

Minutes of the Holt Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25th July 2019 at 7.00pm in the Holt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Becky Stevens (Chair), Cllr Richard Goodman, Cllr Niki Gonty, Cllr Bob Mizen, Cllr Marsha Nicholson, Cllr Andrew Pearce, Cllr Alan Hendon, Cllr Steve Siddall, Cllr Meghan Doran and Mr Neil Baker (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr Trevor Carbin, Mr Richard Cripps.

36. Apologies: were accepted from Cllr Game, Cllr Rickard

37. Open Meeting.

In between the June PC Meeting and this one the residents were leafleted with details of the action to be taken with the Horse Chestnut trees on Ham Green and invited to attend to make any views known. 13 residents attended with a majority view agreeing to the proposed action to fell all 3 trees. There was one dissenting voice. There was general agreement that any replacement trees should be of British Native. Consideration also needs to be given towards care of any new trees which could be for at least 5 years and particularly the need for irrigation. Some residents suggested fund raising in the village to cover the costs of replanting which is estimated at anything from £1000 to £5000 per tree dependent on its maturity. It was suggested that when removed, some of the tree could be placed in the village, an area on the recreation field was suggested, to provide a "bug hotel". Cllr Stevens thanked everyone for attending and giving their views and emphasised that all views would be considered when researching the best options for replanting. Also, the question of fund raising would be investigated.

Cllr Carbin advised that Philip Whitehead has been elected as Wiltshire Council (WC) Leader in succession to Dame Jane Scott.

In view of complaints from residents, Cllr Carbin was asked to inquire into the WC grass cutting contract to establish what areas are required to be cut and the frequency.

There had been complaints regarding the siting of the "dog poo" bin in the walk. Cllr Nicholson stated she believed a new one should be obtained at WC expense and re-sited from its current position to a location to be identified. Cllr Carbin was asked to establish the position of WC. (It was suggested that the bin had not worked properly for some 5 years).

38. Declarations of interests.

None

39. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2019.

Under item 28, Page 11, line 3 after costs insert “of removal”.

Cllr Siddall also pointed out that in the minutes under item 22, Page 8, line 21, the action was incorrectly attributed to Cllr Carbin and it should have been HAG. He also added that the meeting is planned for 31st July.

With these amendments the minutes were accepted. Proposed Cllr Siddall, seconded Cllr Pearce and carried unanimously by those who attended the meeting

40. Matters arising.

- a. Clerk to follow up with Selwood Housing/WC re grass cutting at Avonfield **Action Clerk**
- b. New equipment for play area. 3 quotes have been received. Possibility of grants to be investigated. **Action Cllr Nicholson**
- c. Bench outside the pavilion to be painted in August
- d. The environment Agency to be approached again re cattle in the stream. **Clerk to Action**
- e. Draft policy on action required on Freedom of Information requests to be submitted for September meeting. **Clerk to Action**

41. To hear report from the Planning Committee

The following have been considered by the committee since the last meeting:

Application at 298 Bradley Lane for tree works No Objection

Application at 124 The Midlands to fell Leylandii Trees No Objection

Resubmission to build single storey extension at leigh Grange, No Comment

Cllr Siddall had attended a Strategic Planning Meeting where it was established that a new housing plan would be issued by WC in 2021 which may lead to the need for the PC to re visit the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hendon asked if there had been any further developments concerning the planning application at Forewards Common. Planning had been granted with conditions

42. To hear report from the Village Facilities Advisory Group

It was agreed that the contract for work on Ham Green be awarded to A F Harris at a cost of £4050 (The previous meeting had approved a budget of £4100)

It was agreed that Cllr Mizen would represent the PC on the new sports committee to investigate the provision of a new Pavilion.

Cllr Mizen advised that Daniel Aland would fulfil the contract for grass cutting for the remainder of the financial year, but action would commence circa September/October to identify a new contractor from April 2020.

The gate at the Old Cemetery remains jammed open. **Clerk to contact WC**

43. To hear report from the Highways Advisory Group (HAG)

The PC had been asked by Highways to comment on a proposal for a speed restriction on the Melksham to Holt Road following a Coroner's recommendation arising from an accident. Following their recent meeting, Cllr Game put forward the following "In response to the WC request, it is HPC view that the proposal ought to be revised such that the existing 40mph limit be extended from Melksham to 100m west of the Riverside MOT centre instead and other speed restrictions remain unaltered"

After discussion the following was agreed by the majority of those present, that the 40mph should be extended to the Holt side of Challymead, and then 50mph to Holt.

Clerk to advise WC

The HAG recommended acceptance of the Glove factory car park survey and request a slightly re-scoped, annual, survey to ensure the required spaces remain available. This was accepted by the PC

Notification was received on 19th July that the proposal for Double Yellow Lines on the Common by the Berkeley lane junction will be implemented

44. To hear report from the Finance Advisory Group

The following accounts were unanimously agreed for payment, proposed by Cllr Goodman, seconded Cllr Pearce.

C N Baker	Clerk wages July	£305.13
HMRC	Tax	£76.20
C N Baker	Clerk wages August	£305.13
HMRC	Tax	£76.20
D Aland	Grass cutting	£630.00
Holt Village Hall	Hire costs	£90.00
Lamming and Son	Leaflets	£120.00
D Aland	Grass cutting July	£420.00

Total £2022.66

Consideration was given to invoices received in August as no meeting is planned. Following a suggestion by the Clerk, it was proposed by Cllr Mizen, seconded Cllr Nicholson that cheques should be raised for Invoices from the caretaker up to a value £200 and for Grass cutting up to a value of £700. Agreed unanimously

45. Village Inspection report/Parish Steward Tasking

The **Clerk is to follow up** with WC the issues of clearing the Brook in the Midlands as lack of clearance represents a flood issue.

The **Clerk is to follow up** the issue of overhanging branches from the house opposite the Ham Tree at 377 The Street

Cllr Siddall to conduct the August inspection

46. Website

It was agreed that details posted on the website to be kept at a minimum with links to further details/documents. Specifically notice of road closures. **Clerk to note**

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

The proposal from the small working Group (Cllr Stevens, Cllr Pearce, Cllr Siddall) was not accepted by the PC, further Cllr Siddall added that he did not agree with the proposal. Following a protracted discussion Cllr Hendon, Cllr Goodman and Cllr Nicholson took on the responsibility to review Standing Orders and report at the September meeting

48. Correspondence

A request from Lead Youth worker at the Youth Club asked if they could attend the September meeting to discuss making Holt a plastic free community. Agreed **Clerk to reply**

A request to visit and check the fire extinguishers in the Pavilion has been dealt with and a visit is planned for 1 August

The Bowls club have asked that the replacement fence be a treated wood panel fence. The PC agreed with a proviso that it be a maximum of 6ft high. **Cllr Mizen to advise the Bowls Club**

PC considered the contents of an e mail concerning a resident's problem at the Midlands Light Industrial Estate. Unfortunately, the problems are outside the PC areas of responsibility as the problems occur on private land. **Clerk to reply to the resident**

The PC agreed no reply to a question posed on NALC Policy E briefing PC8-19 – Draft Data Sharing code of Practice

The **Clerk to reply** to Northern Highways requesting Gully Service to The B3107 through Holt

49. Police Crime reports

1 incident reported of Criminal damage at Ham Green involving a moving vehicle and pedestrian

50. Social Media Policy – Way ahead

Deferred until September meeting

51. Items of report and future Agenda

None

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 26th September 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall