

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held on Thursday, 1st December 2016 at the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Becky Stevens, Cllr. Andrew Pearce, Cllr. Marsha Nicholson, Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Philip Game, Cllr. Halma Hughes, Cllr. Robin Paice, Cllr. Ian Bolden, Cllr. David Cullop.

Apologies: Cllr. Richard Goodman, PCSO Andrew MacLachlan.

In Attendance: Cllr. Trevor Carbin.

.Open Meeting:

PCSO Andrew MacLachlan submitted the following report:

CURRENT PRIORITIES/ SERIES/ EXCEPTIONS Crime exceptions are where the number of crimes of a specific type exceeds the set threshold. There were no exceptions last month. The sector has seen an increase in non-dwelling Burglaries in the last month with sheds and garages being attacked. Please ensure that you secure your outbuildings with a suitably efficient lock. There have also been steady stream of stolen cycles in the sector. Most of the cycles stolen were insecure. Please remember to lock up your bikes!

LOCAL CRIME *Crime statistics 28/10/2016 – 28/11/2016* There have been 33 reported incidents for the Bradford Rural beat of which 0 occurred in Holt. This compares with 34 reported incidents for the Bradford Rural beat of which 0 were 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)	2 (1)	0 (0)	
Anti Social Behaviour (Nuisance)	0 (1)	0 (0)	
Burglary	5 (3)	0 (0)	
Fraud	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Drug Offences	2 (0)	0 (0)	
Criminal Damage	2 (4)	0 (0)	
Public Order Offences	3 (1)	0 (0)	
Theft and Handling	3 (3)	0 (0)	
Violence against the person	3 (8)	0 (0)	
Other	3 (0)	0 (0)	
Concern for Safety	0 (2)	0 (0)	

Domestic related	3 (2)	0 (0)	
Suspicious circumstances	2 (1)	0 (0)	
Transport related	5 (8)	0 (0)	

Other incidents of interest the 5 burglaries were all in a very small area of Staverton and were all non-dwelling. We are progressing well with enquiries.

Success Stories Hayley Beaven, from Green Lane, Holt, was recently sentenced to 5.5 years' imprisonment for supplying class A drugs in the town.

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.

Cllr. Trevor Carbin reported as follows:

- Cemetery Grass cutting – “Wiltshire Council endeavours to cut the grass every four weeks, between the beginning of March and the end of October, both the period between cuts and the number of months cutting can be extended due to weather conditions. WC endeavours to maintain hedges and shrubs through the winter, with one scheduled visit to every area. However, as the grass cutting resource is used on the winter work, with the extended growing season, this can impact upon the amount of winter work undertaken.
- The priority on maintenance is safety. “We will always ensure the soft area maintenance is in a safe condition. There is no statutory maintenance for churchyards, so no base line measure. The requirement is to maintain.” Cllr. Carbin advised the Parish Council to keep an eye on the state of the cemetery and the work done and let WC know if it's not good enough.
- Tree felled in cemetery – “The Cemetery is owned by Wiltshire Council, we removed the tree as it had caused damage to the cemetery wall and it was interfering with the low voltage lines and the BT cables.
With regard to notifying for the conservation area, there was no requirement for us to submit a section 121 notice to the LPA (Local Planning Authority), as there is an exception within the legislation that exempts local authorities from the requirement to notify itself.”
Cllr. Carbin considered it would be in order to remove the wood left from felling the tree.
Councillors considered that it would be courteous of Wiltshire Council to advise those concerned when felling a tree. Cllr. Carbin to pass back to WC.
- Wiltshire Housing Site Allocation DPD – a consultation on a draft Plan is programmed to commence in June 2017, five months later than the previously published programme.
Five year land supply – WC planners have recalculated the land supply to be just under the required level, so developers can still claim the allocations policy to be ‘out of date’. WC also says that because windfall sites on greenfield land are against policy, it won't count them in the figures. If,

however, it was assumed that these would come forward in the future at the same rate as in the past, then the five year land supply would be satisfied and developers would find it more difficult to defeat the policy. Further clarification is being sought.

- Bus Consultation – WC is to cut £500,000.00 of funding from the service. It is not yet known which services will be affected.
- Wiltshire Council budget setting will be done in February. It is likely there will be a 4% increase.

Cllr. Steve Siddall said Mr. Crispin Keyzar will remove the tree trunk from the cemetery.

Declarations of Interests and Dispensation: Cllr. Becky Stevens declared an interest in planning application 16/10393/FUL and did not take part in any discussion relating to the application.

Matters Arising:

- Bus Consultation – previously reported.
- Cemetery Tree – previously reported.
- Pavilion – the Football Club has confirmed that the paint cans, etc. have been removed. Bags of lime remain. The Clerk to follow up.
- BT hedge – not done. The Clerk to follow up.
- Footpath 7, bull sign. Mr. Paul Millard will inspect when time permits.
- Edging stones path adjacent to second sports court - Glove Factory Studios will do the work in April.
- PAT & fire safety checks due to be done in April. Clerk to book.
- Hedges, The Elms – Selwood Housing to cut them back.

Hedges are overhanging the pavement opposite the Playing Fields. The Clerk to write to residents.

Planning Committee Report: Cllr. Steve Siddall reported as follows:

- Tannery development – no progress.
- Barn, Copse Farm, Beckerley Lane – Approved.
- Planning Application 16/102821, Barn, Land off Melksham Road – to meet the deadline for comments, the Planning Committee has objected to this application. The building was approved as an agricultural storage facility in 2004 whose size was clearly out of all proportion with the size of the holding and on the basis that it would not be seen from the road. It was actually built in 2015 as a large scale equestrian facility which can clearly be seen from the road. Change of use from agricultural to equestrian in this area is undesirable
- Planning Application 16/10393/FUL, Barn, Manor Farm – to meet the deadline for comments, the Planning Committee has informed the Planning Department that this Council has no objection to this application.
- Planning Application 16/10536/FUL – Land North of Little Bradford Wood (Forewoods Common) – the proposal is to use the land for growing vegetables and the barn for storage and packing. It was proposed that there

should be no objection to this application, but that efforts should be made through design, materials, colour finish and screen planting to minimise the visual impact of the new building. This was seconded and unanimously agreed.

- Planning Application 16/10820/FUL, 278 The Gravel – Erection of a new small two bedroom house. The Planning Committee proposed objection as follows: The proposed effective removal of the old stone wall for the whole frontage of the property, coupled with the fact that it stands proud of the building line, would make the building appear more prominent in its location and have a detrimental impact on the Conservation Area. The proposal does not meet policy H2.1 of the Holt Neighbourhood Plan. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to object to the application.
- 98 The Street – planning permission was granted for a double garage on the site; it has become apparent that the building is being used as a dwelling. Wiltshire Council to be informed.
- 89 The Street – a ten foot high wooden fence has been erected in place of a hedge; it is not permissible to erect a fence in excess of 2 meters adjacent to a highway. Wiltshire Council to be informed.
- 360 The Street – similarly, a fence in excess of 2 meters has been erected adjacent to the highway. Wiltshire Council to be informed.

Village Facilities Committee Report:

- The American oak tree on Ham Green has been felled and Crispin Keyzar will store/season the main trunk for possible use in making a replacement bench for Dawes Pond. Replacement tree to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Defibrillator – four councillors have submitted written requests for this issue to be reconsidered. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that this should be dealt with in three stages:
 - 1 – a box costing between £800.00 and £850.00 to be purchased and installed on an outside wall at the Village Hall and the existing defibrillator stored there.
 - 2 - when funds permit, a second defibrillator to be purchased and kept at the Village Hall and the existing defibrillator moved to the pavilion.
 - 3 - when funds permit, a second box to be purchased for use at the pavilion.
- Dawes' Pond – in recent years £500.00 p.a. has been precepted for refurbishment of the Pond and £500.00p.a. will continue to be precepted for maintenance. It was suggested that the person who maintains the Pond should also be asked to maintain the stretch of the Brook for which the Parish Council is responsible. VFC to come back to the Council with a firm proposal.
- The Weir – The Council had previously agreed that Mr. Kirkham could remove the weir, subject to approval being given to the Wiltshire Council Land Drainage Engineer (Mr. Steve Scothern). A letter had gone from the Council last month to Mr. Scothern and Mr. Kirkham had also written. Discussion is ongoing as to removal of the weir completely or replacement with a board weir allowing the level of the Brook to be adjusted.

- Thanks were extended to Mr. Keith Tucker for the hedge cutting which he has done. Further work to be carried out.
- Skateboard park – ongoing.
- Replacement swing - £130.00 has already been agreed and a further £45 is required to complete the job. As this is under £100.00, the expenditure was agreed.
- Ground Maintenance Contract and Caretaking – both jobs had been re-specified and have been tendered separately. Cllr. Halma Hughes declared an interest and did not take part in any discussion.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the ground maintenance contract for 2017/2018 should be awarded to Mr. Garry Aland.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the caretaking contract for 2017/2018 should be awarded to Mr. Bob Prior.

- Pedestrian gate – a quote is awaited.
- Five bar gate – Cllr. Steve Siddall to chain up as catch is broken.
- Roundabout and climbing frame – will be done prior to the safety inspection in January.

Highways & Streetscene Committee Report: Cllr. Andrew Pearce reported as follows:

- Holt Manor verges – a response awaited from Wiltshire Council.
- Riparian owners of The Brook – responses awaited.
- The Elms, lowered kerb – it was confirmed that the road is a public highway. The cost of lowering the kerb would be £800 and has to be considered by BCATG; a meeting will not be held until after Christmas. The Parish Council to part fund the project. Cllr. Pearce to approach Selwood Housing for funding.
- Double Yellow Lines, Beckerley Lane. During the consultation period the owners of 185 The Common objected to DYLS outside their property. As a result, the lines are shorter than originally proposed and have probably not sufficiently improved visibility at the junction of Beckerley Lane with The Common. Wiltshire Council to be asked if the junction is safe and letters to be sent to all residents of Beckerley Lane asking if the lines have improved access to the B3107 as they are half the intended length.
- Parking around Ham Green – The narrowness of parts of Ham Green due to inconsiderate parking is an issue, but this is also the case in other areas within the village. Yellow or white lines were considered inappropriate. Situation to be monitored.

Precept: It was agreed at the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 17th November that the precept should be set at £19,725.00, an increase of 4%.

Defibrillator: Previously discussed.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Andrew Pearce reported that there was a 33% turnout for the referendum, which is good. 93% voted in favour of the Plan and 7% against. The result will now go to the governing body of Wiltshire and all statutory bodies originally consulted will be consulted again. This process will take six weeks and, if there are no objections, the Plan will be finally endorsed at a Wiltshire Council meeting in January. Cllr. Pearce said that without Heather Morris there would be no Neighbourhood Plan.

Once the Plan is approved, a way in which to express thanks to Heather Morris and the Steering Group will be considered. The Chairman said it is a fantastic plan which will serve the Village well.

Repairs to Roads and Pavements: Cllr. Ian Bolden asked if there is a plan for repairs. Cllr. Pearce confirmed that there is no plan. Wiltshire Council is short of money and there will definitely not be any funding available in 2017/2018. There are other funds available for big projects and a plan for roads could be developed based on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Steward will repair potholes. Requests for minor work should be reported to MyWiltshire, details of which Cllr. Pearce will publish on the Website and in the Magazine.

Correspondence: Sue Head has thanked the Parish Council for providing a flood kit, which she made use of during a recent heavy storm.

Mrs. Compton has written to the Clerk regarding a defunct street light, missing bus sign and timetable and broken footpath sign. These have been reported to Wiltshire Council.

Village Inspection Report: Cllr. Andrew Pearce carried out the inspection and his report has been circulated. Generally, the Village is looking good. Cllr. Mizen to remove wreaths from the War Memorial. The Clerk to follow up.

Parish Steward – Task List: Cllr. Pearce and the Clerk to liaise regarding work to be done.

The Steward to be asked to cut back overgrowth opposite the entrance to Ground Corner.

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

Pestforce/Mole Eradication	£ 140.00	
Wiltshire Publications Ltd/NH Grant	£ 84.00	
Avon Printing Services/NH Grant	£1760.00	(VAT £12.00)
Grist Environmental/D/D	£ 4.80	(VAT 0.80)
Cllr. Steve Siddall/Orchard Fund	£ 113.46	(VAT £18.91)
Grant Thornton/Audit Fee	£ 300.00	(VAT £50.00)
Crispen Keyzar/Works to Trees	£ 280.00	
SLCC Annual Sub	£ 93.00	
G. Aland/Caretaking	£ 198.00	
G.Aland/Ground Maintenance	£ 229.00	
JM Beale	£ 436.82	
Remuneration	£ 355.71	

Fixed Expenses	£ 34.62
Stationery	£ 27.99 (VAT £4.58)
Telephone	£ 18.50

Website:

- i) **Committee Update:** Cllrs. Nicholson and Siddall have met and have made minor alterations to the website. A meeting to be held with Mr. David Huggins regarding further improvements
- ii) **Information for Posting:** Details of MyWiltshire app.

Oak Bench: £1550.00 has been received from Aviva, the full value less the £250.00 excess. VFC to consider a replacement bench and recommendations to be brought to the next meeting.

Councillor Hughes left the meeting.

Chairman's Chair: Cllr. Steve Siddall said the chair was presented to the Village Hall for use by chairmen by the late Mrs Peggy Bucknell in memory of her husband, Mr. Geoffrey Bucknell. Cllr. Siddall proposed that the chair should be used for the purpose for which it was intended, this was seconded and vote taken – 7 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Any Other Business: Cllr. Marsha Nicholson queried the purpose of a fenced area in the fields behind The Midlands. It is believed that it is for use by the landowner's greyhounds.

Footpath 31 DMMO – an objection has been received on the grounds that the path has never been walked. This will now go the Western Area Planning Committee meeting on 14th December. It is important that the Parish Council is represented at that meeting and Cllr Nicholson will attend if possible and asked for other councillors to also attend; she will draft a script. Three independent witnesses will also attend.

Cllr. Becky Stevens asked councillors to put the 2017 dates for meetings and the village inspection rota in their diaries and closed the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.