

A MEETING OF Holt Parish Council was held at the URC Hall on Thursday 28th January 2016.

Present: Cllr. B. Stevens, Cllr. Andrew Pearce, Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Richard Goodman, Cllr. Robin Paice, Cllr. Philip Game, Cllr. Mervyn Osman, Cllr. David Cullop.

Apologies: Cllr. Marsha Nicholson.

In Attendance: Cllr. Trevor Carbin, PCSO Andrew MacLachlan.

Open Meeting:

Cllr Stevens declared an interest in the presentation by Thrings, Solicitors. Mr. Alex Madden, Thrings, Solicitors, gave a short presentation on the results of the open day held at the end of October regarding proposed housing development at Manor Farm. Approximately fifty people attended the open day and twenty completed questionnaires were returned. Of these the majority were in favour of the development.

It was explained that this is a feasibility study to ascertain if the site is suitable for housing development to meet demands for provision of housing within Wiltshire. It is not likely that a planning application will be submitted in the near future.

Questions were raised about access to the site and possible flooding issues. Mr. Madden confirmed that the site has never been flooded and that access issues would be addressed if a planning application was submitted.

PCSO Andrew MacLachlan submitted the following report:

Holt Parish Council Report – 28th January 2016

The Community Policing Team pilot has now completed its initial 10 week mark and the general feedback is positive. We should not underestimate the impact that austerity has and will have on the way that we work, but this does not diminish my commitment to deliver Local Policing that balances the threats, harms and risks that have been identified as having the greatest impact on our Communities. Feedback is essential in this regards and I encourage any views, positive or negative in this respect to be directed to our Feedback email address of feedback@wiltshire.police.uk.

Current Priorities Linking in with the Control Strategy our current priority this month remains Cyber Crime. Cyber Crime is defined as “A criminal act which is carried out by using computers or the internet”. Last year over 12 million people in the UK were victims of Cyber Crime – that’s 1 in 5 of the population!

Our PCSO’s have continued to deliver Op Polite lessons to all of the local schools, ensuring that everyone is educated as to how best use the internet, and to prevent becoming a victim of crime.

Any Relevant Series The sector is suffering from a spate of non-dwelling Burglaries with predominantly garages being targeted. Please be conscious of security and report suspicious activity

Crime statistics 28th December 2015 – 28th January 2016

There have been 45 reported incidents for the Bradford Rural beat of which 6 occurred in Holt. This compares with 26 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)	1 (1)	0 (0)	
Anti Social Behaviour (Nuisance)	1 (0)	0 (0)	
Burglary	3 (2)	2 (0)	6 th Jan – Hawcroft. Dwelling burglary. Nothing stolen. Closed undetected 18 th Jan – Hawcroft. Garage entered and bike stolen. Closed undetected
Drug Offences	1 (0)	0 (0)	
Criminal Damage	4 (2)	1 (1)	6 th Jan – The Midlands. Rear fence damaged, garden entered. Nothing stolen.
Public Order Offences	1 (0)	0 (0)	
Theft and Handling	9 (8)	2 (1)	7 th Jan – Woodmand – Ladder stolen from alleyway. 17 th Jan – The Common. Motorcycle stolen from outside property. Found yesterday in Melksham partly burnt. Enquiries ongoing.
Violence against the person	4 (1)	0 (1)	
Other	3 (2)	0 (0)	
Concern for Safety	1 (0)	0 (0)	
Domestic related	4 (3)	0 (0)	

Pets/animal related	0 (0)	0 (0)	74
Suspicious circumstances	2 (1)	0 (0)	
Transport related	11 (6)	1 (0)	

Other incidents of interest As you can see, there has been a spate of incidents in Holt – the last being 10 days ago. We have stepped up overt and covert patrols to try and identify the suspect(s). Residents should ensure they review their security and always lock their windows and doors, keeping valuables locked away and out of sight.

Success Stories Three Nottingham Knockers who were in Limpley Stoke before Christmas were arrested in Winsley and given an adult caution. This is excellent news as this team will not return to our area as they were greatly inconvenienced. Our advice to householders is to not buy anything from them, and call 101 to report to us so we can attend and take action.

Peter Barber was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment for a dwelling burglary in Winsley earlier last year.

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

PCSO MacLachlan spoke about the problems caused by motorists ignoring the flood signs at Staverton Lane; frequently the Police or Fire Brigade are required to rescue them and their vehicles.

Skateboard Park – Mr. Rob Curtis, Mrs. Judi Parrot and Mr. Mark Brown presented plans for a temporary skateboard park on the small MUGA. It was proposed that the site should be rented to Holt and Broughton Gifford Youth Club over a five year period for this purpose and flat pack, wooden ramps would be used.

Cllr. Trevor Carbin presented the following report:

- The Bus Consultation is open until 4th April. All rural routes are threatened with withdrawal of subsidies. TransWilts Community Interest Company has put forward a Bus Franchising proposal which would avoid the wide ranging service cuts that would inevitably follow from adopting the consultation questionnaire options, whilst protecting and laying the foundations for the future improvement of the Wiltshire bus network. <http://option247.uk/index.html>.
- The Council has withdrawn funding for the Hopper bus and the service will stop in April.
- Wiltshire Council Tax is likely to increase by 4%. Fees for green bin collection to increase by £2. The budget setting meeting is on 23rd February.

Cllr. Carbin also confirmed that WC is aware of proposals by B.A.N.E.S for a low emission zone in Bath which could well impact on HGV traffic in this area.

Cllr. Carbin was asked to take up the following issues with Wiltshire Council:

- The Star – blocked drains. This has been reported several times but no action taken by WC.
- Street light at 1 Avonfield in need of repair.

Co-option of Councillor: Mr. Halma Hughes gave a short submission about why he would like to join the Parish Council. A vote was taken and he was unanimously co-opted to the Council.

Cllr Halma Hughes joined the meeting.

Declarations of Interests and Dispensation: Cllr. David Cullop declared an interest in flood issues. Cllr Stevens previously declared an interest in proposed housing development at Manor Farm.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 2015: The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: A flood warden is needed. Cllr. Andrew Pearce, as Chairman of Highways and Streetscene Committee, to follow up.

Neighbourhood Plan to be restored to the website.

Glove Factory Studios – Mr. Nick Kirkham has confirmed that work has commenced to clear the mess left by builders on the site and this will include finishing off landscaping works, tree planting and decommissioning and seeding of the contractors' access track. A date for completion of the work to be confirmed.

Work to improve pedestrian access at the point where Footpaths 16 and 21 meet will be done. However, Mr. Kirkham wished to clarify that the gateway, which is partially blocked at this point, is not a Right of Way.

Skateboard Park: Cllr. Bob Mizen spoke in favour of pursuing the idea of allowing Holt and Broughton Gifford Youth Club to set up a temporary skate board park on the small MUGA for a period of about five years. He asked that this should be considered and that the VFC should liaise with the Youth Club, HSRC, the Bowls Club and other users of the area who may be affected by the proposal. It was agreed that this should be taken forward. Cllr. Mizen to write an article for the Magazine.

Planning: No significant applications.

Planning application 15/09224/FUL - 212 The Common – a site meeting to be held next week prior to the planning meeting at which this application will be considered.

Music Studios, Forewoods Common – no action to date re demolition.

Village Facilities Committee:

- Emergency flood kit – this is now in place in the yard at Holt Superstore. Thanks were extended to Mr. Harry Rai for agreeing for the kit to be stored on his land. A letter of thanks has been sent to Mr. Rai.

- Dawes' Pond – the contractor, who submitted the recommended quotation, has confirmed that it will remain valid until the end of 2016. Mr. Nick Kirkham, Glove Factory Studios, has confirmed that he is prepared to pay half of the cost of a liner and pump.

A bid for a donation from the Tesco Trust has been accepted as valid and we now wait to hear if this has been successful. If it is, the two sources of income will be sufficient to allow the work to be done. If funds are not available, the situation will have to be reconsidered.

A member of Trowbridge Metal Detecting Club has approached the Parish Council suggesting a way in which funds could be raised. They have recently raised about £300 for a charity in Chippenham and this was done by working in conjunction with landowners who allowed them to detect on their land; members paid £10 per head and the money was donated to a charity.

The Clerk to contact landowners.

- Thanks were extended to Dr. & Mrs. Steve Rowlands for their generous donation towards the new kissing gate on Footpath 48. A letter of thanks has been sent to them.
- Children's Play Area Annual Safety Inspection – It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Clerk should take this forward and VFC to approve the appointment of a play inspection company.
- The clerk to write to Playforce asking if lead paint is used on any of their equipment.

Highways and Streetscene Committee:

- Double Yellow Lines – these will be installed in due course.
- Traffic count – it was agreed that a daytime only count should be carried out. It was generally agreed that the number of HGVs travelling through the Village has reduced since the Hilperton Gap road opened.
- Flooding – a final report expected from Wessex Water in March. A flood warden is required.
- Parish Stewards – a new scheme will be in place at the start of the new financial year.
- Cumberwell – there is an agreement that commercial traffic going to and from Cumberwell should not travel through Holt. Please report any dumper trucks ignoring the agreement to Cllr. Siddall, together with the registration number.
- Kingston Farm development – traffic to and from the site to be monitored for the time being.
- Footpath 16 is not blocked. A plank has been put in place by the new kissing gate to allow the concrete around the gate to dry and is to be removed.

Bradford-on-Avon Community Area Board: Cllr. Andrew Pearce attended the last meeting which was largely about tourism and ways in which increase visitor numbers to Bradford on Avon.

Holt Tannery Limited Liaison Committee: A meeting has not been held. There is an open day at the Village Hall on 30th January. Councillors were urged to attend.

Dawes' Pond: Previously discussed.

Bowls Club Rent: Mr. Robert Quartley has quoted £500 plus VAT to value the site for rental purposes. It was agreed that at least one, if not two more, valuations should be obtained.

Playing Fields – Proposed Footpath: Some years ago a local resident generously offered £6000 towards creating a footpath in the Playing Fields, to run from Ground Corner to the Playing Fields main gate. Sadly, because of ongoing issues and the overall cost it has not been possible to take up this generous offer. For these reasons, it was proposed, seconded and agreed, two abstentions, that the offer cannot be accepted. However, it is something which the Parish Council would like to see happen in the long term. The Clerk to inform the resident of this decision.

Parish Council Meetings – Venue: It was proposed, seconded and agreed, 7 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention, that in future Parish Council meetings should be held at the Village Hall. The Clerk to make the booking and inform the URC of this decision.

Publication of Unadopted Minutes: It was proposed, seconded and agreed, 3 abstentions, that publication of minutes in the Magazine and on the website should be delayed until they have been adopted by the Council.

Tree Surgery: Cllr. Steve Siddall said following a survey of trees in the Village work needs to be done to ensure safety of the trees which this Council is responsible for and he asked that up to £635 should be spent in this financial year and up to £1500 in 2016/17. Cllr Goodman confirmed that this expenditure is included in the precept. This was unanimously agreed.

Standing Orders – Amendment: Legislation regarding recording of meetings has changed and Standing Order 1i was amended to read:

A person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place if he is present at the meeting of a parish council or its committees but otherwise may:

- a) Film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting;
- b) Use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;
- c) Report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.

Correspondence: Clean for the Queen – Wiltshire Council is promoting a 'Clean for the Queen' weekend, 4th – 6th March in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday. The PC did not think it necessary to participate as work to keep the Village tidy is done on a regular basis.

Wiltshire Council Budget Setting Meetings – a meeting will be held at County Hall, Trowbridge at 5.30pm on 4th February.

Village Inspection: This was done by Cllr. David Cullop and his report has been circulated. Litter in Staverton Lane - the Clerk to follow up with WC.

Accounts for Payment: The following accounts were approved for payment

Wiltshire Waste D/D	£38.88 (VAT £6.48)
Wessex Water	£130.59
S. Siddall/Orchard Fund	£181.84
G..Aland/Caretaking	£325.71
G.Aland/Ground Maintenance	£549.33
JM Beale	£817.66

Remuneration £711.42

Fixed Expenses £ 69.24

Telephone £ 37.00

Any Other Business: Cllr. Steve Siddall said a barn at the Kingston Farm development is to be converted to a dwelling.

Cllr. Halma Hughes to join Highways and Streetscene Committee.