

Adopted

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

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

**In Attendance:** Cllr Trevor Carbin, PCSO Andy McLachlan, 2 members of the public

**Open Meeting:** Andy McLachlan had circulated his report by email and highlighted a spate of “car key break-ins” where the sole intention is to find car keys to steal a vehicle. They advise secure storage of car keys away from outside doors. He advised that Holt should apply again for Community Speed watch as more than a year has elapsed since our last attempt, which had been turned down because the traffic was too slow to merit it.

Trevor Carbin will check up on progress with a possible HGV limit in Holt.

The landowner has assured Wiltshire Council that the overgrown hedge on the road by Holt Manor will be cut. Cllr Siddall confirmed that this has to be done by 1<sup>st</sup> March to avoid disturbance of nesting birds. (Post-meeting note – now done!)

**Declarations of Interest & Dispensation:** Cllr Becky Stevens declared an interest in Footpath 73.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017:** The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising except those dealt with in Committee reports below:**

A letter of thanks had been sent to the National Trust for leaf clearing on the Green.

A musical event aimed at all ages, hosted by Wiltshire Rural Music, will be held in the Village Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Cllr Stevens will be writing an article for the magazine deploring the careless disposal of dog poo bags around the village.

**Planning Committee Report:** Cllr Siddall confirmed there had been several non-controversial applications which the Committee had agreed.

Merkins Farm had made a late retrospective application for the café, on which no objection had been raised.

A revised application has been made for an agricultural building in the greenbelt next to The Causeway, on a new site and with an entrance from the road, to which we had objected the first time. It was now felt to be in a more prominent position, the proposed materials were not in keeping with a Green Belt site, and there should be a planting scheme to shelter the building. It was agreed we should continue to object.

The fence erected on the B3107: a retrospective planning application had failed, as had a subsequent appeal. The owners then approached the Planning Dept. to ask whether erecting a fence required planning permission, they were inexplicably told it did not. Cllr Carbin will pursue the matter!

A meeting of the Tannery Liaison Committee had been held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and the project seems to be proceeding satisfactorily. Pre-application discussions had continued to take place, and the Traffic Dept had required some changes to vehicular access and the road junction outside the Village Hall, plans of which Cllr Siddall circulated. It was thought that the road junction plan had not gone far enough to ensure the safety of the 40,000 people a year who cross the main road to reach The Courts with two “informal” crossings, which seems to be at least partly due to Wiltshire Council’s reluctance to fund the capital and revenue costs of a more functional solution. Councillors will email their views to Cllr Siddall, and the matter will be considered by Tannery Committee.

When the final planning application is submitted, if there are no fundamental objections, it will be passed by the officers, and, optimistically, spades may hit the ground in September. The first stage will be building houses as the revenue from the sales will be required to renovate the listed buildings.

An extended contamination survey of the site, which included the field suggested for the Pump Track and the allotments, had shown there was no contamination.

The question was asked whether the track from Leigh Road to the Glove Factory should be eradicated now the building was finished, but in fact, planning permission exists for more building so the track can stay.

A parishioner had written to ask whether we were aware that the field on the north-east side of Leigh Road immediately outside the village boundary was owned by a developer and had been theoretically divided into 122 building plots, all of which had been speculatively sold in South Africa as an investment, raising a total of about £1.5m, with the expectation that the investors would realise their profits in about 10 years' time. The Neighbourhood Plan shows that this land is outside the Settlement Boundary and about half of it is in the Green Belt, so unless the law changes radically, no building can take place. Cllr Siddall will reply to the letter.

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

The Pavilion has now been cleared, so a new lock for the garage door will shortly be fitted.

The electricity supply to the pond had still not been fitted, which because of the recent rains, was not a problem, but the electrician will be chased up.

Discussion on the landscaping of the slope from the Glove Factory to the Recreation Ground was continuing!

The surplus wooden benches had been offered to the Bowls Club, but it was feared that the recent gales had destroyed them.

A programme to renovate the remaining metal benches would be undertaken when the weather improves.

The annual safety inspection of the Recreation Ground will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

**Village Inspection Report:** Cllr Game's report had been circulated. Cllr Rickard will undertake the next one.

**Parish Steward:** It appeared that no visit had been made during January. Any jobs should be reported to Cllr Pearce.

**Highways & Streetscene Committee:** Cllr Rickard was taking forward the claim on the special funding for traffic calming near schools with advisory 20mph limits.

The Committee has produced a detailed work-up of the traffic tasks suggested in the Neighbourhood Plan, which it was agreed should be passed to the Wiltshire Council traffic engineers for detailed planning and costing. When these were known, the proposals will be brought back to the PC for agreement and possible part funding.

They also recommended that the PC should purchase Speed Indicators for both ends of the Village, and that a new steel bus shelter should be purchased to replace the unsightly one by the Three Lions. Detailed proposals will be brought to a future meeting.

The proposed double yellow line near Beckerley Lane and the URC were confirmed as being on the list for Wiltshire Council to consider.

The sorry state of the Zebra crossing on the B3107 was raised. It was generally agreed to be in a dangerous state, particularly as the road markings have been almost obliterated, and the flashing lights are too faint to be seen in daylight. Wiltshire Council will be asked to take urgent action to remedy this situation.

We had been notified that work would start on the 5<sup>th</sup> January to upgrade the pavements by the Recreation Ground and by the stream in The Midlands but nothing has happened. Wiltshire Council will be contacted.

(Cllr Stevens took no part in the next item)

Cllr Nicholson reminded councillors that the official enquiry into the reinstatement of Footpath 73 would take place at 10am on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in the upper room of the Village Hall and asked that anyone who had written to say they had used this footpath should attend.

**Assets of Community Value:** Cllr Bolden had gathered the necessary information to complete the forms to register the assets of community value identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that the Merkins Farm Café should be added to the list. The forms will be completed, and private owners of the assets would be notified of the intended registration. Each asset will then be voted on individually.

**Parish Council and Social Media:** Advice had been obtained from WALC on this subject and will be circulated to all Councillors for consideration before the next meeting.

**Parish Clerk Vacancy:** As only one candidate had come forward, it was agreed that the deadline for applications would be extended to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

The vacancy would be circulated on “Spotted in Holt” and by a poster in the shop.

**Best Kept Village:** It was agreed that we would enter the CPRE’s and The Hills Group Best Kept Village competition this year.

**Recreation Ground Hedge:** Grateful thanks to be conveyed to Keith Tucker and his team for the really good job they did in cutting this hedge.

**Parish Precept:** Cllr Game had circulated a proposed change of policy regarding the setting of the annual precept, which councillors will consider and discuss at a future meeting.

**Next Meeting:** will be held on 22 February 2018. Apologies from Cllr Stevens.