

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held on Thursday 23rd February 2012 at the URC Hall.

Present: Cllr. John Palmer, Cllr. Becky Stevens, Cllr. Jane Grant, Cllr. Barbara Tucker, Cllr. Basil Ash, Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Andrew Pearce, Cllr. John Fletcher.

Apologies: Cllr. Martin Moyes. Mrs. Claire Litchfield, GWH, NHS Trust, Dr. Steve Rowlands, B.A.N.E.S. Primary Care Trust.

In Attendance: Cllr. Trevor Carbin, PC Martin Barrett.

Open Meeting: PC Martin Barrett reported as follows:

- A burglary in The Street – window smashed to gain entry and jewellery stolen. No leads to date.
- Tyres slashed on a vehicle – not considered to be a random act.
- Parking in The Midlands continues to be a problem. Police called on one occasion as three vehicles obstructing pavement. Offenders traced to the National Trust

Mrs. Janice Green, Rights of Way Officer, Wiltshire Council, and Mr. Paul Millard, Rights of Way Warden, Wiltshire Council spoke about the application from Mr. Harris, Holt Manor, to make diversions/changes to Footpaths 8 & 16 at Holt Manor. The reasons the landowner has given for the diversion of the footpaths are: the safety of public, the well being of animals, better use of farm land, and enabling walkers to join up with other footpaths without having to walk on a busy highway. The council can make a diversion order if they consider it expedient to do so in the interest of the landowner and/or the public. The termination points of a path must not be altered where they are not on a highway, and where they are located on a highway, they may only be altered to another point on the same highways or a highway connected with it and which is substantially as convenient to the public.

At the confirmation of the diversion order the Council, or Secretary of State, also take into account public enjoyment of the path and may not confirm the order unless they are satisfied that the diversion is expedient in the interests of the landowner and/or the public, and that the path or way will not be substantially less convenient to the public in consequence of the diversion.

Procedure following receipt of an application to divert/change a footpath is: An unspecified period of informal consultation with the parish council, statutory undertakers, landowners, tenants and occupiers, the Wiltshire Council member and user groups. A report is then produced making recommendations and presented to senior managers. If it is decided to make an order, an advertisement must be placed in one local newspaper, circulated to all statutory consultees and posted on site. This is followed by a statutory consultation period of 28 working days. If no objections are received then this is advertised, circulated to statutory consultees and posted on site and followed by a six week period during which any person aggrieved by the order can make representations to the High Court. The grounds for this can only be that the order itself is defective and cannot go back to the legal tests of why the order was made in the first place. Following a successful order, the Highway Authority must certify the new route. If objections are received the order must be taken to the Area

Planning Committee where members of Wiltshire Council will decide whether the Council continues to support the order based on whether the legal tests of the diversion are still met in the light of the objections received. If members consider the legal tests are no longer met, the order can be withdrawn. If an order continues to be supported it is forwarded to the Secretary of State for determination with a recommendation from Wiltshire Council that the order be confirmed. The order is then determined by written representations, hearing or local public enquiry. Following this process, if it is confirmed by the Secretary of State, it is then advertised again followed by a six week period of appeal to the High Court. If not confirmed by the Secretary of State, it can then be withdrawn. A decision to make a public footpath order is discretionary, not statutory, and can be withdrawn at any time.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Green. He reported that a meeting convened with Cllr. Becky Stevens, Mrs. Janice Green and Mr. Paul Millard to discuss the proposals regarding Footpaths 8 and 16 had been extremely useful and resulted in an extended informal consultation period before Wiltshire Council decides whether or not to issue an order. A response is not now required until the beginning of May. A group of nine councillors have met to discuss the issue and have recommended that a decision should not be made at this meeting of the Council, but that the time should be used to disseminate accurate information about the proposal, the criteria for objection, should there be objection, and the timescale for that taking place. The community, through the Magazine, to be invited to approach the Clerk by email or letter with their opinion on the proposals. Also to contact a range of other organisations, including Holt Walkers, CPRE, the National Trust and Mr. Robert Floyd and the Ramblers Association to ask if they wish to feed their opinions through to this Council.

A large number of members of the public were in attendance and they then made their views known; all those who spoke were strongly opposed to the proposals. It was confirmed that there is no legal requirement for landowners to provide access for dogs to their land. Landowners are not permitted to put dangerous animals on land where there is an unfenced public right of way. Wiltshire Council representatives did not clearly define what constitutes a dangerous animal. Wiltshire Council has a duty of care to ensure that official footpaths are safe to use. Landowners carry responsibility for paths which they create for public use. It was noted that Footpath 8 has a legal width of 40cm. Footpath 16 has no recorded width and could be fenced at 1 meter. Wiltshire Council will require any new footpaths created to be fenced at 2 meters. Because of the level of public interest in this matter, it was agreed that a public meeting should be held in March. Cllr. Becky Stevens and the Clerk to arrange a meeting. To be advertised through the Magazine.

The Chairman suggested that people can also make their views known through the Parish Council website.

A map defining the proposed changes to Footpaths 8 and 16 is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Paul Bloomfield complained about the poor state of repair of the pavement running from Ground Corner to Bridge Terrace. The Chairman informed him that this matter has been raised with Wiltshire Council several times; the cost of reinstating the pavement with a proper kerb is prohibitive because of major utilities

involved. The Clerk to contact Highways informing them of the danger to the public caused by the pavement..

Mr. Patrick Cousins complained about the dangerous parking of vehicles on the bend in The Midlands near the Glove Factory. Cllr. Becky Stevens confirmed that the Traffic Committee is considering this problem and has asked Highways to install double yellow lines and raised kerbstones. The work could be done within the next two months. People were advised to ring 101 if they witness dangerous parking.

Ms Alison Ward-Baptiste said that planning permission has never been given for the café at the Glove Factory to be open to the public; Wiltshire Council has told her that the planning application states that the café is ancillary to the Glove Factory and not open to the public. Wiltshire Council continues to take this stance, even though members of the public have produced receipts for food purchased and consumed on the premises. She has now raised a formal complaint with Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Steve Siddall, as Chairman of the Planning Committee, said records show that there is a café, but does not state whether it is open to the public or not. Cllr. Trevor Carbin was asked to look into the matter.

Old Tannery Development – concern was expressed regarding contamination of the site and whether a risk assessment has been carried out. Cllr. Steve Siddall confirmed that the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council have been engaged on the issue for the past four/five years. Houses cannot be built on the site until a risk assessment has been carried out and any necessary work done. All this information will be available by the time of the next public consultation. Cllr. Steve Siddall to ask the developers to place an article in the magazine regarding the issue.

The Chairman urged those interested in the development of the Village to join the Village Plan Group which is run by Mrs. Tina Davies. The group is now moving towards producing a full Community Plan for Holt in time for the Village to respond to any specific proposals for development of the Tannery Site. One aspect of the Localism Bill is that any community should have a plan which lays out its priorities of what it does and doesn't want. Once lodged with Wiltshire Council it then has statutory significance and has to be taken into account in consideration of any subsequent planning application.

Cllr. Steve Siddall reported on a meeting that he and Cllr. Jane Grant had recently attended regarding the Wiltshire Core Strategy. To produce a proper neighbourhood plan would take about two and a half years. If a plan is not in place then some protection is offered if the community can be shown to be doing something towards producing a neighbourhood plan. The Wiltshire Core Strategy also provides some protection, but this will not be a legal document for another twelve months.

Cllr. Trevor Carbin reported on the following:

- The pedestrian crossing was approved by Mr. Dick Tonge, Cabinet member, today. There is still a five day period during which it could be called in. Latest estimate for building is late March, provided there are no more legal hold ups.
- Wiltshire Council will meet next week to set the 2012/2013 budget. No council tax increase from Wiltshire Council, Police or Fire Service.

- Mobile Library Service Review - PC to be consulted. Stops in Holt remain the same but changes to times and duration of visits.
- Cleveland Bridge, Bath – temporary closure likely to go ahead. Wiltshire Council will have to meet the cost of a lorry count.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th January 2012: The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed with the following amendments: page 2090 - planning application W12.00016/FUL to read 'policy in place regarding density of infill'. Page 2088 – paragraph 2 to read 'there is a proposal for a transport and traffic workshop'. Village Facilities Committee: i) to read 'Cllr. Steve Siddall will explore further effective means of cleaning the posts around Ham Green when weather permits'.

Matters Arising: Hedge, The Midlands – Wiltshire Council has this in hand.

Jacob's Ladder. An application for this to become a listed structure has been submitted to English Heritage. Mr. Harris has been informed; he has been advised that the structure is already listed.

Mr. Stuart Faint has been asked, to reinstate the grass area adjacent to his business premises. He has also been asked to ensure that people do not park on the green/pavement. The work will be done when weather permits.

War Memorial – the bronze plaques are now insured.

Bowls Club Hedge – the gap in the hedge was used for large machinery to gain access to the green. To be repaired.

Wessex Water – reinstatement of the green in Leigh Road. Cllr. Bob Mizen not happy with work done to date. The Clerk to follow up.

Litter in the Brook adjacent to the Playing Fields – the Clerk to follow up.

Garry Aland has cleared bottles, etc. from the steps in The Star.

The November meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Village Hall.

Planning Committee:

Applications:

Reference	By	For	Planning Cttee Decision	Clerk Action
W/12/00184/FUL Category: Full Plan Case Officer: Mr Philip Baker	23 Leigh Road Holt Wiltshire BA14 6PW Mr & Mrs Dominic O'Connor	Single storey extensions	Not significant	No comment
W/12/00222/FUL Category: Full Plan Case Officer: Mrs Kate Sullivan	45B Leigh Road Holt Wiltshire BA14 6PW Mr And Mrs Butt	Proposed two storey rear extension	Not significant	No comment

Reference	By	For	Planning Cttee Decision	Clerk Action
W/12/00261/FUL Full Plan Case Officer: Mr Kenny Green	Copse Farm Great Chalfield Holt Trowbridge Wiltshire	Proposed installation of 50kw solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment and construction of boundary fence	Refer to PC meeting recommend objection on the possible inaccuracy of statement in the application.	

Decisions:

Reference	By	For	Decision
W/11/02800/FUL Case Officer: Miss Jennifer Fivash Category: Full Plan	Gaston Farm Gaston Holt Wiltshire BA14 6QA E-tricity Limited	Installation of a ground mounted Solar PV array	Withdrawn
W/12/00012/TPO Category: Tree(s) in Tree Preservation Order	Bridge House 351 The Street Holt Wiltshire Mrs Abby Burgess	Reduce Yew Tree (T1) to balanced column shape	Consent
W/12/00013/TCA Category: Tree(s) in Conservation Area	Bridge House 351 The Street Holt Wiltshire Mrs Abby Burgess	Remove Sycamore Tree (T2) to ground level, light trim and rebalance of Yew Tree (T3) by 15% and remove Sycamore Tree to ground level (T4)	No Tree Preservation Order be made

W/11/03181/FUL	98 The Street Holt Wiltshire BA14 6QH Mr T Watson	Demolition of existing rear extension and detached double garage and erection of new lean-to extension and double garage	Permission
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i) General Report: Cllr. Steve Siddall reported a change in process. A set of minutes will be produced each week showing what the Committee has done. He intends to suggest that the planning lists should be dropped from the main body of the minutes. To be discussed later.

W/11/02800/FUL – Gaston Farm – withdrawn.

W/12/00012/TPO - Bridge House - Consent

W/12/00016/FUL - 18 Little Parks - application now modified but neighbours still objecting. The application has been called in

W/12/00261/FUL – Copse Farm. The executive summary states that *“the proposal may be visible through existing hedges from public footpaths in the area and some more distant views. However it is not considered that the small area of the PV modules will be visually prominent against the backdrop of existing field boundaries, trees or nearby buildings. The proposal will not have any significant adverse effect on any nearby residential properties”*. Cllr. Steve Siddall has inspected the site and considers the summary to be untrue. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Council should ask for the application to be called in and objections raised on the grounds that the summary statement is untrue. A request to be made for a site visit by the appropriate planning officers.

Cllr. Trevor Carbin was asked to call in the application.

Holt Tannery Project Report: Nothing to report. Next meeting on Monday 27th February.

Housing Survey – 725 forms distributed by Cllrs. Palmer, Grant, Mizen, Cllr. Martin Moyes and Siddall.

Cllr. Steve Siddall report that the Wiltshire Core Strategy came out for consultation on 20th February: The Village boundary is retained, the Area of Opportunity remains as presently defined and the traffic problem has been recognised and states that work will need to be done, with particular regard to the Kingston Farm Development and the impact that will have on traffic in Holt. There is also some mention of the Hilperton Gap Relief Road. 95 houses to be found in the Bradford-on-Avon community area between now and 2026. Cllr. Jane Grant added that comments are invited on the soundness of the draft plan. Cllr. Steve Siddall will consider the plan further prior to the next meeting and will report back to the next Council if it is considered this Council needs to respond to the consultation.

Tarmac area adjacent to Pietra, Ham Green. Cllr. Bob Mizen considers the concrete area where the petrol pumps once stood, should be reinstated as a grassed area. VFC to explore and cost.

Community Area Grant – the grant which was awarded by Bradford-on-Avon Community Area Board for a Design Guide for the Tannery Development has to be claimed by 15th March 2012. It was proposed seconded and agreed, all in favour, that Cllr. Becky Stevens should liaise with Mr. Peter Dunford with a view to drawing down a grant in order to pay a contribution of up to £2000 for the purposes of funding the traffic seminar in April.

Signage policy to be considered by the VFC.

Village Facilities Committee:

i) **General Report:** An order has been placed for repairing benches as recommended Cllr. Martin Moyes. The Clerk, Cllr. Martin Moyes and Cllr. Steve Siddall have a copy of the order.

Pavilion Garage/Store – carried over.

Quote to be obtained for signage.

The Brook requires a more comprehensive look at the flow, starting with a specialised survey at the top end by the hatch. The riparian owners are responsible for maintaining the flow. A professional view should be obtained and the farmer asked to agree to the work being done. This work should be paid for by the riparian owner. Cllr. Steve Siddall to progress.

Signage Policy and Notice Boards – VFC to progress.

Traffic Committee:

i) **General Report:** Installation of double yellow lines and kerbstones in The Midlands still ongoing with Wiltshire Council. Cllr. Martin Moyes has met with Mr. David Thomas, Wiltshire Council, who has indicated that raised kerbstones would not be an issue and the work is being costed.

Parking at Beavens Site- ongoing. A planning application for parking use has not yet been submitted.

One person has responded to the request in the Magazine to represent their area of the Village at the Traffic Workshop on 16th April. Other representatives to be recruited at the public meeting to discuss footpaths 8 & 16.

ii) **Holt Manor: Posts on verges** – Mr. Harris has informed the Chairman that his solicitors will be objecting to the ruling from Wiltshire Council regarding the verges being part of the highway and therefore the Highway Authority requiring him to remove the posts.

Footpaths 8 & 16 – a meeting held on 16th February to discuss proposed changes to Footpaths 8 & 16 was attended by nine councillors and recommendations are:

- A vote should not be taken at this meeting to allow time for the public to be consulted.
- The Council to approach CPRE, the Ramblers Association, The National Trust, Mr. Robert Floyd and Holt Walkers (Mr. John Love) to invite their views on the proposals.
- An article to be placed in the Magazine informing people of the proposals and inviting them to make their views known through the Clerk. People to be invited to a public meeting in late March early April. Cllr. Becky Stevens and the Clerk to arrange the meeting.
- A map of the proposed changes to Footpaths 8 & 16 to be inserted in the Magazine. The cost to be met by the Parish Council. Cllr. Jane Grant offered to meet the difference in cost in excess of £50.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that these recommendations should be accepted.

New Pavilion Project Committee Report: Cllr. Barbara Tucker reported that Wiltshire Council has now responded to queries regarding the planning application and a meeting will be held on 24th February to discuss the way forward.

Bradford-on-Avon Community Area Board: No meeting since last PC meeting. Cllr. Jane Grant attended a meeting re the Wiltshire Core Strategy chaired by Mr. George McDonic, chairman Wiltshire CPRE. This is a pressure group which wants to oppose proposals on account of the number houses proposed on industrial land and the implications. They intend to challenge the evidence on which Wiltshire Council has based its proposals. Their concerns are centred around Trowbridge and north Wiltshire. Holt is unaffected by the Wiltshire Core Strategy as it is currently written.

Website: Cllr. John Fletcher reported that a moderation policy has now been tried, tested and implemented. Work on the website has taken longer than anticipated and minutes are not yet posted on the website. He urged councillors to use the website to post comments and engender interest. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Fletcher and Pearce.

Neighbourhood Plan and Localism Bill: The Chairman said that timescales present a problem – the publication of outline plans and options for plans from the consortium at the Tannery should happen in May/June. To produce a Neighbourhood Plan would take considerably longer. There is a need to get something together that has credibility as an outline plan in time to meaningfully influence what is presented to the Village by the Developers in May. Cllr. Andrew Pearce has consolidated a wish list for Holt from the results of a survey that was carried out in the Village some eighteen months ago; this will be considered at the next meeting of the Village Plan Group on 27th February. The Group will report back to the Parish Council as soon as possible. The Chairman said he hopes it is possible for an update of the list to appear in the next issue of the Magazine inviting people to come back directly to Tina Davies, or the website, with their views. Cllr. Jane Grant to invite Tina Davies to give some feedback of progress at the March meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Steve Siddall said he and Cllr. Jane Grant should be able to make some recommendations to the council about what needs to be done formally in terms of planning once the guidance that has been promised is received.

Footpaths 8 & 16 – Proposed Alterations: Already discussed.

Establishment of Community Orchard: Cllr. John Fletcher reported that there has been a good response to this project. Eight confirmed donations and one other being considered. The site will be marked out on 10th March and the trees planted on 17th March. All donors will be invited to attend the planting and also all neighbours adjoining the Playing Fields. Cllr. John Fletcher confirmed that all neighbours have been consulted; he will check with Mr. & Mrs. Stevens that they are aware of the project as they have been away.

Standing Orders – Adoption of NALC Revised Standing Orders 2011; Carried over to the next meeting.

Correspondence: Best Kept Village Competition – it was agreed that Holt should enter once again.

An invitation from the Army Board to a Briefing by the Army Presentation Team on Thursday 1st March. Cllrs. Mizen and Cllr. Becky Stevens have also received invitations and will be attending.

Duncan Hames MP has informed the Council that Mr. Harris is required to remove the posts from the grass verges on the approach road to Holt Manor. A letter of thanks to be sent to Mr. Hames.

A letter of thanks received from the Village Hall Committee for the Council's donation.

Caretaker's Report: Garry has not removed the leaves from the top of The Walk as he has spent a considerable amount of time clearing mud from the pavement adjacent to the Playing Fields; a lorry had mounted the bank for almost the entire length of the Playing Fields.

Village Inspection Report carried over to the next meeting.

Accounts: The following accounts were approved for payment:

EON	£ 15.90
Steve Zatchij/Pavilion Electrical	
Safety Inspection	£189.43 (VAT £31.57)
Garry Aland/Caretaking	£ 144.76
JM Beale	£ 453.91
Remuneration	£344.62
Fixed Expenses	£ 34.26
Photocopying/Stationery	£ 54.51 (VAT £10.90)
Telephone Calls	£ 15.00
& Line Rental	
Postage	£ 5.52

Any Other Business: Cllr. Bob Mizen spoke of the work done by Tools for Self Reliance, a local charity, which works from the URC Hall. They are in need of new racking and he asked that the Council give consideration to making a donation and may put this forward for discussion on the next agenda.

Cllr. John Fletcher reported that the sports lights were on during daylight hours. The Clerk to inform Andy Slade in case there is a fault.

Cllr. Jane Grant will attend the AGM of WALC on 5th March. Questions for WALC to Jane please. The annual subscription will be increased by 5%; this is necessary because Wiltshire Council has withdrawn funding and other sources of funding have been reduced. The Chairman said that the Council will expect WALC to fully justify the large increase.

Cllr. Basil Ash gave an update on warden services at The Elms. He attended a meeting with Nicola Gleeson, Contracts Manager, Department of Adult and Community Service, at St. Georges Hospital, Semington. The current wardens will now be retained and new wardens recruited. Innovative lifelines linked to

wristwatches and intruder alarms are now available. Cllr. Basil Ash is concerned that tenants of sheltered housing cannot afford such devices and has a suggestion to make

regarding their procurement. He is meeting again with Nicola Gleeson to discuss the matter and asked Cllrs. Palmer and Carbin to join them. This was agreed.