

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Full Council Meeting of the Holt Parish Council held on Thursday 23rd May 2019 in the Holt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Becky Stevens (Chair), Cllr Bob Mizen, Cllr Meghan Doran, Cllr Richard Goodman, Cllr Alan Hendon, Cllr Marsha Nicholson, Cllr Andrew Pearce, Cllr Dee Rickard, Cllr Steve Siddall.

In Attendance: Ms Niki Gonty, Cllr Trevor Carbin.

Apologies accepted from Cllr Philip Game, Mr Neil Baker (Clerk)

1. Open Meeting.

Cllr Carbin was asked about action to be taken by Wiltshire Council (WC) on air quality. He said that the Government was being pressured by the EU to take action and in turn pressing local authorities. He will send more information to the PC.

There were rumours circulating about further cuts to local bus services. He said there was no immediate threat, but all local services were subsidised by WC, and financial pressures could mean that this would be withdrawn, or if more was requested by the bus companies. It was noted that local bus services appeared to be little used.

A damaged bench had been removed by WC from the old cemetery, which it was hoped would be replaced. The gates on the other cemetery were jammed open, allowing dogs on what was meant to dog-free ground, which WC should attend to. **(Clerk to follow up both of these).**

2. Co-option of new Councillor.

Niki Gonty had addressed the last meeting of the Council.

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt her to fill the vacancy on the Council, which she was happy to accept, and joined the table immediately.

3. Election of Officers.

Chair – Cllr Stevens was nominated and seconded to continue as Chair, which she was happy to accept and was unanimously elected.

Vice – Chair. There are PC elections next year, and Cllr Pearce indicated his intention not to stand for election. Cllr Mizen reminded the PC that it had been the custom for the Vice- Chair to be seen as the Chair in waiting, which in the present

circumstances would not happen. It was agreed that this should be kept in mind, but meanwhile Cllr Pearce was nominated, seconded and unanimously elected to continue as Vice Chair for the time being.

Treasurer. Cllr Goodman was nominated, seconded and unanimously elected to continue as Treasurer.

4. Committees

- (i) Village Facilities.** Cllr Mizen agreed to continue as Chair. Members will be Cllrs Nicholson and Siddall.
- (ii) Planning.** Cllr Siddall agreed to continue as Chair. Members will be Cllr Mizen, Cllr Hendon and Cllr Goodman.
- (iii) Highways and Streetscene.** In his absence, it was assumed that Cllr Game would continue as Chair. Members will be Cllrs Doran, Pearce, Rickard and Siddall.
- (iv) Finance.** Chaired by the Treasurer, members Cllrs Game, Nicholson, Hendon and Pearce.

Cllr Stevens as Chair is an ex officio member of all Committees.

It was agreed to abolish the GDPR Committee as its job was done. The Clerk to advise Council on any changes.

5. Declaration of Interests.

Cllr Siddall declared an interest and took no part in the discussion on planning application 19/02853/FUL.

6. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2019.

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Mizen, seconded by Cllr Hendon, and passed unanimously by those councillors who were there.

7. Matters arising.

- (i)** Cllr Stevens had yet to make contact with the possible volunteer.
- (ii)** The old PC's laptop is now in the possession of our former Clerk.
- (iii)** Cllr Siddall had yet to produce an article for the Holt Magazine about the Tannery development as the situation had changed (see below)

- (iv) The missing key for the Pavilion, to enable access to the defibrillator, had yet to be located, but further avenues will be explored.
- (v) Kelly Communications has repaired the damage to the Green, but rain was now required to get the grass seed to germinate.
- (vi) The grass in Avonfield and the corner of Bradley Lane and Station Road had not been cut, as Selwood Housing deny ownership of the areas. **Matter to be pursued by the Clerk.**

8. Planning Committee Report.

The following applications have been considered by the Planning Committee under delegated powers with decisions as shown:

19/04298/TCA Mr Edwards, West End House, 400 Ham Green
Conifer hedge to be felled. No Objection

19/02853/FUL Mr and Mrs Girdler, 66d Ham Close BA14 6PY
Proposed single-storey extension, demolition of existing shed and
erection of replacement store. No Comment

19/03221/FUL Rev A Evans, The Coach House, Ham Green BA14 6PZ
Proposed ground and first floor extensions and alterations
(resubmission of 18/11218/FUL)
No Objection
Refused by WC

The Council then considered 19/03768/FUL - Land Opposite 4, 5, 6 & 7
Forewards Common Holt Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 6PJ - Erection of an
Agricultural building.

This proposed building is very close to another similar proposed barn
which was refused by Wiltshire Council under 16/10536/FUL as follows:
“The proposed development by virtue of its mass, bulk, height and
setting and extent of hardstanding proposed, would not conserve or
enhance the landscape character of the area and would be harmful to
the openness of the surrounding countryside and green belt introducing
an element of urban sprawl into this rural landscape. The proposed
development is therefore contrary to Core Policies 51 and 57 of the
Wiltshire Core Policy and sections 7 and 9 of the National Planning Policy
Framework. There is also no agricultural justification in the proposal.”

The Planning Committee propose that the Council object to this application on the basis of impact on the green belt and the lack of justification. Seconded by Cllr Mizen, **this was agreed**.

9. Village Facilities Committee Report.

- (i) **Trees on Ham Green** – there are safety issues, so a survey of the three horse chestnut trees is being carried out at a total cost of £275, which was **approved**. When the report is received it will be the subject of full discussion.
- (ii) **Football Pitch** – Holt Football Club have transferred to a different Division, but unfortunately, our pitch does not reach FA standards required by that Division (fencing, showers) so they will be playing elsewhere next season. However, Trowbridge Town under 13's will be returning, and approaches have been made by another junior team. It was **agreed** that the rental would remain at £360 per annum.
- (iii) **Play equipment** – The most recent safety inspection recommended immediate action on the double seat swing, and a metal one was proposed.
All the equipment is getting towards the end of its life. Money for the original was raised at least partly by parents, and **it was agreed** that an approach would be made through the school for ideas about how the play area should be equipped in future and fund raising for it. **Cllr Mizen to action**.
- (iv) **Grass cutting in the closed cemetery** – It had been proposed by a parishioner that the PC should take over this task from WC, but the VFC concluded that this is impractical in terms of management, equipment, quality control and cost. **This was agreed. (Clerk to communicate with the parishioner)**.
- (v) **Caretaker**. The caretaker is recognised as doing a very good job, and possible changes would be discussed with him.
- (vi) **Bin collection**. Emptying the bins by the pavilion will no longer be on request, but regularly every fortnight.
- (vii) **Bowls Club Fence**. This needs repair. **(Cllr Mizen to action)**.
- (viii) **Bench outside the Pavilion**. This needs painting **(Caretaker)**

10. Highways and Streetscene Committee Report.

(i) The cost estimate for the works on the roundabout etc at the west end of the village has been updated, and now await the formal approval of BCATG and the Area Board.

(ii) **Footway Resurfacing Survey.**

The “Top 5” priorities have been submitted as follows:

1. By far the highest – north side of The Street from by the Pavilion to the eastern Midlands junction.
2. East side of the Midlands, from The Common to Hawcroft
3. South side of The Street by the Coach House
4. 56 Ham Green to 55A Leigh Road
5. Bradley Lane to Little Parks on The Street

WC Highways Engineer has accepted the list and it will be included in the Wiltshire-wide review by their consultants to ascertain the resurfacing process and costs so they can be prioritised for funding.

11. Standing Orders.

A sub-Committee will be set up to consider these in relation to the new guidance received from NALC, consisting of Cllrs Stevens, Pearce and Siddall, who will report back to the full PC in due course.

12. Parish Steward Tasking & Village Inspection Report.

Cllr Doran was thanked for her comprehensive and fully illustrated Report, from which items for the Parish Steward would be extracted **(Clerk to action)**.

Cllr Nicholson will carry out the survey in June.

13. Annual Footpath Survey.

Lists have been circulated to all Councillors to report back by the September meeting. The Chair emphasised the importance of this task to prove that all footpaths are walked, and to pick up any issues for maintenance, repair etc.

(Cllr Doran left at this point)

14. Correspondence.

(i) **Clean Air Day - 20th June 2019.** Holt School are running special events and would welcome our involvement.

(ii) **First Aid Course – Saturday July 11th.** Available at Frome Road Community Centre, 9am – 5pm

(iii) **Facebook item.**

A piece has been published drawing attention to the proposed changes to The Midlands (west end) and protesting at the removal of some trees.

Cllr Siddall outlined the actual situation, which is not as stated on Facebook, and had been in the public domain for 14 months. Cllr Siddall to write a response for publication in the magazine and on the website.

(iv) **Bowls Club.**

A letter had been received suggesting closer cooperation between the PC and the Club to provide better facilities for sports and recreation for the village. The concept was welcomed but some of the proposals would not be acceptable. A meeting would be arranged. **(Cllr Mizen to action)**

15. Accounts for payment.

The following payments were approved:

R Prior	Caretaking	£174.49
Revision 4	Website Domain Fees	£291.87
G Aland	Grass cutting May19	£485.00
HMRC	Tax on Wages	£76.20
Clerk	Wages	£305.13

16. Accounts for the year ending 30th March 2019.

These had been audited and circulated.

It was agreed (with one abstention by Cllr Gonty) to accept these accounts.

17. Website

The request for ideas for the website generated a discussion on the possible use of “Spotted in Holt”. There were two aspects: firstly the

content, secondly the technicalities in creating a Parish Facebook page. This matter will be considered at a future meeting.

18. Litter pick by the Youth Club

A letter of thanks would be sent to the Youth Club. **(Clerk to write)**

19. Village Hall internet Connection

For the second time, there was no internet connection for the meeting, which did not help the PC's attempts to become paperless. The Village Hall Committee will be asked to ensure access in future. **(Clerk to contact)**

Part 2 Minutes – not for publication

20. Clerk's remuneration.

After discussion with the Clerk and consideration of guidance from WALC, it was agreed:

- (i) Use of his car for PC business backdated to his date of appointment - 45p per mile
- (ii) Use of his home for an office - £1 per day as from now.
- (iii) Increase in salary to take account of inflation