

**HOLT PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL  
AT 7.30 p.m. ON THURSDAY 21 November 2024 IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL.**

**Present :- B. Curral (Chairman), S. Williams, J. Hill**

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

**Absent:- C. Adams, M. Taylor, J. Harper and C. Lighfoot (Parish Clerk).**

<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Public Question Time.</u></b> There were no members of the public present, so there were no issues raised</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>To consider apologies and approve reasons for absence.</u></b> Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Catherine Adams, John Harper and Michele Taylor, as well as from the Parish Clerk Caroline Lightfoot, these were accepted and the reasons for absence approved.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Declarations of Interest.</u></b>  <b>a) Register of Interests.</b> There were no changes to the Register of Interests.  <b>b) Registration of Personal Interests.</b>  <b>c) Registration of Prejudicial Interests.</b>  <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> The minutes of the meeting of the 17 October 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting. These were proposed by Parish Council Mr S. Williams and seconded by Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill.</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> Control of the district council is changing. In the future it is likely that control will be shared between the independent and conservative councillors on the District Council. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke also provided a summary of the current financial position at District Level. A paper is being produced regarding the siting of mobile phone masts in the District in-order to improve mobile connectivity. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke agreed to provide a copy of this paper to members of Holt Parish Council and highlighted that this paper will be subject to discussion at the next meeting of Grimley Parish Council. The mobile mast installers are now in a position where if a site is turned down they will not apply again, so the area will miss out on improved mobile network. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams stated that having a good mobile network is going to be important with the digital switchover, as mobiles will be needed to back up landlines in the event of such things as power cuts. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke said that based upon what has happened in Hallow, there is a possible income of around £7000 per year for providing a site for a mobile mast. There has been some progress on the SWDP and it will hopefully be approved in the new year once the traffic figures have been confirmed. This will have an implications in relation to new planning applications in the Parish.</p> <p><b>Report from County Councillor Mr Scott Richardson Brown:</b> SRB described the financial situation at county level. He stated that a large proportion of the shortfall was due to the provision that has been made to support children with special needs. It is hoped that the additional funding promised by central government will help, however it is unclear what proportion of this funding the county will receive. Rural bus services. There have been some county wide trials of the operation of an “on demand” bus service. This has proved to be successful and could be rolled out to create the kind of cover in rural areas that users need, particularly the elderly and vulnerable. These services are not there to cover commuting but will address the need to get to shops, banks etc. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown discussed the issues in relation to the A443 and A4133 which pass through the village. Unfortunately, there will not be a review of signage or speed limits</p>

	<p>as this is deemed adequate by WCC Highways. Parish Council Mr S. Williams provided updates on the 2 latest incidents, the pedestrian accident on the A4133 and the cyclist hit on the A443. Drainage issues, This was discussed under Agenda item 6c Progress reports for information. Footpaths. There was a general discussion about clearing footpaths in the village as in some places they are only wide enough to allow for single file walking. Footpaths within the 30-mph limit can be cleared by the Lengthsman whereas outside the 30 mph limits it is the responsibility of WCC Highways. In some instances it will be carried out by machine due to health and safety issues and in those cases traffic management measures and lane closures are required. It was agreed that Parish Council would put together a list of the footpaths that need addressing for the January meeting.</p>	CL
6.	<p><b><u>Progress reports for information.</u></b></p> <p>a) Wildflower area future plans – update. It was reported that the Clerk was still waiting for quotes to carry out the necessary work on the site and the supply of seed. These actions had been chased with the individuals responsible. It was agreed that this would be followed up at the January meeting of Parish Council.</p> <p>b) Speed limit review on A4133 – update. The responses received from Tanya Crake at County Highways make it very clear that Highways consider the signs, road markings and speed limits adequate both on this stretch of road in and the mini roundabout and no further review will take place. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams reported that the leader of the county council and a fellow county councillor were travelling in a car together and had a near miss at our roundabout.</p> <p>c) Drainage at Red Lion junction – update. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson- Brown finally obtained the drainage plan for the area by the Red Lion. WCC Highways are still insisting that it is the responsibility of the landowners responsible for ensuring the drainage ditches are kept clear. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams highlighted that this could be an issue going forward as the land in question may be used for a housing development. It was clarified that the drain on Lambourne Orchard is not the responsibility of WCC Highways, as it is in fact part of the private drive to the houses and as such it is the householder's responsibility to maintain this. It is not clear whether the drainage was installed with the intention of using the pond as a natural run off and soakway by the original builder. The Clerk was asked to respond to the Parishioner who originally made the complaint with an update.</p> <p>d) Telephone box defibrillator – update. This has been checked by an electrician and light and heater fixed. A check on the power supply on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> showed that everything was still working despite the snow and rain. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams agreed to keep an eye on it over the winter months.</p> <p>e) Village gate and sign cleaning – update. We are still awaiting a quote from Droitwich for the work. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>f) Co-option of vacancy on Parish Council – update. There have been no applications for the vacancy so it will be readvertised in the new year.</p> <p>g) Carols by candlelight – update. It was reported that attendance by the Salvation Army and Father Christmas had been confirmed. It was agreed to discuss dates for 2025 at the January meeting of Parish Council.</p> <p>h) Uneven footpath by The Heath – update. Following concerns reported by a Parishioner in relation to the safety of this path investigations had taken place. Unfortunately, both Platform housing and WCC Highways both denied owning the area. It was suggested that the Parishioner raise the issue directly with Platform housing and WCC.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>SW</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JH</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Finance.</u></b></p> <p>a) To note the current bank balances. It was noted that the bank balances were as follows £1244.14 (current account) and £1984.05 (deposit account).</p> <p>b) To consider payments retrospectively.</p> <p>c) To review the current spend against budget.</p> <p>d) To approve the 5 year budget projection and set the Precept for 2025/26.</p> <p>The financial figures and the projected budget for the setting of the Precept was reviewed and agreed by Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to prepare the Precept and submit the figures to MHDC.</p>	CL
9.	<p><b><u>Planning</u></b></p> <p>a) <b>Applications Pending and Approvals/Refusals.</b> To review the recommendations of Parish Council on current applications:</p>	

Application No.	Location	Details	Decision status
<b>M/24/00957/LB</b>	The Granary 2 Naunton Farm Barns Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NG	Replacement of existing patio sliding doors, installation of new window, installation of handrail to existing external steps and canopy above door, installation of brick low level wall to front of property and alterations to internal layout (part retrospective)	Pending Decision <b>(Recommend approval)</b>
<b><u>M/23/01131/FUL</u></b>	Thatch Lodge Holt Heath	Erection of two detached dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling	<b>Pending Decision Recommend Approval</b>
<b><u>M/24/01548/HP</u></b>	The Old Farmhouse Farm Lane Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NQ	Detached Garage and Car Port	Pending Decision

**b) Approvals/Refusals.**

<b><u>M/24/00748/HP</u></b>	Cherry Tree Barn 1 Naunton Farm Barns Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NG	Proposed replacement of windows and doors (retrospective)	<b>Application refused.</b>
<b><u>M/24/01308/CCO</u></b>	The Farmhouse Top Barn Farm Worcester Road Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NH	Discharge of Condition 4 (materials) and Condition 12 (ecology) of planning application M/24/00560/FUL	<b>Application approved.</b>

**c) Other Planning Issues.**

Appeal APP/J1860/W/24/3352203 Cornerways, Holt Heath, WR6 6NF.

Demolition of bungalow and replacement with 3 dwellings.

The appeal was discussed by Parish Council and it was agreed that the previously submitted comments were still valid and it was not necessary to make a further submission.

The appeals process was discussed, and it was clarified that the final decision will be by the independent government inspector and that the only involvement by MHDC is to collate and submit the original information.

**10. Correspondence for information.**

It was reported that there were no matters to note.

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

a) Annual donation for Holt Churchyard maintenance.

It was reported that the invoice had now been received and a payment of 200 had been made.

b) Holt Christmas Tree Festival.

	<p>Parish Council agreed a payment of £100 to fund a banner to advertise both the Christmas tree festival and the Carols by Candlelight. It has been agreed that these will be placed at the road junctions in the week prior to the events.</p> <p>An offer to distribute flyers for the Carols by Candlelight had been made by Holt Church.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that a joint community event calendar was planned for 2025 to prevent clashes of village events. This was welcomed by Parish Council.</p>	<b>CL</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b><u>Councillor's reports and items for future agendas.</u></b>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting.</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 16 January 2025.</p> <p>County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown gave his apologies for this meeting but informed Parish Council he would be attending the meeting on 20 February 2025.</p>	