

**HOLT PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7.30 p.m. ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2024 IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present :- D. Pugh (Chairman), S. Williams (Vice Chairman), C. Adams, J. Hill, C. Lightfoot (Clerk).**

**In Attendance:- District Councillor Mr D. Clarke, Clare John, Jaz ? and family.**

**Absent:- J. Harper, M. Taylor**

<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Public Question Time.</u></b> The Chairman welcomed Mrs Clare John to the Meeting and thanked her for attending although she had resigned her position as a member of Parish Council (see Agenda item Progress Reports for information 7f).</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>To consider apologies and approve reasons for absence.</u></b> The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Mrs M. Taylor and Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper. Parish Council approved the reasons for absence.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest.</u></b>  <b>a) Register of Interests.</b> There had been no changes to the Register of Interests.  <b>b) Registration of Personal Interests.</b> There was no registration of Personal Interests.  <b>c) Registration of Prejudicial Interests.</b> There was no registration of Prejudicial Interests.  <b>d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation.</b> There had been no written requests for dispensation.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>Introduction by new owners of the Red Lion.</u></b> The Chairman welcomed Jaz (?) and family to the Meeting. Jaz explained that he had purchased the Red Lion and was now in the process of the refurbishment prior to opening in the Spring. The business will be owned by himself and his son although there are currently no plans for them to live on site as they have a number of other businesses based in Birmingham. The intention is to retain the bar area and serve coffee and bar snacks during the day as well as a take away option. In the second stage of the refurbishment an Indian Restaurant will open in the conservatory area. Jaz said that he was keen to work with the local community and had already considered the views of residents when installing the outside lighting. The Chairman thanked them for attending the meeting and said that Parish Council supported their venture and looked forward to the Red Lion reopening.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b><u>Minutes.</u></b> The minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on 17 November 2023 were reviewed by Parish Council. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams proposed that the minutes were approved by Parish Council as a true record of the Meeting. This was seconded by Parish Councillor Mrs C. Adams and unanimously agreed Parish Council. The Chairman signed the Minutes.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>County and District Councillor reports for information.</u></b> In the absence of County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown there was no County Council report. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke reported the following items of note:-  a) SWDP. Finalisation of the SWDP detailing the 5-year land supply is not likely to be until the end of 2024. However, it does carry some weight when considering planning applications as it is now out for consultation.  b) Finances. MHDC have limited funding and will remain solvent for the next few years. Many savings have been made through shared services with Wychaven.</p>	

	<p>c) Planning. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke reported that he had recently taken on responsibility for monitoring planning in MHDC. He agreed to provide details of available planning training to Parish Council. The backlog of planning applications has been reduced. This was largely caused by a shortage in planning officers. Less applications are also being referred to Heritage which is speeding up the process.</p>	DC
7.	<p><b><u>Progress reports for information.</u></b></p> <p>a) Village VAS – feedback re feasibility study into the installation of additional VAS on A4133. The Clerk reported that £1000 grant funding had been received from County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown’s Divisional Fund had been received towards the installation of a VAS opposite the entrance to Broomfields. The Clerk further explained that there was second round of funding available from the Police Commissioner for road safety initiatives. Following a discussion the Clerk was asked to apply for this fund for the balance of the amount to purchase the VAS. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams agreed to contact Tanya Crake from County Highways to obtain the site permit to accompany the application.</p> <p>b) Highways issues – investigation of concerns of speed limits on Ockeridge Lane and speed survey to be carried out by PSCO. The Chairman reported that he had carried out a site visit to assess the concerns raised by the residents at the last meeting and he agreed with the hazards caused by the width of the junction and the speed of vehicles. In the absence of County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown there was no further information on any action taken by County Highways on this issue. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the PSCO to remind them to carry out a speed survey within the Parish. Whilst the email had been acknowledged to date there was no firm date for the survey to be undertaken.</p> <p>c) Hedging– update on progress to cut back overhanging hedging throughout the village. The Clark reported that it had been confirmed that the overgrown hedging on the A4133 opposite the Village Hall did belong to the homeowners on Woodbury Park. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the homeowners requesting that the hedges be cut back or offering to arrange it through Top Cut at the homeowners cost. The Clerk was also asked to obtain a quote for this work from Top Cut.</p> <p>d) Village Hall rebuild project – update on current position. Parish Councillor Mrs C. Adams circulated the current plans and said the target amount to be raised is £700-800,000 although the plans can be scaled back if this target is not reached. A grant finder has been employed to research available funds. Planning is due to be applied for shortly and the bat survey has been booked to be carried out at the end of March. Parish Council agreed to continue to support the project. Following the resignation of Mrs Clare John from Parish Council it was unanimously agreed to appoint Mrs C. Adams as the replacement Trustee on the Village Hall committee on behalf of Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to formally write to the Village Hall committee to inform them of this decision. Parish Councillor Mrs C. Adams requested that Parish Council acknowledge the hard work put into the Village Hall project by Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper. It was agreed by Parish Council to purchase a token of appreciation to be presented at the next meeting.</p> <p>d) Christmas on the Green – report from event. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill reported back from the event which had been very successful. Many positive comments had been received and the raffle to raise funds for the village hall refurbishment had been well supported. A date 8 December 2024 has been set. The Clerk confirmed that Santa had been booked but she was still waiting on clarification from the Salvation Army.</p> <p>e) Resignation of Parish Councillor Mrs C. John and process of co-option to fill vacancy – progress report. Parish Council expressed their regret at Mrs C. John’s resignation and thanked her for her years of service to the community as a Parish Councillor. Mrs C. John was presented with a card and gift on behalf of Parish Council. The Clerk reported that the notice of vacancy had been placed and Parishioners had 14 days in which they were able to call a local election should they wish to do so. Once this period has elapsed at the end of January then the position would be advertised to be filled by co-option.</p>	<p>SW CL</p> <p>SRB</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Finance.</u></b></p> <p>a) To note the current bank balances. It was reported that the current account bank balance currently stood at £1,125.09 and the deposit account at £12,106.35.</p>	

b) To consider payments retrospectively.  
The following payments were approved by two members of Parish Council and made by bank transfer. These were agreed retrospectively by Parish Council.

06 December 2023	Bank charges	Bank charges	8.00
11 December 2023	Bank transfer	Top Cut (grass cutting) November	168.00
11 December 2023	Bank transfer	Droitwich Lions (Christmas Santa)	200.00
11 December 2023	Bank transfer	Salvation Army (Christmas event)	200.00
13 December 2023	Bank transfer	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00
13 December 2023	Bank transfer	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks expenses)	38.47
14 December 2023	Bank transfer	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00
14 January 2024	Bank transfer	Top Cut (grass cutting December)	168.00
17 January 2024	Bank transfer	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00
17 January 2024	Bank transfer	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks expenses)	6.70

c) To review the payments against the budget.  
Parish Council reviewed the payments against the budget and no issues were raised.

d) Report on precept application.  
The Clerk reported that the precept application for £13,230 had been approved by MHDC.

**9. Planning.**

a) **Applications Pending.**  
To review the recommendations of Parish Council on current applications.

Application No.	Location	Details	Decision status
<u>M/23/00341/FUL</u>	Red Lion Witley Road Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6LX	Erection of 2 dwellings	Pending Decision due to submission of amended plans (Recommend Approval)
<u>M23/01293/RM</u>	Cherry Tree Cottage Holt Heath WR6 6NB	Reserved Matters following outline approval ref. M/22/01604/OUT for one dwelling for appearance. Landscaping. Layout and scale	Pending Decision (Recommend Refusal)
<u>M/23/00977/HP</u>	The Farmhouse Top Barn Farm Worcester Road WR6 6NH	Renovation of exiting 2 storey farmhouse including demolition and replacement of existing aide and rear extensions and demolition of existing outbuildings to be replaced with 2 storey annexe.	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<u>M/23/01131/FUL</u>	Thatch Lodge Hott Heath	Erection of two detached dwellings following the demolition of existing dwelling	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<u>M/23/01676/HP</u>	Easthurst, Witley Road, Holt Heath, WR6 6LX	Proposed detached garage with ancillary living accomodation	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<u>M/23/01710/HP</u>	Elm Hurst Farm, Witley Road, Holt Heath, WR6 6LX	Erection of 2 storey side extension to the south elevation following demolition of existing southern wing.	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)

<u>M/23/01757/FUL</u>	Elm Cottage Holt Heath WR6 6NG	Erection of 2no Solar trackers in field to the south of the property	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
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**b) Approvals/Refusals.**

M/23/01169/HP  (M/23/01688/LB still being considered).	Cherry Tree Barn 1 Naunton Farm Barns Holt Heath WR6 6NG	Erection of garden wall, part conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation, relocation of front door and erection of porch and detached garage.	Application Approved.
M/23/01612/HP M/23/01613/LB	Holt Brook Barn 3 Naunton Farm Barns Holt Heath WR6 6NG	Conversion of roof space to home office, w.c. and shower and installation of 6 no. conservation style rooflights.	Application Refused.
M/23/01487/HP	12 Cherry Orchard Holt Heath WR6 6ND	Demolition of existing single storey extension and replacement with new tow and single storey side and rear extension along with partial demolition and rebuilding of existing garage to accommodate new oil tank.	Application Refused.

**c) Other Planning Issues.**

**10. Correspondence for information.**

The Clerk reported that there were no matters to note.

**11. Clerk's report on urgent decisions since the last meeting.**

The Clerk reported that there were no matters to note.

**12. Councillor's reports and items for future agendas.**

a) No 1 The Heath.

Unfortunately, the issues of rubbish and parking vehicles are still occurring outside this property. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams reported on a telephone conversation he had had with Platform Housing on the issue. Platform have written to the resident, but the situation has not improved. Platform do not want to install low level fencing on the verge as it will cause problems when mowing the grass.

It was agreed that District Councillor Mr D. Clarke would arrange for the delivery of a second wheelie bin to accommodate the rubbish. Platform Housing would be contacted to remove the larger items of rubbish. The Clerk was asked to contact the PCSO to see if they could speak to the owners with regards to causing a public nuisance.

b) Summer Fayre.

The date of the summer fayre has been set for 15 June 2024.

DC  
CL

**13. Date of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 15 February 2024.