeting.

Lynne Ogden Clerk to Dunsford Parish Council
August 2025

It is important to keep reporting any potholes that fit the criteria of a defect as these will be dealt with. The Clerk will keep advertising the link to do this.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/>