

## UNADOPTED

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 at the Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr Becky Stevens, Cllr Andrew Pearce, Cllr Marsha Nicholson, Cllr Bob Mizen, Cllr Steve Siddall, Cllr Richard Goodman, Cllr Halma Hughes, Cllr Ian Bolden, Cllr Philip Game.

**Apologies:** Cllr Robin Paice, Cllr David Cullop, Jennie Beale (Clerk).

**In Attendance:** Cllr Trevor Carbin, two members of the public and five members of the Youth Club.

**Open meeting:** A member of the Youth Club, said that they had attended to protest that the late session of the Club (for the older members) had been cancelled because of alleged misbehaviour. Cllr Stevens explained that the Club was not run by the Council, although it made a financial contribution, but had a group of Trustees of which she was one. She also outlined incidents of vandalism that had been undoubtedly perpetrated by club members, which had continued, despite the efforts of the Club leaders to control them. She thought that a possible way forward might be for some members and their parents to meet Rob Curtis, the Club leader, to plan a way forward.

Meghan Doran said she lives on The Common near the junction with Beckerley Lane and was strongly opposed to the proposed extension of the double yellow lines there, preferring other traffic calming measures to make turning out of the junction safer. It was explained that the proposal was still under consideration and no decision had yet been made.

Trevor Carbin reported as follows:

- Wiltshire Council had decided that council tax should be increased by 5% for 2017/8.
- He referred to a small amount of money available to repair pavements which the PC might like to claim on.
- He thought it would be difficult to revisit the issue of the double yellow lines (mentioned above) so soon after they had been provided.

- A motion to full Council suggesting a designated fund for the protection of rights of way had been defeated.

He was asked to support the Parish in maintaining the local agreement on tenancies in Star Ground in the current discussions on a new Housing Allocation Policy.

PCSO Andrew MacLachlan had sent a report. There was no reported crime in Holt from 22<sup>nd</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, but one road traffic accident had caused minor injury.

**Declarations of Interest and Dispensation:** There were none.

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017:**

Amendments were made as follows:

- Declarations of Interest etc... replace “31 and 73” with “31/73”.

The minutes were then approved and signed.

### **Matters arising:**

- Footpath 7, bull sign – still no action. Clerk to contact Paul Millard’s manager highlighting the Council’s concern regarding lack of action.
- Bob Prior is confirmed as self-employed.
- No letter had yet been sent to the riparian owners of The Brook

### **Planning Committee Report:**

The objection to the barn on Melksham Road had now been closed down by the Enforcement Officer. It may be used for equestrian purposes, but not the field around it.

*Post hoc* planning permission for the development of an annexe at 98 The Street had now been sought. There is insufficient parking space for the two dwellings now on site (four places) so it was

agreed to object to the development in line with planning policy included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Retrospective permission is now being sought for the fence at the rear of 360 The Walk. This is too high and unsightly for the conservation area, so it was agreed to object.

There was no further news on the Tannery development.

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

- The new defibrillator is about to be installed outside the Village Hall in a secure box which needs a 999 call from the adjacent phone to obtain the code to open it.
- It appears that there are now funds available to provide a second box for the defibrillator in the pavilion. A debate ensued as to whether it too needs to be in a secure box, probably with a “break glass” key container, or whether it should be immediately available in a non-secure box. It was agreed to seek advice from our insurers as to whether this would be acceptable. Cllr Hughes to research other boxes available. The matter will be finalised at the next meeting.
- • Arising from the felling of the diseased tree on Ham Green, Cllr Siddall had prepared a report on whether it should be replaced and related matters. The Tree Sub Committee had prepared a report for the VRC which had accepted the conclusions which were:
  - o The large horse chestnuts have considerable life remaining.
  - o The immature silver birch which now stands alone creates a scruffy, cluttered aspect to the Green. It will grow to double its present height. Subject to appropriate consultation and permission it should be removed.
  - o The turkey oak should be retained.
  - o There are no opportunities for new tree planting on Ham Green.
  - o There are plenty of opportunities for tree planting elsewhere in the village.
  - • He had concluded that the half-grown silver birch should also be removed, as it was not related in type or position with any other trees and indeed, cluttered up the general view. Overall, this was generally agreed, but further steps need to be taken:
    - i. Check as far as is possible whether the tree was planted in memory of anybody, or anything else.
    - ii. Plan to plant replacement tree(s) elsewhere in the village
    - iii. Consult with the village via the Magazine

- iv. Seek permission from Wiltshire Council.
- It was thought that the horse chestnut trees, barring any future diseases, should survive another 50
- Keith Tucker has now completed the cutting of the hedge around the playing field. The Clerk will send a letter of thanks.
  - It was agreed that the Pavilion floor should be repainted at a cost of £335.00
  - It was agreed that a replacement Union flag for the Village Green would be purchased at a cost of £133.00, and that a Wiltshire flag should also be obtained
  - Crispin Keyser will provide a design and an estimated cost for a new bench made from the tree recently felled on the Green, which will be securely installed by Dawes Pond.
  - The Drainage Officer has indicated that he will raise no objection to removing the weir in the brook, so formal permission will now be sought from Wiltshire Council.
  - As the skateboard park can no longer be pursued, a request for a “Pump Track” for bicycles has been made, and will be investigated, including asking Wiltshire Council for their opinion.

**Village Inspection Report:** Cllr Siddall had circulated his report.

- The Parish Steward will be asked to attend to various removals of leaves, branches etc. The parasite affecting horse chestnut trees shelters in fallen leaves over the winter, so removing the leaves as soon as possible should reduce the problem for next year.
- 359 The Walk will be asked to cut back their bay tree.
- The hedge round the BT property on the Midlands has only been partially dealt with. BT will be asked to remove all the growth as it actually covers a stone wall

**Highways & Streetscene Committee Report:** Cllr Andrew Pearce reported that no meeting had been held as several items are awaiting a response from Wiltshire Council.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** As two committees are considering actions to be taken within the Parish on items in the Plan, this will be a substantive item on future agendas to report progress. Matters so far discussed are:

- The suggested village gateways should be pursued urgently
- A Flood Warden needs to be appointed. It was agreed to wait until after the elections in May
- Possible extensions to various footpaths are being actively investigated
- Rob Curtis, Youth Club leader, will be involved in discussions on facilities for young people.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cllr Hughes had requested a monthly report on the state of the Council's finances. Cllr Goodman said that the informal system in place controls it satisfactorily, as all expenditure over £100.00 is routinely approved by the Council. The Clerk is the responsible financial officer who records all income and expenditure. Cllrs Stevens, Goodman and the Clerk will consider the matter.

**Parish Council Elections:** All seven pages of the application forms to stand for election have to be hand delivered (not posted) to County Hall by 4pm on 4th April. Forms will be available from the Clerk, or on line.

A flyer to encourage people to stand will be delivered to all dwellings in Holt in the near future.

**Boxfest - July 2017:** This event will be held for the second time on 8<sup>th</sup> July. A contribution to Parish Council funds will be sought as last year. The Clerk to contact Box Steam Brewery.

**Correspondence:** Rob Curtis has confirmed why the late session of the youth club has been closed for the foreseeable future.

**Parish Steward:** Cllr Pearce will collect any requests ready for his next visit in mid-March.

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

|                |                    |         |
|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| Mr R. Prior    | Playground repairs | £296.40 |
| Cllr R. Mizen  | Reimbursement      | £ 32.00 |
| G.Aland        | Ground Maintenance | £158.40 |
| J.M.Beale      | December & January | £408.83 |
| Remuneration   | £355.71            |         |
| Fixed expenses | £ 34.62            |         |
| Telephone      | £ 18.50            |         |

**Website:**

Committee Update, Nothing to report this month.  
Information for posting, update on trees on Ham Green and  
information regarding the elections in May. Cllr Nicholson  
to post.

**Any other Business:**

None

