

Minutes of the Holt Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 27th June 2019 at 7.30pm in the Holt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Becky Stevens (Chair), Cllr Philip Game, Cllr Niki Gonty, Cllr Bob Mizen, Cllr Marsha Nicholson, Cllr Andrew Pearce (Acting Clerk), Cllr Dee Rickard, Cllr Steve Siddall

In attendance: Cllr Trevor Carbin, Mr Richard Cripps, Mr Russell Greenman

21. Apologies: were accepted from Cllr Doran, Cllr Goodman, Cllr Hendon and Mr Neil Baker (Clerk)

22. Open Meeting.

22.1 Mr Russell Greenman had written to the Council on behalf of FJ Moody & Son of Gaston Farm, concerning the difficulty the farm was experiencing in gaining access to their premises in tractors and other farm vehicles, by way of Ham Green, which was often obstructed by parked cars. (This could also apply to emergency vehicles).

There were three particular areas:

- past the Village Green
- by the Church
- immediately outside their farmyard, where a large turning area was required

The police advice had been to do their best to move obstructing vehicles, which was not particularly helpful as owners were often not contactable.

It was confirmed by Cllr Siddall that when the kerbs were installed alongside the Green the road met minimum width requirements. The possible problem was the size of current farm machinery, which is wider than that envisaged when the regulations were set."

One answer would be double yellow lines all the way on both sides, but the Parish Council does not wish to pursue this because of the conservation area and the negative impact this would have on the area.

It was confirmed that the Council would be happy to work with the farm to find a solution that would be acceptable to all.

Cllr Carbin said he would arrange for a Traffic Engineer to inspect the situation in conjunction with the farmer, confirm the measurements etc. Russell Greenman to be invited to attend the meeting.

The Vicar had suggested revisiting the idea of a carpark for the Church, which had been raised in the past but refused planning permission.

Mr Greenman said he could arrange for some farmland to be used on occasion as overflow parking for Church events

The Council will consider further what might be done.

22.2 Trevor Carbin reported that the request for planning permission at 45c Leigh Road had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate as a non-determination appeal.

22.3 Richard Cripps, a retired senior Lecturer from Lackham College, and a tree expert, attended the meeting to introduce his report on the three horse chestnut trees on Ham Green.

Work had been done on one of them by a tree surgeon last autumn, who reported that the tree was suffering from bleeding canker disease, which made it unsafe, and recommended that it should be removed as it threatened the public and vehicles on the B3107.

At the time, it was decided to wait until this spring to review the situation. Another inspection then revealed that not only was this tree unsafe, but both the others were also infected to some extent.

A second tree surgeon then undertook a climbing inspection of all three trees and confirmed the first report that the first tree should be urgently removed, but also that both the others were severely infected and required heavy pollarding or removal.

Facing an extremely difficult decision, it was decided to call in Mr Cripps, who had advised the Council in the past. His report concluded "*My advice to Holt Parish Council would be to clear fell the three affected trees and replant with suitable British native trees, perhaps selected with a fastigate (columnar) growth pattern*".

Councillors raised some questions:

He confirmed that trees have a finite life.

These trees have probably been infected for about ten years

Pollarding is possible, but to the extent that the two trees may not survive anyway.

It would be unwise to replant with the same species.

He was certain the trees could not survive this infection.

Replacement trees can be quite large – it depends how much we want to spend.

Mr Cripps was warmly thanked for his report.

23. Declarations of interests.

Cllr Nicholson declared an interest in planning application at 45c Leigh Road.

24. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2019.

One amendment was noted – under the item "Use of home as office" the sum should be £1.00 per week.

Otherwise, the minutes were agreed as a correct record.

25. Matters arising.

- a. The damaged bench and jammed gate at the cemetery have been reported to WC (Clerk to check)
- b. No response to our letter to Selwood re grass cutting in Avonfield and Bradley Lane/Station Road
- c. Equipping of play area – action continuing
- d. Action complete
- e. Bowls Club fence has been mended
- f. Bench outside pavilion still to be painted
- g. Action complete
- h. Meeting arranged
- i. E mail sent.

26. Annual Governance and Accountability Review 2018/2019 Part 3

This was approved.

27. Planning Committee

There were no Planning Applications to be considered this month.

The application 19/03768/FUL for a barn on land at Forewoods Common considered and opposed at the PC's last meeting has been approved by WC.

28. Village Facilities Advisory Group

- a. Ham Green Trees.

The report from Richard Cripps was considered in the light of the previous discussion (see above). It was thought that the PC should decide on the way forward, and in view of the huge amenity value of the trees, hold a public meeting to explain the situation and consider the costs of replacement.

A long discussion then ensued. It was pointed out that we have three reports that in general, agree that that the time has come to replace the trees. The possibility of removing the badly infected tree and pollarding the other two was raised, but the advice from the tree expert was that this would be a temporary solution at best. The view was that the village had benefitted from the tree's huge amenity value for a considerable time, but that it was now appropriate to replace them was expressed.

Eventually, it was proposed:

That the three horse chestnut trees on Ham Green be

removed for a sum not to exceed £4,100, with a commitment to replant with mature trees this winter, and that the costs should be met from reserves".

The vote was 5 in favour, 2 abstention and 1 against, so the motion was declared carried.

It was agreed that an open meeting should be held before the next PC starting at 7pm to enable public discussion, which Richard Cripps would be asked to attend. Before then, a leaflet would be delivered to all households setting out the situation and the PC's views, at a cost not to exceed £300.

It was also agreed that the school should be asked to hold an explanatory event for the children with Richard Cripps being in attendance.

(ii) Posters on the small green.

It has long been accepted that village events could be publicised with small posters on the this green, but recently some have appeared for events outside the village. It was agreed that the originators should be asked not to put posters there in future.

(iii) Football Pitch.

Arising from the discussion at the last meeting, a proposal had been made to the clubs concerned. Unfortunately, no answer had been received. Cllr Mizen will follow up.

29. Highways Advisory Group

(i) The Village Gateways & Roundabout Project had been agreed to proceed at a recent BCATG meeting, with the agreed contribution of 50% from the PC.

(ii) The recent pavement survey was with the Highways Dept, but as yet there had been no release of funds for any repairs.

(iii) The Glove Factory Car Parking Survey had been completed which showed that there were sufficient spaces available for visitors. It is to be repeated.

30. Finance Report

The following accounts were agreed for payment:

C. N. Baker	Clerk Wages	£305.13
HMRC	Tax Wages	£76.20
Extra Energy	Electricity	£39.62
Diana Lindsey	Internal audit fees	£120.00

A.F.Harris	Tree Inspection Fees	£150.00
R. Cripps	Tree Inspection Fees	£75.00
Cardiac Science	Child Defib Pads	£85.14
R. Prior	Caretaker	£65.14

31. Renaming of Council Committees

WALC had confirmed that the term “committee” has a legal meaning, and as such, meetings come under the terms of the standing orders. This was felt to be too onerous for some of our committees, especially as they do not make decisions, but merely recommendations, to the full PC.

It was therefore agreed that some committees should be renamed as follows:

Village Facilities Advisory Group, Highways Advisory Group and Finance Advisory Group

The Planning Committee will remain, as it has delegated powers and holds public meetings for contentious applications.

32. Village Inspection Report / Parish Steward Tasking.

Cllr Nicholson presented her report for June. There was nothing of great import to report.

The Parish Steward will be here on 16/17th July and 16/17th September.

Cllr Mizen will undertake next month’s inspection.

33. Proposal to accept Sections 1-10 of Standing Orders into effect

Deferred

34. Correspondence.

(i) A parent from the School had written to say many children who had taken part in the recent litter pick were enthusiastic to carry on but need child-size litter pickers. Cllr Mizen said he would be happy to buy three, and Cllr Carbin said he could get some adult size ones.

(ii) A request had been received to move the dog poo bin in The Walk. Where to is a problem, as other people may then object. VFAG to consider.

35. Items for future action.

- a. The Environment Agency would be approached again as pollution continues from cattle in the stream
- b. Clerk to investigate Policy on Freedom of information Requests

Next Meeting.

The Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 25th July 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall