

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held on Thursday, 3rd December 2015 at the URC Hall.

Present: Cllr. Andrew Pearce, Cllr. Marsha Nicholson, Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Richard Goodman, Cllr. David Cullop, Cllr. Mervyn Osman, Cllr. Robin Paice.

Apologies: Cllr. Becky Stevens, Cllr. Philip Game, PCSO Andrew MacLachlan.

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

In Attendance: Cllr. Trevor Carbin.

Open Meeting: Mr. Martin Tidman, Wessex Water, reported on work carried out in Holt since the flooding in September 2014; sewers have been repaired and others jetted to restore capacity. A computer model of drainage in Holt is being developed; flow monitors and rain gauges throughout the Village ensure data in the model is accurate - it should be completed by March 2016. A throttle (where a larger pipe joins a smaller pipe) has been identified in the system at Bradley Lane and a full appraisal will be done to remedy the problem. Mr. Tidman stressed that the more information that is passed to them about problems the better they can react; this to be emphasised through the Magazine. Mr. Tidman to report to the April meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr. Tidman for attending the meeting.

Mr. Bill Parks and Mr. Danny Everett, Wiltshire Council, spoke about their work. Mr. Parks is responsible for work covered by the revenue budget and Mr. Everett capital expenditure. Parish Councils are urged to engage with the Flood Working Group in their area and to encourage landowners to ensure drainage from their land is well managed. A Flood Plan identifying problem sites within the Village is essential if Wiltshire Council is to offer help with flooding problems. Gullies are no longer cleared on an annual basis, other than those considered to be a danger, for instance, those on a high speed roads where flooding is perceived to create a danger to road users. Gullies which present risk of flooding to properties are not cleared as a matter of course. Where there is a problem with flooding the more individual notifications WC receives the better, as this helps to emphasise the severity of the problem. Mr. Parks stressed that Wiltshire Council is now reactive not pro-active.

The Parish Steward scheme is to be reinstated in April.

The Clerk to check with Renate Malton the date of the next Flood Working Group/Northern Area.

Cllr. Steve Siddall expressed thanks to Mr. Jack Brain, WC, for the prompt and efficient way in which he dealt with a report of leaves on the pavement/road on Ham Green.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Parks and Mr. Everett for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Heather Morris, Neighbourhood Plan Group, gave an update on the progress of the Plan; Regulation 16 completed and two objections have been received, one from Gladmans and one from Messrs Thrings, Solicitors, on behalf of Manor Farm, both saying the Plan offers insufficient new housing in the Village, but ignoring the proposed Tannery development. The next stage is examination of the Plan and the process for appointing an examiner has started. WC estimates that the examination will be complete by January/ February. The work on the Habitats Regulation Assessment can be done at the same time as finding an examiner and finalising details.

Mrs. Morris to place a report in the Magazine and on the Website.

Cllr. Trevor Carbin reported as follows:

Boundary Review – all proposed changes around Trowbridge, including Holt, have been deferred for consultation

Mr. Halma Hughes confirmed his interest in being co-opted to the Council; he has worked with the youth offending team for many years and been heavily involved with crime projects. He has also previously served as a parish councillor for 6/7 years. Having moved to Holt in 2012 he now feels he would like to join the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked him for his interest and co-option will be considered at the January meeting.

PCSO Andrew MacLachlan sent his apologies for being unable to provide a Police report this month because of IT problems.

Declarations of Interest and Dispensation: Cllr. David Cullopp declared an interest in flood issues. Cllr. Marsha Nicholson declared an interest in the appointment of the internal auditor.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd October 2015 and Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 12th November 2015: The minutes of both meetings were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: Spa Pump – it has been confirmed that the pump is included in the deeds of 1 Nibbs Terrace and, therefore, belongs to that property. Mr. Adrian Wolstenholme, the owner, is aware of the situation.

Temporary road access to the Glove Factory Studios – the Clerk has emailed Mr. Kirkham asking if work has been completed at the site and when the temporary road will be taken up. A response is awaited.

Electricity costs – the Clerk has followed this up and charges are in line with usage.

Sports Court Lease – this runs for ninety nine years and a peppercorn rent of £50 p.a. for both courts is payable. HSRC have their own insurance policy for the site.

Planning: Planning Application 15/10812/FUL, 278 The Gravel, Holt. It was proposed, seconded and agreed, 7 in favour, 1 against, that no objection should be made to this planning application.

Cumberwell – work is about to start on the site and the construction management plan re movement of lorries going to and from the site, which agreed some time ago, will come into force.

Village Facilities Committee Report:

- Pavilion – painting completed. The final bill is £600, £100 more than anticipated because of problems with the ceiling.
- Flood Plan – a bunker has been ordered and the rest of the kit should be in place within the next fortnight. Cllr. Mizen will talk to councillors and residents. Cllr. Mizen said he thought flood issues should now be dealt with by the Highways and Streetscene Committee and he made it clear that he does not wish to be flood warden. It was suggested that someone could be co-opted to deal with flooding issues.
- The Village Inspection report has been redrafted showing which areas are the responsibility of the Parish Council and which come under Wiltshire Council. Copies of the draft were circulated. Comments to Cllr. Mizen prior to the next meeting please.
- Bus shelter – no further action.

Highways & Streetscene Committee Report: A meeting has not been held recently.

Double yellow lines, The Midlands – Cllr. Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Minister, has informed the Council that double yellow lines depend up on a traffic order being completed, which is a long process, and, because of reduced staffing, traffic orders has not been progressed. This will be done when time permits. The Clerk to write to Mr. Whitehead stressing the dangers presented to both drivers and pedestrians in The Midlands and urging him to take things forward. Cllr. Marsha Nicholson to raise the issue at the WALC meeting on 6th December.

Cllr. Marsha Nicholson has met with Mr. Paul Millard and was pleased to report that the Ramblers have reinstated Footpath 41.

Path Improvements ~Grants – Cllr. Nicholson reported that it is not anticipated that there be any problems getting the proposed scheme approved (stile footpath 48).

Mr. Paul Millard has spoken to Mr. Nick Kirkham about the clay bank obstructing footpaths 16 and 21 and Mr. Kirkham has agreed that this will be removed. Mr. Millard to talk to Mr. Kirkham about signage for footpaths in the Glove Factory area.

Cllr. Pearce noted that the Bath City MP has raised the issue of a low emissions zone in Bath, which will might mean the closure of Cleveland Bridge being resurrected; this could significantly affect the volume of HGVs travelling through Holt.

Bradford-on-Avon Community Area Board: The last meeting was a youth forum.

Holt Tannery Limited Liaison Committee Report: Cllr. Siddall presented the following report and said he thought it likely that a planning application would be submitted in January/February 2016. Full planning to be requested for 40 dwellings and the commercial space with outline planning for a further 28 dwellings, some of which would be in the 'orchard' space. Fourteen would be one bed units, six 1.5 bed, 25 two bed and the remainder three bed flats, town houses or detached properties. The meeting was briefed on the parking which will now all be on the surface. There will be 100 residential parking spaces and 80 commercial with facilities for 51 bikes. There would be a crèche, coffee shop, spa and cinema. Some historic doors/loading bays on to Brook Lane would be re-opened for use by the 'factory' units.

The application would not propose any affordable housing this, along with extending the site, would be justified by exposing infrastructure and refurbishment costs which would otherwise make the project unviable.

It was agreed that a public consultation day would be held in prior to a planning submission shortly afterwards. Planning clearance should take 16 weeks, but is more likely to be 6 months. In general terms the commercial premises and the first 40 dwellings could be delivered in about 3 years and the project complete in 5 years.

In response to a question about construction traffic management, it was explained that the CTMP document would not be produced until the build contractor was appointed; traffic management for construction would normally be dealt with by way of a planning condition. Other traffic/highways proposals were being finalised by consultants.

A village open day is to be held on 16th January between 10.00am and 4.00pm at the Village Hall.

Landhold Capital had yet to progress any planning proposal on the fields they have purchased off Leigh Road. Gladman had withdrawn their appeal against the rejection of their proposal and had paid WC costs.

Dawes' Pond – New Liner and Other Works: Cllr. Steve Siddall to contact Mr. Kirkham to confirm that he is prepared to contribute to the cost of the electric pumping system and of fitting a liner to the pond. Provision of water to the pond also to be discussed with Mr. Kirkham. Cllr. Siddall also to contact the company whose quotation was agreed to confirm that the quote still stands.

It was suggested that there should be an appeal for funding for this project from the Village. Cllr. Mizen to write an article for the Magazine re funding.

Cockhill Solar Farm Development: The initial payment of £5000.00 has been received. Further payments of £5000.00 will be due annually in April.

Bowls Club Rent: Cllr. Becky Stevens sent the following proposal to the meeting:

1 – The Council is currently happy with £500.00 p.a. with annual increase (as agreed by the Village Facilities Committee at their June meeting).

2 – That the Council draw up a new lease with the contents of the new lease to be agreed.

3 – That the Council has the land professionally valued, which will then enable the Council to determine whether the current rent is acceptable.

If the valuation is for more than £500, then that level is retained (unless it is so much more that £500 looks ridiculous) but if the valuation is for less than that, then we reduce the annual rent to the level stated.

It was seconded and unanimously agreed that this proposal should be accepted.

By having a new lease drawn up the ambiguity of the existing leases is resolved for future councillors, and having the land valued clarifies the level of a realistic rent and enables councillors to make an informed decision.

Correspondence: Mrs. Meg Slade has informed the Clerk that she has received a letter of congratulation from Michele Donelan, MP, for all the fundraising work she has done in the Village.

Village Inspection: This was done by Cllr. Marsha Nicholson. Garry Aland was thanked for the good work he has done clearing the surface in the children's play area. The Clerk to progress necessary work.

Appointment of Internal Auditor: Cllr. Marsha Nicholson did not take part in this discussion. Cllr. Richard Goodman and the Clerk met with Mrs. Diana Lindsey and consider her to be an excellent candidate for the job of internal auditor; she has previously worked for both Bradford-on-Avon Town Council and Melksham Without Parish Council and served as Chairman of Westwood Parish Council for seven years. It was proposed, seconded and agreed, one abstention, (Cllr. Marsha Nicholson) that Mrs. Lindsey should be appointed.

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

British Gas D/D	£ 21.10	(VAT £2.29)
Wiltshire Waste D/D	£ 18.84	(VAT £3.14)
SLCC/Annual Sub	£103.00	
Robert Mizen/Paint for Pavilion	£122.94	(VAT £20.49)
Robert Mizen/Paint for Pavilion	£ 9.99	(VAT £1.66)
Robert Mizen/Bunker for Flood Kit	£ 79.00	
N Church/Labour Painting Pavilion	£600.00	
URC/Hire of Hall	£110.00	
G..Aland/Caretaking	£180.95	
G.Aland/Ground Maintenance	£187.00	
JM Beale	£460.87	
Remuneration	£355.71	
Fixed Expenses	£ 34.62	

Stationery	£ 47.00	(VAT £7.83)
Postage	£ 5.04	
Telephone	£ 18.50	

Any Other Business: Cllr. Marsha Nicholson to attend the WALC meeting on 6th December.

The Clerk reported that someone had flown a drone on the Playing Fields recently; in the light of reports of accidents caused by these, people were asked to be vigilant.