

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at the URC Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Andrew Pearce, Cllr. Marsha Nicholson, Cllr. Rebekah Harrison, Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. Mervyn Osman, Cllr. Dave Cullop.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Becky Stevens, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Richard Goodman, Cllr. Robin Paice.

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Trevor Carbin, PC Lee Pelling.

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

**Open Meeting:** Skateboard Park – Mrs. Judy Parrett spoke about proposals for a skateboard park and asked for the Council’s support in taking the project forward. Their preferred site for a skateboard park would be on the Playing Fields adjacent to the Children’s Play Area. Councillors expressed concern about maintenance of such a site. The Neighbourhood Plan will address the issue of the future use of the Playing Fields as a whole and consideration will be given to including a skateboard park. In the meantime it was suggested that, as a temporary measure, the small sports court could be used for the activity with the proviso that ramps are removed after use. The Clerk to clarify the situation re insurance before the go ahead is given.

PC Lee Pelling presented the following report:

*Crime statistics 26<sup>th</sup> January – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015.* There have been 22 reported incidents for the Bradford Rural beat of which 5 occurred in Holt. This compares with 17 reported incidents for the Bradford Rural beat of which 3 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)	2 (0)	1 (0)	Series of calls to domestic related incidents at an address in Hawcroft
Anti Social Behaviour (Nuisance)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Fraud	0 (2)	0 (0)	
Burglary	3 (2)	1 (1)	01/02 – Ham Green – Forced entry in to a garage and items stolen. No witnesses or forensics – closed undetected
Drug Offences	0 (1)	0 (0)	

Robbery	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Criminal Damage	0 (3)	0 (0)	
Theft and Handling	7 (2)	2 (0)	07/02 – Hawcroft. 2 pushbikes stolen from back garden. Closed undetected.  31/01 – Ham Green. Courier van stolen after keys left in ignition. Quickly recovered by NPT.
Violence against the person	4 (0)	0 (0)	
Other	2 (0)	0 (0)	
Concern for Safety	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Domestic related	1 (1)	0 (0)	
Suspicious circumstances	2 (1)	1 (1)	29/01 – Gaston. Suspicious male stopped at a house and asked if car was for sale. Registration taken and we are keeping an eye out should it return.
Transport related	1 (5)	0 (1)	

**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.

**Other incidents of interest.** 2 other burglaries this month – Building site in Winsley and a house burglary in Winsley.

**Success Stories.** Drugs warrant carried out in town resulted in a male arrested for possession of a Class B drug.

**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 (phone not currently working). PCSO Andrew MacLachlan 0752 897 2236 “Like” our Facebook page – Bradford on Avon NPT

Sign up to Community Messaging at [www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk](http://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk)

PC Pelling said there has been a series of bicycles thefts in the Bradford-on-Avon area.

Pedestrian crossing – the Police to monitor.

Drink drivers – PC Pelling urged members of the public to report drink drivers to the Police; this can be done anonymously by ringing 111.

Cllr. Bob Mizen queried the rules regarding the direction in which vehicles should be facing when parked on a public highway at night. PC Pelling to clarify.

Michelle Donovan, Conservative candidate for this area, said that during her canvassing in the Village no one had spoken in favour of the proposed development by Gladman Developments Ltd.

Neighbourhood Plan – Mrs. Heather Morris reported that the second draft plan has now gone to consultants; the work should be completed by the end of March.

Cllr. Trevor Carbin reported as follows:

- Gladman Homes – Planning Officers say it is likely that this application will be refused.
- Wiltshire Council Budget – the budget for 2015/16 has been voted through and this involves a number of cuts in front line services. The green waste collection will become a paid-for system, the Hopper bus service to local hospitals will be axed, there will be reductions in spending on highways and street scene maintenance and the county music service will be lost. Wiltshire Council will not increase their council tax charge, but the Police Commissioner, Angus McPherson, has increased his element of the tax by 2%, as has the Fire Authority.
- The charge for the green waste collection is likely to start in April and will cost £40 per annum.
- Area Boards will still have some funding to give out in grants, but Wiltshire Council will restrict these to capital projects only, not revenue funding.
- The Highway Agency has reported that work to stabilise the embankment along the A36 near Bath will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and continue until mid June. The £2.3 million scheme, on a three mile section of the A36 between Brassknocker Hill and Hantone Hill, is being carried out to correct geotechnical faults in the bank underneath the road that are resulting in damage to the road surface. The road will be closed completely. Brassknocker Hill will remain open to vehicles below 7.5 tonnes. The official diversion uses the Warminster – Chippenham route.
- Cllr. Carbin is keen to hear from anyone concerned about the loss of the Hopper bus service. The Clerk to highlight this through the Magazine.

**Co-option of Councillor:** Carried over.

**Declaration of Interests and Dispensation:** None.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015:** The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed.

**Matters Arising:** Flood First Aid Kit – a suitable site for this is required. The Clerk to follow up.

Village Hall ditch – the Village Hall Trustees do not believe this to be their responsibility; they consider the ditch should be maintained by Highways as they created the ditch.

Hawcroft/The Midlands – resurfacing work is scheduled to commence on 19<sup>th</sup> March and take until 30<sup>th</sup> March to complete. The Clerk to ask if the pavement opposite the Village Hall can be repaired at the same time.

WALC Executive Committee – Cllr. Marsha Nicholson to attend the March meeting, after which she will consider whether she wishes to put her name forward to be elected to the Committee.

### **Planning Committee:**

- i) **Report:** Planning Application 14/12109/OUT, 221, Melksham Road, has been refused. Planning Application 14/12030/DP3, Holt School, has been approved.
- ii) **Proposed Planning Development Melksham Road:** As previously reported, it is unlikely that this application will be given approval.
- iii) **Cockhill Solar Farm Development:** The developers have offered a lump sum of £60,000 or an annual payment of £5,000 during the 25 year life of the site. In the absence of so many councillors, it was agreed that this should be carried over to the next meeting.

### **Village Facilities Committee Report:**

- A new rubbish bin has been purchased and will be installed soon.
- Benches – ongoing.
- Pavilion – rubbish has been cleared and Jon Lilley has been asked to decommission the showers.
- Caretaker's job specification – ongoing.
- Dawes' Pond - Lining the Pond may be the best solution to ongoing problems. Essential to carry out planting very soon to improve the area.
- Children's Play Area – the annual safety inspection was carried out on 24<sup>th</sup> February and Cllr. David Cullop was trained in day to day safety inspection of the equipment. Cllr. Cullop to report to the next meeting. The climbing frame is urgently in need of repair and will be cordoned off until the work has been done. The Clerk to ring Playforce to clarify the fault with the climbing frame and to check installation date of the play equipment.
- Defibrillator – this to be stored at the pavilion in a locked cupboard and will be available to footballers, tennis players, netballers and the Bowls Club. It is not feasible to make it accessible to the wider public.

### **Highways & Street Scene Committee:**

**Report:** A meeting has not been held. Cllr. Becky Harrison has met with Mr. Paul Millard, Rights of Way Officer, to consider issues with footpaths and details have been circulated to councillors.

- Footpath 18 – the Ramblers to construct a concrete bridge to replace the broken wooden bridge.
- Footpath 31 – ongoing.
- Residents' parking, Lions Orchard – to be considered once double yellow lines have been installed in The Midlands. No funding is available for the scheme at present.

**Playing Fields – Proposed Footpath:** Cllr. Becky Harrison said this is a big and expensive project and should be considered by the whole Council, not a by committee. This is on the agenda for the next CATG meeting and Cllr. Andrew Pearce will seek advice on possible costs, etc. and report back to the next meeting.

**Website:** Cllr. Marsha Nicholson reported that good progress has been made and the site will be up and running very soon. An email link to the Clerk has been set up.

**Bradford-on-Avon Community Area Board:** The next meeting will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March, probably in Holt. Following the resignation of Cllr. Jane Grant, Cllr. Mervyn Osman will attend meetings if Cllr. Andrew Pearce is unable to do so.

**Holt Tannery Limited Liaison Committee Report:** A meeting has not been held. Naomi Metcalfe, Holt Tannery Development, will attend the April meeting of the Council to give an update on the project.

**Skateboard Park:** Previously discussed. The small sports court may offer a temporary site. It may be possible for the ramps to be stored behind the youth shelter if suitable cover can be erected.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Previously reported.

**Bowls Club Rent:** The Bowls Club is not in agreement with the proposed rise in rent and has asked the Council to contact Mr. Rodney Moody, in his capacity as a trustee of the Bowls Club, to agree a rent acceptable to both parties. Councillors were not happy with this suggestion as Rodney Moody has an interest in the Bowls Club; an independent person to be sought. Cllr. Bob Mizen to follow up and the Clerk to inform the Bowls Club of the Council's decision.

**Meeting Venue:** Carried over to the next meeting.

**Correspondence:** Letters objecting to the proposed development by Gladman have been received from D & C Griffiths, Mr. R. P Gay, Pippa Darcy and Pat and Lawson Bonser.

**Village Inspection:** This was carried out by Cllr. Bob Mizen and a report circulated. Mr. Garry Aland to be asked to clear the brook of debris. Rubbish in Staverton Lane – the Clerk to report to WC.

**New Kerbs Ham Green – Final Approval to Spend Funds from the Village Development and Fund and Ham Green Fund:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed, all in favour, that £750 from the Village Development Fund and £795

from the Ham Green Fund should be used for this work. Together with a grant of £1445 from the Area Board this will give sufficient funds for the work to be done.

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

Leaffield Environmental/Litter Bin	£168.00	(VAT £28)
Wiltshire Waste	£ 18.40	(VAT £3.08)
Stone Tree/Rowan Tree (funded by donation)	£100.00	(VAT £16.67)
G. Aland/Caretaking	£ 180.95	
JM Beale	£439.59	
Remuneration	£348.06	
Fixed Expenses	£ 34.62	
Stationery	£ 34.47	(£6.89)
Telephone	£ 15.00	
Postage	£ 7.44	

**Any Other Business:** Cllr. Andrew Pearce to attend a meeting re the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Development Plan and will report to the next meeting.