

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

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

**In Attendance:- District Councillor Mr D. Clarke, Daniel Walton (Labour candidate)**

**Absent:- J. Harper, S. Richardson-Brown.**

<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Public Question Time.</u></b></p> <p>There were no members of the public present and therefore no questions.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>To consider apologies and approve reasons for absence.</u></b></p> <p>Apologies were received from County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown. These were accepted and the reason for absence approved.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest.</u></b></p> <p><b>a) Register of Interests.</b> There were no changes to the Register of Interests.</p> <p><b>b) Registration of Personal Interests.</b></p> <p><b>c) Registration of Prejudicial Interests.</b></p> <p><b>d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation.</b> There were no issues on the agenda that required any declarations of interest.</p>	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>Minutes.</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the 20 February 2025 were approved as a true record of the meeting. These were proposed by Parish Councillor Mrs M. Taylor and seconded by Parish Councillor Mrs. J. Hill and approved as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b><u>County and District Councillor reports for information.</u></b></p> <p><b>Report from District Councillor Mr Dean Clarke:</b></p> <p><b>a) Funding.</b> Executive Meeting to discuss the potential funding available for the village hall. Expression of Interest forms will be available from April and decisions on the funding should be made quite quickly.</p> <p><b>b) Devolution.</b> District Councillor Mr Dean Clarke gave an update on the current position. No firm decisions have been made although the District Council would prefer a smaller South Worcestershire authority.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>Progress reports for information.</u></b></p> <p>a) Footpath clearance – progress report. Nothing further has been heard from County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown on this issue. The Clerk agreed to chase him. <b>CL</b></p> <p>b) Cultivation of wildflower area – progress report. The Clerk reported that she had costed out the wildflower seed and spreading agent. The next stage was the spraying of the site to prevent weeds as a period of 3 weeks was required before the seed could be spread. Parish Councillor Mrs C. Adams agreed to help contact Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper to arrange this. <b>CA</b></p> <p>c) Village gate and sign cleaning – update. The Clerk was asked to contact Fletcher Access in the absence of alternative contractors and ask him to requote for the work. <b>CL</b></p> <p>d) Co-option of vacancy on Parish Council – update. The Clerk reported that there had been no applications for the role so it would be readvertised. <b>CL</b></p> <p>e) Refurbishment of the telephone box and painting of the barriers by Woodbury Park – progress report. The Clerk reported that she had contacted a number of local contractors with regard to carrying out this work and was still waiting to hear back from them. <b>CL</b></p> <p>f) Flood prevention at Red Lion cottages– update. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown had reported that the issues were caused by inadequate drainage and poorly maintained ditches and gullies on the surrounding fields. He</p>	

offered to contact the landowner concerned. Parish Council noted that the field in question is subject to a possible development application.  
 g) Low level fencing by Woodbury Park – update.  
 The Clerk reported that she had contacted Platform housing on this issue and they had asked for a photograph of the location to be sent to them.

**CL**

**8.**

**Finance.**  
 a) To note the current bank balances.  
 It was noted that the bank balances were as follows £838.59 (current account) and £16 845.36 (deposit account).  
 b) To consider payments retrospectively.  
 The following payments were approved retrospectively by Parish Council.

20 February 2025	Bank transfer	20.2.2025 8b	Top Cut (Dec 2024)	168.00
01 March 2025	Bank transfer		Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00
08 March 2025	Bank charges			8.00
11 March 2025	Bank transfer		Top Cit (Jan 2025)	168.00
05 March 2025	Bank transfer		Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00

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
<b><u>M/25/0220/HP</u></b>	Brook House B4196 Holt Heath WR6 6TA	Installation of 14no solar panels to south facing roof of outbuilding	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<b><u>M/25/00080/HP</u></b>	Elm Cottage Holt Heath WR6 6NG	Installation of Solar array to the garage	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<b><u>M/24/01521/FUL</u></b> <b><u>M/24/01522/LB</u></b>	Naunton Farm Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NG	Extensions and subdivision of dwelling to provide two residential units	Withdrawn

b) **Approvals/Refusals.**

<b><u>M/24/0162/CU</u></b>	Ball Mill Bungalow Main Road Hallow WR3 6LS	Change of use to operation base for salt gritting and grounds maintenance storage company (B8 storage and distribution)	Application approved
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c) **Other Planning Issues.**  
 Appeal APP/J1860/W/24/3352203 Cornerways, Holt Heath, WR6 6NF.  
 Demolition of bungalow and replacement with 3 dwellings.  
 The Clerk reported that this appeal had been dismissed.

**10.**

**Correspondence for information.**  
 The Clerk reported that all correspondence of note had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**11.**

**Clerk’s report on urgent decisions since the last meeting.**  
 There were no matters to report.

<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Councillor's reports and items for future agendas.</u></b></p> <p>a) Hedging. It was reported that the hedging surrounding the bench at Red Lion junction and the bus shelter had become overgrown. The Clerk agreed to ask Top Cut if they could tidy up the hedges around the Parish once bird nesting season is over.</p> <p>b) Bus shelter and gate cleaning. This was dealt with under agenda item 6c. Progress reports for Information.</p> <p>c) Christmas lights. It was agreed that a cheque for £25.00 should be passed to the estate of Mrs Bullock as payment for the electricity used for the Christmas tree lights.</p> <p>d) Badgers. A resident of Apple Tree Close has complained that a resident on The Heath is feeding the badgers. Several cats have contracted TB and there has been a rat issue. The RSPCA and the Worcestershire Regulatory Services have contacted the resident but he is continuing to feed the badgers. The issue has also been reported to Platform Housing but there is very little action that they can take.</p> <p>e) Litter pick. The issue of litter within the Parish was discussed and incentives to get people involved in regular litter picks. The possibility of a banner was raised. The Clerk agreed to research costs associated with this.</p>	<p><b>CL</b></p> <p><b>CL</b></p> <p><b>CL</b></p>
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting.</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 17 April 2025.</p>	