

**HOLT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30 p.m. ON THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2025 IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL.**

Present :- S. Williams (Chairman), M. Taylor, J. Hill, C. Adams, C. Lightfoot (Clerk).

In Attendance:- District Councillor Mr D. Clarke, County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown, Mal Fordington.

Absent:- J. Harper, B. Curral.

1.	<p><u>Public Question Time.</u> County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown introduced Mal Fordington and explained that she would be standing as the replacement conservative candidate in the forthcoming County Council elections in May 2025.</p>	
2.	<p><u>To consider apologies and approve reasons for absence.</u> Apologies were received from Parish Councillors J. Harper and B. Curral. These were accepted and the reasons for absence approved.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest.</u> a) Register of Interests. There were no changes to the Register of Interests. b) Registration of Personal Interests. c) Registration of Prejudicial Interests. d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation. There were no issues on the agenda that required any declarations of interest.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Minutes.</u> The minutes of the meeting of the 16 January 2025 were approved as a true record of the meeting. These were proposed by Parish Councillor Mrs M. Taylor and seconded by Parish Councillor Mr C. Adams and approved as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><u>County and District Councillor reports for information.</u></p> <p>Report from County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown.</p> <p>a) Mini roundabout signs. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown confirmed that the new signs giving warning of the mini roundabout to be placed on the approach from Holt Bridge had been approved and should be installed in the next couple of months.</p> <p>b) Flooding at Red Lion cottages. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown acknowledged that this continues to be a problem but after researching the drainage layout at the junction it would appear that the major issue is caused by run off from the fields. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown agreed investigate the ownership of the field adjacent to the Millennium Green.</p> <p>c) Footpaths. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown agreed to contact Highways on behalf of Parish Council to request siding out of the footpaths on School Lane and the A413 from the mini roundabout to Holt Fleet bridge.</p> <p>d) Future plans for WCC. County Council elections are scheduled to take place in May 2025. There will be a restructuring of the District and County Councils possibly resulting in a large unitary authority and an elected mayor. However, there are no confirmed decisions to date.</p> <p>Report from District Councillor Mr Dean Clarke:</p> <p>a) Devolution. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke gave a brief update on the Council devolution process. Worcestershire CALC are in the process of hosting a number of information sessions for officers and councillors.</p> <p>b) Council Tax. The Council Tax rise for Hallow Ward is one of the lowest in the County.</p>	<p>SRB</p> <p>SRB</p>

6. Progress reports for information.

a) Footpath clearance – progress report.
This was discussed under Agenda item 5 County Councillor report.

b) Cultivation of wildflower area – progress report.
The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from Tim Brookes with instructions on how to prepare the wildflower area. The next step was to spray the intended site with a view to planting approximately 3 weeks later when the frosts have gone. The Clerk did suggest extending the site down on the cleared verge towards Holt bridge but some concerns were expressed whether this verge would be easy to cultivate due to its location on the bend and the narrower verge. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper on the issue. The Clerk showed a draft of the letter she had prepared asking for sponsorship of the site and it was agreed that this should be sent out to local business owners.

c) Village gate and sign cleaning – update.
The Clerk reported that unfortunately the organisation in Droitwich did not have the capacity to carry out the work so she had contacted a number of other local firms that she had identified through a google search and was waiting to hear back from them. She also agreed to contact other Parish Councils to see whether any of them had contacts.

d) Co-option of vacancy on Parish Council – update.
The Clerk reported that there had been no applications to date.

e) Refurbishment of the telephone box - update.
The Clerk reported that the original work on the telephone box had been carried out by Peter Mobbs who was a Parish Councillor at the time. Parish Council therefore agreed to research suitable businesses who could potentially quote for the work.

f) Painting of barriers by Woodbury Park – progress report.
It was agreed that once a suitable business had been identified Parish Council would ask them to quote on both the refurbishment of the phone box and the painting of the barriers.

CL

CL

ALL

8. Finance.

a) To note the current bank balances.
It was noted that the bank balances were as follows £1774.59 (current account) and £16 67.54 (deposit account).

b) To consider payments retrospectively.
The following payments were approved retrospectively by Parish Council.

27 January 2025	Bank transfer	TaylormadeMedia (website 24 months)	197.19
05 February 2025	Bank charges		8.00
09 February 2025	Bank transfer	Mr P Winney (Christmas tree lights)	88.05
09 February 2025	Bank transfer	Mr S Williams (Squab confidential waste plus mileage)	67.90
09 February 2025	Bank transfer	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00
09 February 2025	Bank transfer	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerk expenses - printer cartridges)	58.00
09 February 2025	Bank transfer	Mr S Williams (Squab confidential waste mileage)	24.30
20 February 2025	Bank transfer	Top Cut (Dec 2024)	168.00

c) To review the current spend against budget.
Parish Council reviewed the current spend and there were no matters of note.

9. Planning

a) **Applications Pending and Approvals/Refusals.**
To review the recommendations of Parish Council on current applications:

Application No.	Location	Details	Decision status
<u>M/24/0162/CU</u>	Ball Mill Bungalow Main Road Hallow WR2 6LS	Change of use to operation base for salt gritting and ground maintenance storage company.	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<u>M/25/00080/HP</u>	Elm Cottage Holt Heath WR6 6NG	Installation of Solar array to the garage	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><u>M/24/01521/FUL</u> <u>M/24/01522/LB</u></td> <td>Naunton Farm Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NG</td> <td>Extensions and subdivision of dwelling to provide two residential units</td> <td>Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)</td> </tr> </table> <p>b) Approvals/Refusals.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><u>M/23/01131/FUL</u></td> <td>Thatch Lodge Holt Heath</td> <td>Erection of two detached dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling</td> <td>Approved</td> </tr> </table> <p>c) Other Planning Issues. Appeal APP/J1860/W/24/3352203 Cornerways, Holt Heath, WR6 6NF. Demolition of bungalow and replacement with 3 dwellings. There have been no further reports on this appeal.</p>	<u>M/24/01521/FUL</u> <u>M/24/01522/LB</u>	Naunton Farm Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NG	Extensions and subdivision of dwelling to provide two residential units	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)	<u>M/23/01131/FUL</u>	Thatch Lodge Holt Heath	Erection of two detached dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling	Approved	
<u>M/24/01521/FUL</u> <u>M/24/01522/LB</u>	Naunton Farm Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NG	Extensions and subdivision of dwelling to provide two residential units	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)							
<u>M/23/01131/FUL</u>	Thatch Lodge Holt Heath	Erection of two detached dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling	Approved							
10.	<p><u>Correspondence for information.</u></p> <p>All correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was reported that there were no matters to note.</p>									
11.	<p><u>Clerk's report on urgent decisions since the last meeting.</u></p> <p>There were no matters to report.</p>									
12.	<p><u>Councillor's reports and items for future agendas.</u></p> <p>a) Parking on the verge on the entrance to The Heath. This continues to be a problem. The Clerk was asked to contact Fortis housing to inform that Parish Council are considering the installation of low-level fencing to prevent the issue.</p> <p>b) Hedging on A4133. Concerns were raised that this is becoming overgrown again and causing visibility issues. The Clerk agreed to speak to Top Cut on the issue.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>								
13.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting.</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 20 March 2025.</p>									