

## UNADOPTED

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 at the URC Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. Becky Stevens, Cllr. Andrew Pearce, Cllr. Jane Grant, Cllr. Marsha Nicholson, Cllr. Rebekah Harrison, Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Dave Cullop, Cllr. Robin Paice, Cllr. Mervyn Osman.

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Trevor Carbin.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Richard Goodman. PC Lee Pelling, PCSO Andrew MacLachlan.

**Open Meeting:** Renate Maldon, Flood Working Group, outlined the work which they do in flood management. Town and Parish Councils are encouraged to draw up flood plans and to make contact with local landowners to ensure that ditches are kept clear. The Parish Emergency Scheme supplies sandbags, etc. and councils are encouraged to obtain flood 'first aid' kits which can be ordered through the Flood Working Group. The Group is divided into two areas, South and North; Holt is in the Northern group. Meetings are held bi-monthly and councillors are welcome to attend these meetings. There is a GIS mapping scheme which parishes can use to map problems in their area. The Central Government Repair and Resistance grant of up to £5000 is available but people affected by the September floods will not benefit from this grant. Ms. Maldon said that road signs warning motorists of flooding can be effective and can be ordered. Mrs Malton to email appropriate form to Clerk.

Judy Parrot spoke about plans for a skateboard park and asked for the Parish Council's support in the project. She also asked if they could come to the Council for advice re grant funding and planning permission. Cllr. Becky Stevens assured her that the Council would be happy to offer help where possible. A suitable site is the biggest obstacle to securing a skateboard park.

Miss Rita Clayton reported that she has contacted Parking Services in Chippenham regarding a residents' parking zone for Lions Orchard and now has details of the procedure. She asked the Parish Council to consider backing the scheme.

Cllr. Becky Stevens informed the meeting that the Planning Committee had met to consider the planning application from Gladman Developments for outline planning permission for a development of approximately 98 houses on land on Melksham Road. Cllr. Steve Siddall then read out the draft letter which the Planning Committee proposes should be sent to the Planning Department objecting to the application.

It is important that individuals make their views on the proposed development known to the Planning Department. The deadline for comment is 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

Members of the public posed several questions re the development. Cllr. Steve Siddall said that planning law informs Wiltshire Council's Decision.

Cllr. Trevor Carbin informed the meeting that he has called in the planning application from Gladman Developments. The Wiltshire Core Strategy is now fully in place and states that green field sites should not be built on and so it is probable that

the application will be unsuccessful; should it go to appeal, then the outcome would be unpredictable.

Bus Pass Consultation – bus passes can no longer be used in Wiltshire before 9.30am.

The next Area Board meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> March. The HGV traffic report has been requested and a grant has been given to the Youth Club.

**Resignation of Cllr. Jane Grant:** Cllr. Jane Grant offered her resignation from the Council and said she has served as a councillor for nearly 28 years. She has also served on the executive committee of WALC for many years and said Holt has a reputation for being an active Council and in the lead on issues that need attention. She thanked her fellow councillors for their friendship during her time on the Parish Council. Cllr. Becky Stevens thanked her for all her hard work over the years. Cllr. Bob Mizen paid her a personal tribute, having served as a councillor with her for most of those 28 years. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers congratulating her on her engagement and forthcoming marriage and then left the meeting to a round of applause.

**Co-option of Councillor:** The vacancy to be advertised through the Magazine and on the Parish Council website. Councillors were also asked to be pro-active in seeking a new councillor.

WALC – Cllr. Marsha Nicholson said she would be willing to serve on the Executive Committee. However, the meetings are held on Tuesday evenings, a time when she is not free. The Clerk to contact WALC re the time of the meetings.

Youth Club Trustees – Cllr. Rebekah Harrison agreed to take Cllr. Jane Grant's place on the board of trustees.

**Declaration of Interests and Dispensation:** Cllr. Marsha Nicholson declared an interest in proposals to build a footpath crossing Ground Corner and did not take part in any discussion regarding the path.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014:** The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed.

**Matters Arising:** Pedestrian crossing – the Clerk has asked the Police to monitor the crossing.

Drains, The Street – these have been cleared.

Core Training – this will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> February and Cllrs. Rebekah Harrison and Mervyn Osman wish to attend.

Emergency Planning Meeting – Cllr. Andrew Pearce attended and reported as follows: A flooding first aid kit is available and he advised that the Council should obtain one. Cllr. Pearce to follow up with the Police the powers for putting out flooding signs. The Clerk to clarify the procedure for using barriers when Staverton Lane is flooded.

National Flood Forum – to be advertised through the Magazine.

Ditch adjacent to Village Hall car park – the trustees have been asked to clear the ditch but have disputed that it is their responsibility. The Clerk has confirmed that maintenance of a ditch is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner and their response is awaited.

Bridge Terrace kerbstones – a request for replacement has been made to WC.

### **Planning Committee:**

- **Report:** Planning application 14/12109/OUT, Proposed Development Land at Melksham Road, Holt. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the letter of objection drafted by Cllr. Steve Siddall should be sent to the Planning Department.

Planning Application 14/12030/DP3 Holt School. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that no objections should be raised to this planning application.

- **Cockhill Solar Farm Development:** This matter is now being dealt with by the Finance Committee. It was originally agreed that a payment of £5,000 p.a. for the life of the farm (25 years) should be paid from the Community Benefit Fund. Gaiger Brothers have now sold the site to a Danish Company who wish to make a one off payment and have offered £45,000; this is not considered to be an acceptable offer as Gaiger Brother's original offer would equate to approximately £100,000 over twenty five years. Councillors Stevens and Siddall to contact the Company to negotiate an acceptable offer. Cllr. Robin Paice advised that should annual payments be agreed, then these should be linked to the Land Registry; payments are then protected and are still made should the development be sold on during the twenty five year period.

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

- Bus Shelter – a price to paint to be obtained in the next financial year.
- Benches – a contractor is being sought to carry out restoration work,
- Pavilion – cupboard finished. Cllr Marsha Nicholson to organise a working party to decorate the pavilion in the summer. The showers to be decommissioned.
- A new caretaker's job specification to be drawn up.
- Works to trees to be done, subject to the cost being £450 as per original quote. The Clerk to follow up.
- Children's Play Area – annual inspection booked and a councillor to be trained in carrying out weekly inspections of the play equipment. The clerk to follow up.

- Defibrillator – to be stored in the cupboard at the pavilion. Cllr. Andrew Pearce to be trained in its use. Keys to be given to the Bowls Club and the Shop and The Courts notified of its existence. Cllrs. Mizen and Pearce to progress.
- Football Pitch - conditions of hire to be reviewed at the end of the season.
- Bowls Club rent – in line with the lease drawn up in September 2009 stating that the rent will be reviewed after five years, it was agreed that the current rent is well below the going commercial rate and should be increased. It was proposed, seconded and agreed, one abstention, that the rent should be increased to £1000 p.a. This to be increased annually in line with the C.P.I. This is still substantially less than the commercial rate for such a facility. The Clerk to draft a letter to the Bowls Club explaining the reasons for the increase in rent.
- A new waste bin for the Playing Fields has been ordered.
- Dawes' Pond – Mr. Nick Kirkham to install a pipe within the next two weeks to see if the Pond fills to the correct level. Cllr. Steve Siddall to progress.
- Kerbstones, Ham Green – to be a substantive item on the next agenda.

#### **Highways and Streetscene Committee Report:**

- Footpath, the Playing Fields/Ground Corner. Mr. Martin Moyes attended a recent meeting. He confirmed that Ground Corner is an unadopted road and, therefore, does not belong to anyone. He does not wish to lead the project. The person who kindly offered funding for this project has confirmed that funds are still available. Funding for lighting the path is also available.
- Traffic – issues re traffic count and weight restrictions ongoing. A meeting to be arranged with Cllr. Trevor Carbin to discuss traffic management through the Village.
- Footpaths – Cllr. Rebekah Harrison has now done a spreadsheet showing issues with footpaths and a meeting with Mr. Paul Millard, WC Footpaths Officer, to be arranged.
- Footpath 31 – ongoing. A witness statement to be made stating that the footpath has been used regularly for more than twenty years. Cllr. Marsha Nicholson to progress.

**Website:** Cllr. Marsha Nicholson reported that good progress has been made with the website and it should be up and running by the end of March. The address is [holtparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://holtparishcouncil.gov.uk). The total cost will be within budget. Cllr. Nicholson thanked Cllr. Steve Siddall for his invaluable help in establishing the website.

**Bradford-on-Avon Community Area Board:** Cllr. Becky Stevens said that although the Youth Club is appreciative of the grant awarded to them by the Area Board, the running of the Club is much more difficult since Wiltshire

Council has withdrawn from youth services and it is feared that the present arrangements are unsustainable. Cllr. Becky Stevens to draft a letter to Wiltshire Council outlining concerns regarding the Youth Club and Cllr Andrew Pearce to raise the issue at the next meeting which is to be held in Holt on 11<sup>th</sup> March. Members of the Youth Club to be asked to give a presentation at the meeting.

Ham Green replacement kerbstones – a grant of £1455 has been given for this project.

**Holt Tannery Limited Liaison Committee:** A meeting has not be held recently. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted at the end of February.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Planning consultants to be appointed in the near future to consider the final draft. The Plan will then be circulated to the Parish Council for final approval prior to moving on to the next stage.

**Correspondence:**

- Proposed development of land at Melksham Road – letters objecting to this proposal have been received from Mrs J. Ayers, The Horrocks Family, Alan Hendon and Lindsay Smith, Lesley, Marion and Michael Escott, Jim Gooding, Richard Tudor and Denise Totham. These letters have been circulated to councillors.
- Oil buying Club ([www.oilbuyingclub.com](http://www.oilbuyingclub.com)) – offers an independent service, free from suppliers, encouraging communities to join together to increase their purchasing power and reduce costs. The company claims that their software is already helping more than 1500 people to save an average of £30 each on every oil delivery. To be highlighted through the Magazine. The company also offered to attend a future meeting.
- Holt Sports and Recreation Committee has requested vehicular access to the Playing Fields for the contractor's vehicles and use of the pavilion during resurfacing of the sports court. This was agreed. But any damage must to rectified.
- Best Kept Village Competition – Holt came first in the local round for large villages and third in the county round and have been awarded £60. It was agreed that this money should be used to purchase paint for the bus shelter.
- WALC AGM will be held on 27th January.

**Village Inspection Report:** Cllr. Andrew Pearce carried out the inspection and presented his report. The clerk to follow up.

Hawcroft resurfacing of road – this work has not been done to date despite residents being informed that this work was to be done in November. The Clerk to follow up.

Hedge cuttings – The Street and the Playing Fields. Garry Aland to be asked to clear them.

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

SLCC Annual Sub	£ 103.00	
Playforce/Safety Inspection	£ 238.80	(VAT £39.80)
URC/Hire Charges	£ 110.00	
Wiltshire Waste	£ 4.80	(VAT £.80)
Parish Online Annual Fee	£ 33.60	(VAT £5.60)
J Quinlan/Orchard Fund	£ 29.50	
J.Quinlan/Orchard Fund	£ 30.00	
Ralph Arlett/Work to Pavilion	£ 523.88	
P. Lambert/Hedgecutting	£ 240.00	
The Old Tannery (Holt) Ltd	£1800.00	(VAT £300.00)
P.Ashby/Seed Pond Area	£ 600.00	(VAT £100.00)
D. Cullop/Viking Signs	£ 68.15	(VAT £11.36)
G. Aland/Ground Maintenance	£ 350.08	
G. Aland/Caretaking	£ 325.71	
JM Beale	£ 882.83	
Remuneration	£696.12	
Fixed Expenses	£ 69.24	
AVG Security& Stationery	£ 90.97	(VAT £18.19)
Keys/Pavilion	£ 11.50	(VAT £2.30)
Telephone	£ 15.00	

**Any Other Business:**

Cllr. Bob Mizen reported that vehicles leaving the Glove Factory construction site have been using the Village end of Leigh Road: it has previously been agreed that contractors' vehicles would not use that part of Leigh Road. Mr. Kirkham has spoken to the contractors and erected signs on the green at the end of Leigh Road giving clear instructions to construction traffic.

Cllr. Becky Stevens reported that there is a lot of mud on Leigh Road from the site and the verges are being eroded. The Clerk to contact Mr.Kirkham.

Cllr. Becky Stevens gave her apologies for the February meeting.