

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the URC Hall.

**Present:** Cllr. A. Pearce, Cllr. Marsha Nicholson, Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. R. Goodman, Cllr. R. Paice.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Becky Stevens, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Mervyn Osman, Cllr. David Cullop.

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Trevor Carbin, PC Garry Chambers and PC Joe Tompkinson.

In the absence of Cllr. Becky Stevens the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Andrew Pearce who opened the meeting by asking those present to stand to observe a minute's silence in memory of Mr. Basil Ash, a former parish councillor, who died last week.

**Open Meeting:** PC Gary Chambers presented PCSO Andrew MacLachlan's report:

Holt PC Report 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Wiltshire Police NPT Bradford Rural *Crime statistics 18<sup>th</sup> August – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015*

There have been 40 reported incidents for the Bradford Rural beat of which 4 occurred in Holt. This compares with 40 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)	6 (1)	2 (0)	24/08 – Male seen photographing a family. Both parties spoken to and issue resolved.  09/09 – B3107 zebra crossing. Car failed to stop when pedestrian was crossing. Driver unable to be traced as number plates appeared to have been cloned.
Anti Social Behaviour (Nuisance)	1 (2)	0 (0)	
Burglary	5 (4)	0 (2)	
Sexual Offences	0 (2)	0 (0)	
Drug Offences	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Criminal Damage	2 (3)	0 (0)	
Theft and Handling	3 (5)	1 (0)	16/09 – The Elms. Entry gained to an unlocked trades van and items stolen. No leads to follow so closed undetected.

Violence against the person	7 (7)	1 (0)	04/09 – The Gravel. Dispute with a landlord resulting in an alleged assault. Enquiries ongoing.
Other	1 (0)	0 (0)	
Concern for Safety	0 (2)	0 (0)	
Domestic related	10 (3)	0 (0)	
Pets/animal related	0 (1)	0 (0)	
Suspicious circumstances	2 (3)	0 (0)	
Transport related	3 (7)	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 interests** Burglaries this period: All 5 relate to a hotel in Limpley Stoke and occurred over two separate dates whereby guest bedrooms were entered and items stolen from within.

We continue to receive reports of a lady walking to Holt from Trowbridge and comes either from the Staverton or Bradford on Avon direction. She visits her mother in Firlawns and PCSO MacLachlan has spoken to her to try and point out the dangers of walking on these busy roads and has also given her a bus timetable. The manager of Firlawns is aware. However, the lady has chosen to ignore this advice and continues to walk the busy road. There is nothing we can do to enforce this as she is not breaking any laws, we just hope she remains safe.

**Success Stories** Apart from the hotel burglaries, dwelling and non dwelling burglaries have remained encouragingly low over the summer period for the rural and town beat.

A female from Holt has been arrested and charged with supply of a Class A drug and will appear in court in October.

**In closing** Please feel free to give out my mobile number to anyone who would like to contact me:

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)

The Chairman thanked the PCs Chambers and Tompkinson for attending the meeting.

Mr. Alex Madden and Mr. David Glasson representing Mr & Mrs. Keith Tucker, Manor Farm, presented proposed plans for a development of 25 residential properties at Manor Farm, of which 30 – 40 per cent would be affordable housing.

The Chairman said that the timing of the application is not good as the Neighbourhood Plan is now out for consultation and carries a certain amount of planning weight; the site in question does not fit with the Plan as it is outside the settlement boundary. Mr. Madden said that Mr. Tucker’s advisors had been in touch with Wiltshire Council and had been advised to go ahead with the proposal; there is an identified need for housing in the Village and the development could be

complete within the next five years. It is unlikely that the development at the Tannery site will be done within this timescale.

Concern was expressed about several aspects of the development including access to the site from the B3107, flooding issues and demands that the development would make on the school. Mr. Madden confirmed that all these issues would be considered as part of the development and that a contribution by way of Section 106 would be made to Wiltshire Council.

Cllr. Robin Paice arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Madden said they intended to hold a local exhibition and asked for the Parish Council's help with this. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would have to consider how to respond to the proposal, but would be willing to help with an exhibition.

Mrs. Carol Warran expressed her displeasure about the way in which the Caretaker had cut back her honeysuckle. Mr. Chris Hall also expressed dismay about the radical cutting back of his lilac tree and felt the way in which it was done was rather high handed. Residents felt that they should have been consulted prior to work being done. The Chairman said that whilst no offence had been committed as nothing had been cut back beyond the boundary fences, it was usual practice for residents to be approached in the first instance, and he apologised that on this occasion this procedure had not been followed. The Caretaker to be advised accordingly.

Planning Application 15/09224/FUL, 212 The Common, two storey extension. The Common. Ms Elsa Joyce and Mrs. Fiona Drysdale both expressed concern about this planning application as it is considered to be over development of the site and infringes the privacy of several adjoining properties. A business is being run from the property and Cllr. Marsha Nicholson queried whether there is permission for this to be run from home.

Cllr. Trevor Carbin reported as follows:

- The application to build 60 houses on land north of Holt Road in Bradford-on-Avon has been refused by the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Wiltshire Council wishes to close or off load all the public toilets in the county. A consultation is underway until 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- Mrs. Jane Scott has been awarded a peerage, but will continue as Leader of the Council.
- Wiltshire Council has been asked what is being done with the 240 litre green bins which are currently being 'retrieved' in West Wiltshire. The response was as follows, 'All 180 litre bins that are still serviceable will go back into service, with any having reached the end of their useful life being recycled. With 240 litre bins in the west the size and the green body combine to limit future use. As our policy is to issue 180 litre bins for garden waste these won't be given to other residents. Depending on the condition of the bin (most of which are now over 15 years old) we will either remove spare parts to repair the bins of other residents, or the entire bin will be recycled'.

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

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015:** The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed with one amendment. Page 48/15 – delete 'VFC Minutes to be published on the Website'.

**Matters Arising:** Spa pump – the Clerk has tried to establish who is responsible for the maintenance of the pump. The pump belongs to the property to which it is attached, but the owners are not responsible for its upkeep. The Clerk to continue to follow up.

Flood Plan – this has been approved and the flood emergency kit will be delivered in the near future.

Housing Sites Allocation Plan – Cllrs. Pearce and Siddall have responded to Wiltshire Council on the Council's behalf saying that it is considered that all possible sites for housing around Holt that have been added to the plan over the years should be removed as they fall outside the settlement boundary. The response has been circulated to councillors.

Bridge House access – a response has been received from Dr. Abby Burgess explaining why there has been a delay in completing the work.

Footpaths – Cllr. Richard Goodman said he found the numbering of some of the footpaths, as shown on the map, unclear and queried whether the footpath running from the B3107, near the equestrian centre, towards Broughton Gifford falls within the Holt parish as it seems to fall within the BG numbering system. Cllr. Marsha Nicholson confirmed that part of the path lies within the Holt boundary.

**Planning:** In the absence of Cllr. Steve Siddall Cllr. Bob Mizen presented the report. Planning application 15/09224/FUL, 212 The Common, two storey rear extension – whilst it is not usual policy to comment on such planning applications, because of the size of this proposed development Cllr. Mizen proposed that Cllr. Trevor Carbin

should be asked to call in the application. This proposal was seconded and agreed, all in favour.

Tannery Development – Cllr. Steve Siddall has received an email from Mr. James Child saying that the plans are in their final stages and that a planning application will be submitted within the next few weeks. A meeting is to be held with Mr. Childs within the next two weeks.

Forewoods Common music studio– the building should have been demolished by 10<sup>th</sup> September, but is still standing. Wiltshire Council is aware of the situation.

Gladmans have withdrawn their appeal against the decision to turn down their application for a housing development on land at the equestrian centre.

Manor Farm development – this will be discussed once formal plans have been received.

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

- Bus shelter – Cllr Bob Mizen to meet with Bob Prior to discuss his quotation for painting the shelter.
- Tree survey – as per agreement at previous full PC meeting, Cllr. Steve Siddall is in discussion with Crispin Keysar. Meeting agreed that allowance for this survey will need to be made in each annual precept.
- Signage at Glove Factory – VFC concerned about the lack of response from Mr. Kirkham and the lack of action over carrying out previously agreed remedial work to his part of the Brook, the path alongside the new sports court and the access path from the foot bridge to his car park. A sign re children is now in place at the exit of the GFS car park.
- Bench painting and pavilion redecoration – in hand.
- GFS sign now installed.

## Highways & Streetscene Committee Report:

- Double Yellow Lines – still not in place. Cllr. Trevor Carbin has written to the cabinet member regarding this delay. The Clerk to write to Wiltshire Council asking why the extended delay in approval of this scheme.
  - Traffic count – this to be delayed until the Hilperton Gap road has been opened.
  - Parking – it was considered that leaflets drawing attention to badly parked vehicles would be too contentious and should not be pursued. The National Trust to be asked to place a poster at the entrance to the Courts asking visitors to consider whether they had parked carefully. The National Trust also to be made aware of the indiscriminate parking by coach drivers dropping off visitors to the Courts. HSSC to take forward.
  - BCATG – a new system for keeping track of schemes proposed to the Group is being produced.
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- A new policy on minor double yellow line schemes is being produced and should speed up the process. Costs will no longer be met centrally and even a small scheme can cost £2-3000.
  - A protocol for dealing with Freight Management Requests has been introduced. The existing Holt scheme remains to be completed under the old arrangements.
  - The Wiltshire Council/Balfour Beatty contract for transport schemes is to be terminated by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.
  - Movement activated speed signs may be purchased by parish councils.
  - Footpath 31 – there is a very small piece of land at the field end of the proposed rerouting of the path which is not registered, and this means that its use as a footpath will need to be advertised in case anyone wishes to object. This has been done.
  - Footpaths – the Ramblers Association has offered to put some improvements in place on some of our footpaths and Cllr. Marsha Nicholson asked that councillors submit their footpath survey reports ASAP.
  - Footpath 31 – relevant forms have been submitted to the Rights of Way Officer. A consultation on this has been sent out and the closing date is 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015.
  - Path Improvements Grant – relevant documents have been submitted, and it is hoped there will be funding for a kissing gate on footpath 48. Funding sources to be investigated
  - Footpaths 16/25 – the clay bank which Mr. Nick Kirkham put in place, as a temporary measure, at the junction of these two footpaths to prevent vehicles from gaining access to his site whilst work was being carried out on the site is creating a hazard for walkers and should now be removed. The Clerk to contact Mr. Kirkham in the first instance.

**Finance Committee Report:** Cllr. Richard Goodman said a meeting had been held to consider three issues:

- A formal reserves policy.
- Cockhill Solar Farm Funds.
- Appointment of an internal auditor

Papers from the meeting to be circulated and discussion to be deferred to the October meeting.

**Website Report:** Mr. Dave Huggins has emailed Cllr. Marsha Nicholson to say that he is very pleased with how the website has developed.

The website will continue to be developed.

**Bradford-on-Avon Community Area Board:** Cllr. Andrew Pearce attended the recent meeting of the Board and noted that he was the only representative from a parish council present.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's annual report and recommendation was considered. The Police have been reorganised with greater use of technology.

There is a proposal to build a children's hospice in Wiltshire.

Blair Keltie, Service Manager, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Missing Children made a presentation to introduce the reality of CSE in Wiltshire and how we can all help to tackle it – it exists in Wiltshire – a Corsham man has recently been imprisoned for abusing four boys over a considerable period of time. Part of the approach is for all taxi drivers to receive compulsory training in spotting potential problems, as experience has shown that abusers often use taxis to transport children.

**Holt Tannery Limited Liaison Committee Report:** Previously discussed.

**Dawe's Pond – New Liner and Other Work:** Four quotations have been acquired, two of which have been considered; one for £7,300 and one £6000. The quote for £7,300 is preferred as it offers a stronger and much more durable liner. Funding for this work to be sought.

**Cockhill Solar Farm Development:** Funds still awaited. The Clerk to follow up.

**Bowls Club Rent:** The rent has now been paid. Mr. Rodney Moody, Bowls Club trustee, has sought advice on the lease from Hartnell, Taylor Cook and has requested a meeting with members of the Parish Council to discuss the issue. A copy of HTC's letter has been circulated to councillors. It was proposed, seconded and agreed, all in favour, that further legal advice should be sought prior to a meeting with members of the Bowls Club. The Clerk to follow up.

**Green Waste Collection:** Cllr. Marsha Nicholson said her 240 litre green waste bin had been replaced with a 180 litre bin by Wiltshire Council. She was unhappy that nothing on the WC website indicates that replacement bins will be smaller although residents will be paying the same amount for the collection. This to be highlighted through the Magazine and the website. The Clerk to write to Wiltshire Council.

**Caretaker's Job Description:** Cllr. Bob Mizen presented proposals, which have been circulated to councillors, for a revised job description for the caretaker. Where possible, there would be a requirement for work to be done on the same day, and within the same hours, each week. Hours to remain unchanged – 9.5 hours per week from April to September and 5.5 hours from October to March. The caretaker to submit a written report of work carried out each week.

The Walk – strictly speaking this is a public footpath and should be maintained by Wiltshire Council Highways.

Cllr. Mizen and the Clerk to meet with Garry Aland prior to this being taken forward.

**Correspondence:** Mr Phil Game has shown interest in becoming a parish councillor and has sent a short submission to the Council. He will come to the October meeting.

Community First AGM – 7<sup>th</sup> October at Devizes Town Hall.

Streetscene – Jennifer Hiscocks has now left Wiltshire Council and Jack Brain will take her place as community co-ordinator for the Bradford-on-Avon area from 28<sup>th</sup> September. However, WC would prefer requests from work to be reported through the My Wiltshire App. This app can be used by all: details to be publicised through the Magazine and website.

**Village Inspection:** This was done by Cllr. Andrew Pearce and has been circulated. There are several large bags of soil in the Orchard. These are wood chippings which Crispin Keysar was going to spread around the area, but they are not required and the Clerk to ask Crispin to remove them.

Staverton Lane – litter collection. This is on WC's list of outstanding work.

There is a black plastic trug which is full of glass on the grass verge by Manor Farm needs to be removed. The Clerk to follow up.

Footpath 31 – the first part has been blocked and is impassable.

**Accounts:**

**For Payment:**

Grant Thornton/Audit Fee	£240.00 (VAT £40.00)
Wiltshire Waste	£ 38.58 (VAT £4.48)
Came & Company/Insurance Premium	£1070.21
G.Aland/Caretaking	£ 765.00
G.Aland/Ground Maintenance	£ 562.50
Clerk	£1093.24 (VAT £8.08)

Remuneration	£711.42
Fixed Expenses	£ 69.24
Pension 2015	£205.00
Fastmail Sub	£ 12.86
Stationery	£ 48.48
Postage	£ 9.24
Telephone	£ 37.00

**Audited Accounts:** These have been approved by the auditors, Grant Thornton.

**Any Other Business:** Cllr. Marsha Nicholson is aware of someone who would like to put their name forward to join the Council. She will attend the next meeting.

Cllr. Nicholson attended the recent Executive Committee meeting of WALC and reported that she does not feel that parish councils are properly represented; it is large council top heavy and she did not feel that it would be relevant for her to attend the meetings. She also queried whether membership represents value for money.

The Clerk to send a message of condolence to the family of Mr. Basil Ash.

