

## **UNADOPTED**

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**Present:** Cllr Becky Stevens, Cllr Andrew Pearce, Cllr Marsha Nicholson, Cllr Dee Rickard, Cllr Andrew Pepler, Cllr Richard Goodman, Cllr Bob Mizen, Cllr Steve Siddall, Cllr Philip Game

**In Attendance:** Cllr Trevor Carbin

**Apologies:** Cllr Ian Bolden, Cllr Halma Hughes

**Open meeting:** PCSO Andy McLachlan outlined the current Community Policing report, which reminds people of the extra importance of security for houses and cars during the festive season. There had been no reports of crime in Holt, although councillors had heard of tyre slashing in Avonfield, which may not have been reported.

Alan Fox said he had attended the meeting for two reasons:

The first was the continuing problem of the speed and volume of traffic on the B3107, particularly that entering the village from the Melksham direction. He was told that as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Highways and Streetscene Committee were working with the Wiltshire traffic engineers on possible traffic calming measures.

The second was concerning support for the Youth Club and other initiatives for the young people of the village. He was grateful for the continuing financial support from the Parish Council, and the development of the proposed pump track. (Cllr Mizen said that because of the recent death of the owner of the agreed site, further progress was held up for two or three months whilst probate was obtained.) He said that those organising these activities were of increasing age, and the involvement of younger parents and others was being urgently sought, as was contact with the secondary schools that the children attended. A public meeting to relaunch support for the youth would be held soon.

Trevor Carbin was asked to pursue the reinstatement of the Holt road sign on Summer Lane with Wiltshire Council. The process of double yellow lines was also discussed.

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

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017:** The minutes for 26<sup>th</sup> October were approved and signed. A major addition to the minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> November was approved and the minutes signed.

**Matters arising:** There may be an opportunity to share a speed indicator sign with a neighbouring parish. Under trial for three months. To be pursued in the spring. Footpath 34, the barbed wire on the fence has not been removed. Cllr Nicholson to follow up. The planning inspectorate hearing regarding footpath 73 ( previously 31) will be held in the village hall on 14 March 2018.

**Youth Club Donation:** This item raised the question as to whether the Parish Council should regard itself as a grant-giving body that precepted a specific sum under Section 137 to be bid for annually, or whether any requests for funding should be debated individually. It was generally agreed that the second option should be pursued.

It was agreed to donate £600 to Holt Youth Club this year.

**Planning Committee Report:** Cllr Siddall had circulated the planning requests received since the last meeting, none of which were controversial.

He reported that the garden fence erected without planning permission at no 360 The Walk, was refused on appeal, was still in place and in the hands of the Planning Enforcement team.

The Holt Tannery Liaison Committee are to meet with the Developers on 8 January 2018

It had been confirmed that the conversion of a barn at Copse Farm into a dwelling was permitted after a recent change in the law, which caused some amazement!

**Village Facilities Committee:** Cllr Mizen presented the minutes of the Committee held on 4 December 2017.

Proposals for landscaping the slope to the Glove Factory from the Recreation Ground were still under discussion. The main gates to the Recreation Ground will be painted when the weather allows. Dawes Pond is now being maintained by the caretaker. Electrical supply to the pond is still awaited.

There are eleven metal benches around the village, all about 100 years old, of which four require some repair and painting. The priority is the one by the pavilion. An informal quote of £200 per bench has been received, and as this programme had been agreed by the Council and included within the precept it would now proceed.

It was agreed that the VFC should produce a programme of work so priorities for implementation could be set.

**Village Inspection:** Cllr Rickard apologised for not undertaking an inspection.

**Parish Steward:** Jobs for the Steward should be reported to Cllr Pearce. Leaves under the bench in the Midlands need removing, and the Holt sign on the B3105 is obscured by vegetation.

**Highways & Streetscene Committee:** A useful meeting had been held with the Wiltshire traffic engineers to work out a plan for traffic calming on the B3107. Notification had been received that a scheme to upgrade the pavements past the Recreation Ground and opposite the Village Hall in the Midlands will be undertaken shortly.

It was agreed that double yellow lines would be requested to complete the parking restriction on the west side of the Beckerley Lane junction with The Common, and along The Street around the bend outside the United Reform Church.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** A recent letter from Wiltshire seems to indicate they are revisiting the housing section of their Corporate Strategy. Clarification would be sought on the effect of this on our Neighbourhood Plan.

**National Trust Leaf Clearance:** A letter of thanks will be sent the NT for their work on clearing dead leaves from the Green. They would also be asked if they would be willing to give professional advice on the care and maintenance of the hedge round the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Steward will be asked not to pile dead leaves on the grass next year.

**Correspondence:** Jennie Beale had written to thank the Council for her leaving gift.

Peter Dunford from Wiltshire Council has asked whether we would support a music event, which was agreed. Details to be circulated to other potential interested groups within the village.

A parishioner has asked whether the PC could help dissuade dog walkers from leaving plastic bags of dog poo hanging on fences, bushes etc. It was thought to be a national problem but a piece in the magazine might help locally. Cllr Stevens agreed to draft a piece for the magazine and the website.

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

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Steve Siddall – reimbursement of apple orchard payments | £245.10 |
| Bob Prior – caretaker                                   | £84.99  |
| Gary Aland – grass-cutting                              | £160.00 |
| Water supply to the Pavilion                            | £68.51  |
| Emergency work to willow tree                           | £810.00 |
| Bob Mizen – Sign and signpost                           | £165.30 |
| Clerk   | £335.71 |

**Website:** A section for planning matters is to be added to the website.

It was thought that an automatic count of visits to the website should be arranged.

**Any other business:** The Councils approach to its use of social media to be put on next month's agenda, together with assets of community value. The Chair wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

**Dates of next meetings:** A list of meeting dates for 2018 had been circulated, the next being on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

The March meeting had been scheduled for the day before Good Friday, and it was agreed to change it to the week before, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.