

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on Thursday 19th March 2026 held in The Village Hall, starting at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Siddall, Goodman, Wickes, Hendon, Bloomfield, Bertholle, Upton and Fox.

**In attendance:** Charlotte Chappel - Parish Clerk and Cllr Carbin – Wiltshire Councillor.

**Public Participation:** 1 member of the public was present, representing HSRC and to discuss possible funding from the Council for re-tarmacking of Court 3. Council to be provided with quotes and then the request can be considered at the April meeting.

**PRELIMINARIES**

307/25 Council noted apologies from Cllrs Warran, Fletcher and Learoyd.

308/25 There was a declaration of non-pecuniary interest from Cllr Hendon in relation to planning application ref PL/2026/00264, agenda item 314/25

309/25 There were no requests for dispensations.

310/25 The Clerk advised there is no requirement to exclude the public or press.

311/25 **Wiltshire Councillor:** Cllr Trevor Carbin updated Council on Wiltshire Council engagement regarding electric vehicle charging. Holt has been identified as an area with limited off-street parking and therefore electric charging would be an issue.

He also reported an email he had received from a resident in The Midlands regarding vehicles obstructing their driveway and affecting visibility. Council to review the request along with other areas of the village that may require white lines.

An issue of an overgrown hedge on The Common was raised. The Clerk is working to resolve the matter, with potential escalation to Wiltshire Council if required.

Discussions were also had regarding the Wiltshire Council Local Plan, noting that a replacement plan is expected to take approximately three years to prepare. Cllr Carbin stated that advice is to continue progressing Neighbourhood Plans.

**PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

312/25 **Previous meeting minutes:** The minutes for the February meeting were approved by Council and signed by the Chair.

313/25 **Council reviewed the following matters arising from previous meetings.**

- Actioning Automatic Traffic Counters (ATCs) within the village, including one on the B3106. **To be actioned.**

**PLANNING**

314/25 Council considered the below **planning application and will comment as follows:**

Application Reference	Address	Proposed Works	Deadline for Comments	HPC Comment
PL/2026/00264	United Reformed Church, The	Widening and reconfiguration of the existing vehicular access	20/03/2026	Support

	Street, Holt, BA14 6RS	from The Street, including partial removal and reconstruction of the existing natural rubble stone boundary wall.		
PL/2023/01914	Whistle Mead Solar Farm, Little Chalfield, Melksham, SN12 8NP	Proposed temporary planning permission for 40 years for the development of a solar farm of up to 24.14MW of generating capacity, comprising of the installation of solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure including customer cabin, customer substation, DNOsubstation and equipment, inverter and transformer substations, spare part container, associated battery storage, access tracks, widening of existing highway access, fencing, security cameras, landscape planting, ecological improvements and associated works. The existing agricultural use of the site will also continue in tandem with the solar farm with the grazing of farm animals.	17/03/2026	Object - Holt Parish Council maintains its objection as key concerns over water supply risk, fire safety, access, and landscape impact remain unresolved despite the latest submissions.
PL/2025/08648	Land North of Melksham Road, Holt	Reserved Matters Application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 55 Residential Dwellings following Outline Planning permission ref PL/2024/05435	30/03/2026	Comment - Holt Parish Council acknowledges some amendments but maintains concerns that the scheme is overdeveloped and fails to properly address parking, EV provision, highways, layout, and the inappropriate Future Access Sketch.
PL/2026/01649	123 THE MIDLANDS, HOLT, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6RG	Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area - Removal of a semi mature coniferous tree.	02/04/2026	Comment - Holt Parish Council considers that, where appropriate, cutting back and ongoing maintenance would be preferable to full removal, allowing the tree to continue contributing to the character of the area.
PL/2025/07044	Former Countrywide Site, Bradford Road, Melksham	The construction of a new discount foodstore, car parking, access and landscaping on land at Bradford Road, Melksham	23/03/2026	Object – Holt Parish Council maintains its objection, submitting detailed comments to Wiltshire Council that safe and reliable access remains unresolved due to ongoing flooding and traffic issues.

315/25 **Decisions:** Council noted the decisions made by Wiltshire Council.

Application Reference	Address	Proposed Works	HPC Comments	Wiltshire Council Decision
PL/2026/00166	Holt Recreation Ground & Dawes Pond, Holt, Wiltshire.	Tree A - Sycamore sapling - Fell. Tree B - Sycamore sapling - Fell. Tree C - Sycamore sapling - Fell. Tree D - Sycamore sapling - Fell. Tree E - Hazel - Remove branches overhanging neighbour's garden. Tree F - Sycamore - Crown raise away from Orchard tree. Tree G - Oak - Crown raise away from Orchard tree.	No comment	No objection

316/25 **Bewley** – The Council was informed that Bewley do not intend to build on the site they have purchased and are instead seeking to sell the development.

### FINANCE

#### 317/25 **Banking**

1. **Invoices** – Council approved the following invoices for payment, totalling **£39.85 inc VAT**.

Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
C Chappel	ChatGPT subscription - expenses	17.86	-	17.86
C Chappel	Ink cartridge expenses	18.32	3.67	21.99

2. Council noted the following reimbursements or invoices have been paid:

Date	Payee	Description	Gross
11/03/2026	LIVEEDGE	Tree works in the Rec	150.00
09/03/2026	MARK PARSONS	Caretaking	67.50
09/03/2026	P EYERS	Grass cutting	380.00
09/03/2026	DIRECTOR PAYROLL	Payroll services	127.80
09/03/2026	SCOTTISH POWER	Pavilion electric	40.02
03/03/2026	EE LIMITED	Mobile phone DD	20.40
02/03/2026	ST ENVIRONMENT	Waste removal	48.11
25/02/2026	BHF SHOPS LTD	Defib + new cabinet	1769.99
24/02/2026	ALAN HENDON	Defib battery expenses	336.00
24/02/2026	C CHAPPEL	ChatGPT subscription - expenses	17.47
24/02/2026	C CHAPPEL	Wages	645.63

3. Council noted the **February bank statement** and that the **bank balance** as at 28<sup>th</sup> February was £152,677.82.

### VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

318/25 **Village inspection report:** Council noted the updated report from Cllr Wickes. Clerk to either report issues on My Wilts, liaise with the Parish Steward when they are back in Holt or write to residents re overgrown hedges.

319/25 **Village Inspection:** Council noted the rota for monthly inspections. Noting that in **April the task falls to Cllr Goodman**. Councillors are asked to complete their inspections by the 8th of the month ahead of the parish stewards visit.

April – Cllr Goodman	September – Cllr Hendon
May – Cllr Upton	October – Cllr Bertholle
June – Cllr Warran	November – Cllr Learoyd
July – Cllr Fletcher	December – Cllr Bloomfield
August – Cllr Fox	January 2027 – Cllr Siddall

320/25 **Parish Steward:** Council noted that Parish Steward visits are currently suspended as resources are being directed to pothole repairs.

### FACILITIES

321/25 **Facilities Working Party** - *As the Facilities Working Party now have some delegated authority the group lead will provide a monthly report – including an updated budget report. This will be a monthly agenda point.* Council noted this month's report – details of which can be found on the Holt Parish Council website under 'Supporting Documents' for the March meeting.

### FLOODING

322/25 **Flood plan** – Cllr Bloomfield reported that she will update the flood plan and submit it to the Environment Agency for review. Once approved, it can be publicised.

### HIGHWAYS, FOOTWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

323/25 **Road closures** – Council noted the following TTRO:

- Temporary 30mph Speed Limit – 22/04 for one day on B3107 (Part), Holt, from its junction with Great Parks for a distance of approximately 200m in a north easterly direction.

324/25 **Zebra crossing concerns** – Council noted correspondence from a resident raising concerns regarding the zebra crossing on The Common. Cllr Carbin advised the Clerk to submit an LHFIG request. The Clerk will also write to the resident asking them to report the issue to WC Highways.

325/25 **2026 Footways inspection** – The Clerk to report the maintenance issues from Cllr Wickes 2026 footways inspection to Dean Baker (Wiltshire Council Highways). Cllr Wickes will speak to the LHFIG secretary about how best to take forward the new LHFIG requests.

326/25 **Speed checks** – It was suggested that speed checks should also be carried out around 6pm, as this appears to be a time when residents notice increased speeding.

### PROPERTY AND ASSETS

327/25 **Land for sale** – Cllr Siddall informed the Council that Holt Parish Council was successful in winning the auction for land lying north of The Midlands, Holt.

328/25 **Land at Little Parks** – Council noted the correspondence from Wiltshire Council regarding taking on the maintenance of the land.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

329/25 Following discussion during agenda item 311/25 re the Wiltshire Council Local Plan, the Council was informed that members of the steering group will meet to consider the best way forward. The Clerk to move the 'Neighbourhood Plan' item higher up the agenda for the April meeting to allow more time for a thorough review.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

330/25 The Council agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

331/25 Councillors noted the requirement to keep their Register of Interests up to date.

332/25 **Items for future meetings** – Request from HSRC, update on the land the Council is purchasing, discussion on the school travel plan.

333/25 **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 7:30pm – Holt Village Hall.

*With no further business, the meeting ended at 21.17pm.*