

A meeting of Holt Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 22nd February 2018.

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

In Attendance: Cllr Trevor Carbin, 2 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Becky Stevens, Cllr Marsha Nicholson

Open Meeting:

Trevor Carbin reported HGV limit survey is to be undertaken on B3105 but no plans in Holt. Trevor to enquire.

Declarations of Interest & Dispensation: None

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th January 2018: The minutes of this meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising except those dealt with in Committee reports below:

Cllr Game has agreed to replace Cllr Stevens in the writing of an article for the magazine deploring the careless disposal of dog poo bags around the village.

Discussion was held on what further action to take regarding the Parish Clerk vacancy as increased advertising in the Village Shop and on Spotted in Holt website has not resulted in further candidates. It was concluded that any current applications would be considered and interviewed, with a 3 month provisional contract if appropriate for selection.

Highways & Streetscene Committee:

This item was brought forward on the Agenda at the request of Cllr Hughes

Cost of gates to be installed at both ends of the village in an attempt to slow down traffic is being investigated.

Costs of re-enforcing the presence of the roundabout by the Tollgate are being sought.

Cllr Hughes will pursue cost information for the other priority Highways Projects within the village that PC can do.

Following a report from a Traffic Safety Officer from WC, CATG have agreed that the re-painting of lines on the Zebra crossing and changes to the lights (at a cost of approx £2k) are high priority and 2nd on their list of priorities in the area. Due to well publicised Government cut backs there is limited funding available for this at the current time. The Parish Council agreed this was a priority for the village and via the Clerk will contact WC to offer to contribute £1k to funding towards the lights if they undertake the lines.

The Bradford on Avon Traffic Group also discussed the proposal for flood gates for Staverton Lane and The Causeway. There are regular occurrences of people ignoring the existing flood warning signs on this stretch of road and the Police and Fire Services feel the resources they use to rescue stranded vehicles could be better used. However the Environment Agency and Fire Service have also confirmed they have no funding to pay for the flood gates, which would cost approx £10k. The Area Board will investigate further.

Notification has been received from WC that the Highways Dept. will be working on replacing the pavement between Ground Corner and the junction at The Midlands, alongside the recreation ground, from 16th March for 10 days, so traffic lights will be installed in this area. They will also be repaving the pavement along the Midlands to the Glove Factory.

The Highways Dept. are seeking approval from the Village Hall committee to allow residents of the closed area to park in the village Hall car park during these works, as officially only users of the Village Hall and The Courts are permitted to park in the car park.

Cllr Hughes left the meeting at this point.

Planning Committee Report:

Merkins Farm made a late retrospective application for the café, which has been granted.

Trees: An application has been made to remove/prune a yew tree at Starfield Court, which is the subject of a TPO. The Planning Committee recommended that we should object, and the PC agreed – 6 for, 2 abstentions

Holt Tannery update:

Members of the Tannery Liaison Committee met with the development team (19 Feb 18) and their highways consultant (Chris Miles) to discuss concerns raised at the last PC meeting and a subsequent HTLC meeting. Chris Beaver

gave an update on the project which still anticipated submission of an application in early March. There were a few reports outstanding and further work on plans for clearing the site.

Chris Miles then took us through his proposals starting at the site entrance. The (leaf collecting) bench recess would be replaced by a small landscaped area bounded by a new footway into the site. The area of trees and scrub opposite the entrance would be replaced by a new footway (the resident of the adjacent house was in favour). DYLS were required on both sides to keep the entrance splay clear. A new length of footway was also proposed past the old canteen and car park cottage ending in steps up to the VH car park. The PC team undertook to check that the VH were happy with this. The verge alongside the car park would be kerbed, reduced in height and planted with trees. The proposal for a parking refuge alongside the Brook was discussed addressing concern at the loss of 2 spaces. Chris Miles explained that the refuge could not be extended towards the junction as 4.5m width (2 cars passing) could not be maintained. There was a utility pole at the other end which could be moved at some expense to provide another space.

The main concern of the PC side was the lack of any speed attenuation or real safety measures for the proposed crossing points of the B3107. Chris Miles explained that he had discussed possibilities with WC Highways who were adamant that they would not accept any proposal that would become maintenance liability (essentially, anything other than black tarmac). He then explained why a pelican crossing would be unsuitable (it would have to be so far from the junction that nobody would use it). Having discussed the matter it was decided that some form of crossing marking/ calming measure was essential. The possibility of a full depth strip of coloured tarmac with granite setts either side for each crossing might be possible. Whatever we decided, it would be necessary to get our Councillor and a rep from the PC into the s278 meeting (developer and WC Highways) to insist on appropriate road safety improvements. Parking for the shop was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would facilitate a meeting between the developers and the shop owners in the near future.

A request made by Cllr Goodman was accepted unanimously that a separate extraordinary meeting should be held to discuss the Tannery Planning application.

Village Facilities Committee Report:

“Eggs” to fix the scramble net have been sourced and approval was given to purchase them in order to fix the net.

A request was made that due to the approaching financial year end, and time it takes for purchases to be processed, any budget not spent at year end is carried forward into 2018/19 financial year. This was agreed by Cllr Goodman on behalf of the Finance Committee.

The electricity supply to the pond has been fitted.

The safety of the existing benches in the play area is to be tested, as although they appear in a bad state they are still safe.

Local resident Mr Paul Bloomfield helped Councillors clear rubbish from the pavilion garage and supplied transport for disposing of same. Council agreed that a £30.00 Box Steam Brewery voucher be given to him in thanks for his help.

Leaves in areas leading up to the Tollgate have been swept on to the public green areas. The Clerk will write to people in the local area to request they are disposed of rather than moved into public areas.

It was proposed that the store room in the Pavilion should be fitted out with a cider press, which was unanimously agreed.

Tree by Dawes pond – Cllr Siddall expressed concern about the quantity of leaves that ended up in the pond last Autumn which decay in the pond, removing oxygen and building up nitrogen levels, leading to excessive weed and algae growth which pollute the water.

These mostly come from an ash and a prunus tree between the pond and the Bowls Club (prevailing wind side). The tree surgeon has been asked to look at the 2 trees and suggest how the volume of leaves can be reduced. He has recommended that the volume of the crown of the ash be reduced and that some branches that overhang the Bowls Club be removed. The prunus is nearing the end of its life and is showing signs of disease and should be removed.

This work will need WC planning approval as it is in the Conservation area. It is possible to plant some new trees in the area that will not impact the pond.

Proposed by Cllr Siddall, seconded by Cllr Rickard, 5 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Cllr Goodman suggested that planting a new hedge to hide the wire fence around the Bowls Club would enhance the area.

Village Inspection Report: Cllr Rickard's report had been circulated.

Parish Steward: An outline of the Parish Steward scheme will be circulated to remind councillors of possible works. Cllr Mizen recommended the PC wait for the appointment of new clerk before accumulating a list of tasks.

Correspondence: A complaint had been received regarding weeds in the Brook which Nick Kirkman had been approached to clear.

Notification of a National scheme "Great British Spring Clean" was received by the clerk inviting villages to spend one day clearing litter. It was discussed and decided following the Village Inspection Report that the amount of litter in the Village did not require "a day" of community litter picking. In particular the areas that most required tidying were main roads which for health and safety reasons would not be suitable for a community volunteering scheme.

An email has been received from the Charity Commission stating if the PC do not submit a return there may be a fine. Cllr Siddall will respond.

Accounts for payment:

Bob Mizen	£30.00	Gift for Keith Tucker for hedge cutting
N. W. Adams	£112.50	Playground inspection
Richard Cripps	£75.00	Pruning workshop
Grant Thornton	£240.00	Annual audit
Crispin Keysar	£500.00	Lettering for bench
Bob Prior	£187.50	Dec/Jan Feb caretaking

All agreed.

For information the PC were informed the cost for the new bench at Dawes Pond was at the top end of the original quote, however within the insurance payment for the previously stolen bench, which had been made for free. All agreed this was acceptable.

Website: Few updates have been made to the website in order to maintain the Clerk vacancy as the priority when opening the site. Once an appointment has been made to the Clerk position will explore further options and information that may be useful on the website.

AOB: The Courts/National Trust has placed some planters on the main footpath which is restricting legal parking in the area. The Clerk will contact The Courts to discuss the issue.

An event had been held to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War1. Cllr Mizen suggested supporting an event to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 this year. He will look into the options and bring back to PC.

Cllr Stevens and Cllr Rickard attended a meeting with some residents of The Common who were concerned about the lack of parking and potential continued reduction in parking options. Informal notes have been circulated to the other PC members for information and request for consideration in future plans, although it was agreed by the residents that there would be no direct action by the PC at this current time, and would not need to be included in matters arising at future meetings. It was advised by PC if any current plans are not considered acceptable then WC would need to be contacted directly by those with concerns as it is not under the control of HPC.

Next Meeting: In a change to the meeting being held on the last Thursday of the month the next meeting will be held on 22 March 2018 due to the Easter Bank Holiday.