

UNADOPTED.

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday, 28th September 2017.

Present: Cllr. Becky Stevens, Cllr. Andrew Pearce, Cllr. Marsha Nicholson, Cllr. Dee Rickard, Cllr. Halma Hughes, Cllr. Ian Bolden, Cllr. Andrew Pepler, Cllr. Richard Goodman.

In Attendance: Cllr. Trevor Carbin,

Apologies: Cllr. Bob Mizen, Cllr. Steve Siddall, Cllr. Philip Game, PCSO Andrew MacLachlan.

Open Meeting:

Cllr. Trevor Carbin reported as follows:

- Substantive Highway Scheme – this could be used for junction improvements in line with the Neighbourhood Plan, bids to be in September 2018. Meeting agreed that this was worth pursuing. Cllr. Carbin will update Clerk on progress.
- Discussion regarding zebra crossing, difficult to see as it has become faded. This is a safety issue. Cllr. Carbin will follow this up.
- Discussion around junction at Beckerley Lane and yellow lines, a further safety issue. Cllr. Carbin to arrange site meeting with WC. Cllr Carbin will update Clerk on progress.

PCSO Andrew MacLachlan has submitted the following report:

“The month of August showed that crimes were slightly higher than what we would expect to see, compared to previous years. Wiltshire Police recorded 69 crimes throughout the month, compared to 38 crimes for the same time period last year. There is no single cause for this; and we have seen a small increase across the board for all crime types, although none showing as an exception.

During August, we saw a number of reports relating to antisocial behaviour, specifically in and around the Station Approach area. Local officers are working closely with partner agencies to ensure that appropriate support is offered to the group of youths involved, in order to prevent their behaviour escalating to that of a criminal level. “

Declarations & Interest and Dispensation:

Cllr. Bolden – has a planning application being discussed today.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th July 2017: These minutes were approved, with one amendment, and signed.

Matters Arising:

- Sign at Summer Lane, Great Chalfield has not yet been replaced. The Clerk to follow up
- Speed indicator traffic signs – a response is awaited from Melksham without Parish Council. Clerk has response stating that it will not be possible to move this forward with them, however their clerk is sending details of another parish council who may link with us.
- Holt Mini Bus raised by Mr Hepworth. Cllr. Hughes has contacted Mr Hepworth.
- GFS parking – there is anecdotal evidence that this has been taking place – Clerk to follow up.
- Cllr Hughes raised the division of pavements for inspection. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Hughes would divide amongst councillors and send a list to each councillor.

Planning: Cllr. Stevens presented the following report:

- Large horse chestnut tree – request removal due to disease. Decision to be made by Wiltshire Council Arborist.
- Fence, 89 The Street – has been removed.

Village Facilities Committee:

- The grass cutting specification has been revised, this continues to be monitored.
- Strimming required as a separate item for billing.
- Playing Fields hedge – Mr. Keith Tucker has been asked to cut the hedge in the Autumn.
- Netball Club – £25 donation has been made for use of toilets. Their advertising banner has now been removed.
- Gates at play area – both are now broken, being looked into, possibly new gates. This is ongoing.
- Play area fencing – Looking into cost of replacement as it is now looking “in a sorry state”. This is ongoing.
- Scrambling net – Cllr. Siddall has made repairs.
- The electric supply to Dawes’ Pond – an alternative contractor is now being sought.

- Landscaping of slope to pond – Cllr Pepler is seeking a quote.

- Football Club has been seeking to raise funds through social media for new showers. Cllr. Mizen is dealing with this.
- Holt Sports and Recreation Committee have requested an additional litter bin. There had previously been 2 bins. New bin £168, to be concreted in. Agreement to additional small cost if this is needed. Proposed: Cllr. Nicholson, Seconded: Cllr. Goodman, agreed unanimously.
- Holt Sports and Recreation Committee would like to replace the 2 benches at their cost. Discussion around whether these were to be a gift regarding maintenance. Further discussion to be had around this issue. The meeting agreed in principal to this request. Discussion around re-use of existing benches – one to play area and second to pond area.
- Wording for sign in play area – to go ahead, using Clerk's email address for contact.
- Location of pond hazard sign – thoughts that it is not in its best position. A proposal was put forward, after discussion, that the sign be moved to a different post. Proposed: Cllr. Stevens, seconded: Cllr. Nicholson, vote split therefore chair's decision to relocate sign.
- Oak Bench – Mr Crispin Keysar has advised will be completed in timescale.

Village Inspection Report:

Cllr. Hughes stated that he felt that the template is not comprehensive enough for the village. After discussion, Village Facilities Committee to review the format.

Observations from Cllr. Hughes:

- Rubbish is getting worse throughout the village, no specific area.
- Tree by Tollgate has shed conkers and shells, potential trip hazard. Task for Parish Steward.
- Rubbish pile on green, this was removed in 24 hours.
- Skip and rubbish, concern whether this is licensed. This has been in position for 2 weeks. Cllr. Hughes to email location to Clerk who will follow this up with Wiltshire Council.
- Overgrown brambles and nettles in empty house backing onto The Walk. Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council.
- Discussion around removal of over hanging hedges and whether an individual or Parish council can remove. Clerk to follow this up.
- Hedge on corner of Midlands Road is mildly overgrown.

Parish Steward Task List: Requests for work to the Clerk or Cllr. Pearce.

Highways & Streetscene Committee Report: The minutes of a recent meeting have been circulated.

- A review of pavements to be done. Cllr. Halma Hughes will divide the pavements and email each councillor with their list for completion

Neighbourhood Plan:

Routes are being identified for potential join up to existing cycle and footpaths. Need to identify best route – this is being worked on.

Facilities for young people and allotments – sites around the village have been identified – this work is ongoing

Luncheon Club:

A request is being made for a contribution towards replacement of the existing cooker. It is 20 years old and has previously been condemned on 2 separate occasions. The area board have contributed of £1500 grant. The total cost is £5852. Discussion around section 137 funding, Village Hall Committee responsibility and who else will use the cooker.

Proposal: that a donation is made to the Luncheon Club of £1000 towards the purchase of a cooker that resides in the village hall providing the Village Hall Committee make up the remaining cost.

Proposed: Cllr. Bolden, seconded: Cllr.Hughes. Approved with one abstention.

Cllr Nicholson raised the issue regarding reviewing the existing S137 policy. Cllr Goodman and the Finance committee to review.

Footpath Survey Reports:

Deadline today. All completed bar one. Cllr Goodman and Cllr. Bolden need to draft their report.

Correspondence:

Cllr Stevens has received a letter through her door from an individual who wishes to remain anonymous. They are concerned regarding rodent activity in the village, particularly in the Avonfield area. Cllr. Stevens will visit the writer of the letter to discuss their concerns.

Accounts for Payment: Proposed: Cllr Goodman, seconded: Cllr.Pepler, unanimously agreed.

Gary Aland – ground maintenance

2 months with increased grass cutting £795.00

R Prior – caretaking £376.46

Grist Environmental July and August £ 55.08

Bradford Town Youth Football £265.20

50% goal mouth maintenance	
Came and Company Insurance	£1173.07
Clerk J Beale	£659.79
Wiltshire Council – dropped kerb – The Elms	£284.00
Lamming and Son – printers Pond Sign	£158.40
Crispin Keyzor – Tree Surgeon	£500.00
Clerk – M Hill	£355.71

Website:

- Cllr. Marsha Nicholson stated that other parish councils publicise councillor's contact details on website, agreed that this would be now included.
- New clerk is now able to upload documents.
- Contact Cllr. Nicholson or clerk with any content.

Any Other Business:

- Cllr. Pepler asked if there was an update on the application to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Action Fund. The closing date was 11/08/2017. Cllr. Pearce to follow up.
- Cllr Ian Bolden brought up the matter of a tree replacement plan. Cllr Stevens advised that there is a Tree Committee and suggested the Cllr Bolden may like to become part of it. Cllr. Goodman suggested that this may also be a precept issue.
- Cllr. Nicholson suggested that preparations would need to be made should Michelle Donelan MP plan to visit on another occasion. Clerk to contact MP's office asking to be advised if MP is intending to attend a future meeting.
- Cllr. Hughes suggested an agenda item for the next meeting regarding the length of time that an individual can speak at open part of a meeting. As this was a standing order matter, the agenda item would be to review Standing Orders.
- Cllr Stevens is collecting contributions towards a leaving gift for the retiring Clerk.

