

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held on Thursday, 25th September, 2014 at the URC Hall.

Present: Cllr. Andrew Pearce, Cllr. Jane Grant, Cllr. Rebekah Harrison, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. Dave Cullop, Cllr. Richard Goodman.

Apologies: Cllr. Becky Stevens, Cllr. Marsha Nicholson, Cllr. Robin Paice, Cllr. Trevor Carbin.

In Attendance: PCSO Andrew MacLachan.

Holt PC Report 25th September 2014 - Crime statistics 24th August – 24th September 2014

There have been 45 reported incidents for the Bradford Rural beat of which 5 occurred in Holt. This compares with 27 reported incidents for the Bradford Rural beat of which 2 relevant to Holt in the last report. These are broken down as follows (previous period in brackets):

Crime	Rural beat	Holt	Comments
Anti Social Behaviour (personal)	6 (4)	1 (0)	06/09 – Ongoing issues between three people attending West Wilts Equestrian Centre. Enquiries ongoing
Anti Social Behaviour (Nuisance)	0 (3)	0 (2)	
Burglary	4 (2)	0 (0)	
Criminal Damage	4 (1)	1 (0)	21/09 – Piece of paving slab thrown at property on Melksham Rd. Enquiries ongoing
Theft and Handling	11 (1)	0 (0)	
Violence against the person	5 (4)	1 (0)	12/09 – Holt Superstore. Assault following a money scam. Enquiries ongoing
Other	2 (3)	0 (0)	
Concern for Safety	1 (2)	0 (0)	
Domestic related	2 (1)	0 (0)	

Suspicious circumstances	6 (0)	0 (0)	
Transport related	4 (6)	2 (0)	14/09 and 15/09 – Uninsured vehicles spotted by PCSO MacLachlan and seized with the help of colleagues.

Priorities -The priority for the Rural Beat is tackling Burglaries and Non Dwelling Burglaries (such as sheds and garages) throughout Bradford Town Centre and the villages. Operation Magpie is currently being run involving regular high visibility and plain clothed patrols being carried out throughout the area to deter or catch criminals.

Other incidents of interest -Dwelling burglaries are still exceptionally low throughout Bradford town and rural and the 4 burglaries reported here are all non dwelling with nothing of high value stolen at any of the scenes.

Success Stories - PCSO MacLachlan has been successful in getting two uninsured vehicles off the road in recent weeks, both connected to a Holt address. Additionally, both drivers did not have a full driving license and one of the cars had two bald tyres.

In closing - Please feel free to give out our mobile numbers to anyone who would like to contact us: PC Lee Pelling 0752 897 2004 (currently not working!) PCSO Andrew MacLachlan 0752 897 2236

Please remember to “like” our Facebook page called “Bradford on Avon NPT” for regular updates on what is happening on our beat.

In the absence of Cllr. Becky Stevens the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Andrew Pearce.

Open Meeting: PCSO Andrew MacLachlan presented the following report:

PCSO MacLachlan offered to place warning notices on vehicles parked on the Narrow Green. The Clerk to let him have the registration numbers.

Cllr. Andrew Pearce expressed sympathy to victims of recent flooding in the Village and said that the Parish Council does not have any direct statutory powers re flooding, but will do all they can to help alleviate the problem.

Several affected residents attended the meeting and outlined the situation; Wessex Water has been very helpful, Wiltshire Council has been absent. Some properties were flooded on both 19th July and 18th September and some on one occasion. Flood waters came from the back and the front of properties in The Street. Flood victims were advised to contact Cllr. Trevor Carbin for assistance in making their situation known to Wiltshire Council. It was suggested that the Village should be supplied with caution signs which can be put out when the road is flooded as traffic speeding through the floodwaters exacerbated the situation. Cllr. Steve Siddall is compiling a list of all properties affected and those present were asked to let the

Parish Council have detailed information of their experience so the matter can be taken forward.

Mrs. Heather Morris gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan .Responses from the consultation have been received and will be posted on the website. An application for funding for the second draft of the Plan has been submitted. Mrs. Morris was pleased to report that a recent planning application for a housing development in Malmesbury has been turned down as a result of their draft Neighbourhood Plan. It is reassuring to know that they are being taken seriously.

Co-option of Councillor: Ten or more electors have not called for an election and the Council is now free to co-opt a councillor.

Declaration of Interests and Dispensation: Cllr. Dave Cullop declared an interest in flooding caused by poor drainage and did not take part in any discussion. Cllr. Jane Grant declared an interest in flooding relating to the attenuation ponds.

Cllr. Steve Siddall described the attenuation scheme, which worked well during the recent storm. A meeting is to be held with riparian owners of the brook together with Mr. Steve Scothern, Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Dave Cullop asked that Highways and Streetscene Committee widen their remit on flood works to take account of recent events; this is an issue for the whole village to protect the area from being designated a flood zone as this would seriously affect insurance premiums.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed, all present in favour with the exception of Cllr. Dave Cullop, who did not vote, that a public meeting be held in October to discuss the situation. Representatives from Wiltshire Council, Highways and Wessex Water will be invited to attend the meeting.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 28th August: The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed with the following amendment: page 45/14 Accounts – to read orchard fund not tree fund.

Matters Arising: Skateboard Park - a meeting has been held with Robbie Blundell and other young people. Funding of £5000 is available to date and they have received other promises of money. They have been asked to present a written record of what they have done to date. The Playing Fields would be the preferred site for the park.The scheme is likely to cost between £25,000 and £30,000. Cllr. Andrew Pearce raised the matter at the Community Area Board and received a positive response.

Wiltshire Scullers – Cllr. Steve Siddall has contacted Mr. Donal Casey and awaits a response.

Cockhill Solar Farm Development – this planning application has been approved and funds from this scheme should benefit Holt from next year.

Green Bin Consultation – it was agreed that this Council should not respond.

54/14

Bus Pass Consultation – it was agreed that this Council should not respond.

Concern was express that this Council had not been contacted directly regarding either consultation. The Clerk to follow up.

Youth Club – no further progress to date. The management of the Youth Club trustees are in negotiations with Youth Action Wiltshire to become the employer of youth workers so trustees do not have to become employers.

Councillors Core Training – in hand.

Hedge, Holt Manor – ongoing.

Jane Scott – Cllr.Trevor Carbin has informed the Council that the matter raised in our email to Mrs. Jane Scott of 25th April has been referred to the Legal Department. The lack of response/acknowledgement of emails to Mrs. Scott since April was deemed unacceptable. A freedom of Information request to be made to Wiltshire Council asking how many letters/emails sent to the Leader of the Council do not receive a response. Contact details for the local ombudsman to be circulated to councillors; although a Parish Council may not make a complaint to the ombudsman councillors may wish to complain independently. Cllr. Siddall to draft a template for a letter to the ombudsman.

Planning Committee Report: Planning Committee minutes are attached to these minutes.

Planning application 14/07840/FUL Phillis Cottage, The Street – Menage. Cllr. Dave Cullop declared a personal interest and did not take part in any discussion. No objection has been raised to this planning application but it has been requested that a condition of permission is that there will be no commercial use.

Planning Application W13/01/1395/FUL, Forewoods Common – the Planning Inspectorate is withholding a decision because of an appeal that went to the High Court against the Planning Inspector's decision about some land in a green belt area. This is to do with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Cumberwell - The original planning application has been withdrawn and a new application for a nine hole golf course is being submitted. Cllrs. Stevens and Siddall attended a meeting at Cumberwell re this new application. There is concern that the tipping element which goes with the application could generate a significant increase in lorries traveling through Holt. Cllr. Stevens and Siddall stressed the importance of there being an alternative route for lorries during construction and thought agreement had been reached on this aspect of the development. However, a report received re the development states that the heavy traffic probably won't go through Holt. Cllr. Steve Siddall to follow up.

Copse Farm Solar Array – plans withdrawn. There will be a new fourteen day consultation period.

Cllr. Steve Siddall described the attenuation scheme, which worked well during the recent storm. A meeting is to be held with riparian owners of the brook.

Village Facilities Committee Report: Double swing repairs – it was agreed that the quote from Playforce for £443.68 should be accepted.

The scrambling net has been repaired.

A clean up at the Children's Play Area was done on 6th September by councillors.

89 The Street – all work completed except the post. The residents are claiming the costs of the replacement post from the delivery vehicle that caused the damage and the work will be done once the insurance claim is settled.

The Play Inspectors – a report has been received re the state of the swings. It was decided not to take this further as the Council will not be using the company for the next safety inspection.

Pavilion clean up – Cllrs. Nicholson and Siddall to arrange. The Football Clubs have agreed to remove the paint pots from the pavilion.

A fire blanket to be obtained for the pavilion and the fire extinguisher topped up. £100 should be sufficient to cover these items.

Bus shelter – a request to be made for it to be cleaned on the Community Day.

Bin replacement – ongoing.

Mannings Harlequin has offered to reduce the cost of work to the posts and chains on Ham Green by £500 and this offer has been accepted.

Netball hoop has been replaced.

Footpaths 71 and 72 are now on the definitive map and are accessible for pedestrians, but not for dogs. Access to footpaths for dogs is not a legal requirement.

Footpath 16 - a written request has been sent to Mr. Paul Millard, Wiltshire Council, requesting that footpath 16 be returned to its line as still shown and registered on the Definitive Map.

A Tree Committee meeting to be arranged by Cllr. Rebekah Harrison.

Dawes' Pond – ongoing.

Footpath 31 – Wiltshire Council will issue an extinguishment order for the part of the path which runs through private gardens and the part which gets to the point where it runs through the gardens. Objections must be made by 22nd October. The properties owners led the Parish Council to believe that they would then not object if the Council asked for the de facto route to be added to the definitive map. The farmer and at least one landowner may object to this request. The Council will claim

that there has always been another path, the one which the Parish Council has walked for 30 years or more.

52/14

Witness statements to be acquired and the same process used for footpaths 71 and 72 followed. It will not go to public inquiry.

Dawes' Pond – work ongoing and the pond is now holding water. The footbridge across the brook has been raised and a new footpath installed. £500 has previously been voted for landscaping at the Pond. The bridge at the entrance to the Glove Factory Studios to be raised and the brook widened to take the flow.

Mr. Nick Kirkham has offered to install four oak posts across the footbridge and along the path to the Playing Fields. These will be fitted with LED lights which will be connected to the GFS main supply. There will be no cost to the Council. This to be considered by the Village Facilities Committee.

The dog litter bin to be removed.

The total cost to the Parish Council for this work will be £1500 and Mr.Kirkham will pay the remainder.

Cllr. Jane Grant asked if repairs to play equipment can be carried out more quickly; the swings were out of action for some considerable time this summer awaiting repair. Cllr. Bob Mizen explained that Playforce had trouble locating a part for the red swing, it takes time to obtain quotes and agreement for expenditure in excess of £100 has to be voted at full Council meetings.

Highways and Streetscene Committee: A meeting has not been held this month.

Double Yellow Lines, The Midlands – going through due process.

Posts Narrow Green – another post is needed. Jennifer Hiscocks, Highways & Streetscene, to inspect the site next week.

Number plate recognition survey – a pre-publication report from Wiltshire Council shows figures which are significantly lower than figures obtained from previous Parish Council traffic counts. It was agreed that the Parish Council should carry out a twenty four traffic count within the next month. Cllr. Rebekah Harrison to organise.

White Lines – Cllr. Steve Siddall to follow up with Jennifer Hiscocks, Highways and Streetscene.

Website Committee: A meeting has not been held because of illness. Cllr.Marsha Nicholson to arrange another meeting.

Bradford-on-Avon Community Area Board: Cllr. Andrew Pearce attended a recent meeting and has circulated a report to councillors. Cllr. Pearce to attend an emergency planning workshop on meeting on 26th November in Bradford-on-Avon.

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service – there are proposals to combine Wiltshire and Dorset fire services. This Council do not feel qualified to respond to the consultation.

Cllr. Pearce attended a Community Area Traffic Group meeting. The total budget has been reduced from £3.8 million to £2.1 million p.a.

51/14

20mph limits – Holt does not meet the criteria for this speed limit.

Lorry watch, Bradford-on-Avon. This has been stymied because Trading Standards no longer have sufficient staff to follow up offenders.

Funding for waiting restrictions/double yellow lines has been reduced from £100,000 p.a. to £7000 p.a.

Councillors queried how revenue from car parks is spent.

Holt Tannery Limited Liaison Committee Report: A meeting has not been held. Cllr. Steve Siddall to follow up.

Neighbourhood Plan: Previously reported by Mrs. Heather Morris.

Meeting Dates: It was proposed, seconded and agreed, all in favour, that in future the Council should meet in July and not in August.

Bowls Club Rent: At present the rent is increased annually in line with the RPI. It was agreed that this should be reviewed annually.

Correspondence: Cllr. Steve Siddall has received correspondence re restoration of the Wilts and Berks Canal in Melksham suggesting that a cycle path from Holt should be linked to the canal. This to be passed to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Village Inspection Report: Cllr. Richard Goodman did the inspection and reported that generally the Village is looking good. The Clerk to follow up work which needs to be done.

Footpath Survey: Some reports still outstanding.

Accounts for Payment: The following accounts were approved for payment:

Mannings Harlequin Ltd/Posts&Chains	£1738.00	(VAT £347.60)
Came & Company/Ins. Premium	£1034.48	
Mrs. M N Slade/Netball Basket	£ 14.23	
G. Aland/Ground Maintenance	£ 369.00	
G.Aland/Caretaking	£ 250.04	
Wiltshire Waste	£ 4.80	(VAT £0.80)
JM Beale	£ 632.10	(VAT £4.39)
Remuneration	£348.06	
Fixed Expenses	£ 34.62	
Telephone	£ 15.00	
Postage	£ 7.44	

Any Other Business: Cllr. Jane Grant attended the WALC Executive Committee meeting on 22nd September and has circulated a report of the meeting.

The AGM of WALC will be held on 23rd October at the Corn Exchange in Devizes. Cllr. Jane Grant to attend.