

## Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council

20 November 2025.

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

**In attendance:- District Councillor D. Clarke.**

**Absent :- J. Harper, County Councillor M. Fordingham.**

<b>1.</b>	There were no members of the public present and therefore no questions.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies.</b>  Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Mr John Harper and County Councillor M. Fordingham. These were accepted by Parish Council.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest.</b>  (a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to complete/update their register of interests.  (b) To declare any Personal Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  (c) To declare any Prejudicial Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  (d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation (s33 of The Localism Act 2011) are to be passed to the Clerk at least 4 clear days prior to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest by Councillors for any items on the agenda.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes.</b>  The minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on 16 October 2025 were submitted for approval. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill proposed the minutes and this was seconded by Parish Councillor Mr B. Curral. The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>County and District Councillor Reports for Information.</b>	

	<p>In her absence the report from County Councillor M. Fordington had been circulated amongst Parish Council. Parish Council noted the following from her report.</p> <p>1. VAS. County Councillor Mrs M. Fordington has expressed to County Highways that if the housing development adjacent to the Millennium Green goes ahead the Parish Council would like to place a VAS on the Shrawley road.</p> <p>District Councillor Mr D. Clarke:-</p> <p>1. Devolution. MHDC have voted for the 2 council (North, South) option. This proposal has now been submitted.</p> <p>2. Regulatory services – Bromsgrove. More food inspections are being carried out as we are not in the EU any longer. Noise complaints have risen from 8 to 11 (MHDC) over the course of the year.</p> <p>3. Flooding incidence – 2 instances in the last period of heavy rain within Holt. The drains in question have been jetted and cleared but this has not really made much difference. This is still being investigated.</p> <p>4. Litter picking. Parish Council were reminded of the “adopt a street” scheme whereby residents can apply for litter picking equipment and the rubbish will be collected afterwards. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill agreed to research the scheme but was unsure whether residents would want the commitment.</p>	<p><b>JH</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Progress Reports for Information.</b></p> <p>1. Divisional funding ideas for projects – update. Some smaller projects in relation to community activities were discussed but Parish Council agreed to wait until the New Year with regards to finalising their priorities for 2026.</p> <p>2. Devolution update on latest position and reflection on future action. This was discussed under Agenda item 5 County and District Councillor reports.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>

	<p>Responses have been received from a number of neighbouring Parish Councils with regards to arranging a cluster meeting and the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting for the end of January 2026.</p> <p>3. Storage solutions for Village Hall items during refurbishment – discussion of options.</p> <p>The option of temporary storage in the Red Lion before a container can be arranged on the Millennium Green was discussed. Following a vote Parish Council agreed to use the Red Lion as temporary storage for the items from the Village Hall until a more permanent solution can be found.</p> <p>4. Resiting of the Parish Noticeboard – discussion of options.</p> <p>The Clerk has not had any luck getting hold of the contact suggested by Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper but agreed to keep chasing.</p> <p>5. Hedge cutting in the village – update.</p> <p>It was commented how good the village was looking following the recent hedge cutting and tree trimming by Top Cut.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to check if the hedging behind the bench at Red Lion junction and the vegetation around the pedestrian entrance to the Millennium Green had been cut.</p> <p>6. Ockeridge Lane litter bin and overhanging trees.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that MHDC had approved the siting of a litter bin on Ockeridge Lane and agreed to empty it. Hopefully this will go some way to alleviating the litter problem. The Clerk agreed to clarify the exact location before contacting Jim Moule to see if he would be willing to make the base and install the bin.</p> <p>7. Painting of village bus shelter – update.</p> <p>Having received the quotes Parish Council agreed to go with the cheaper quote. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill agreed to contact the contractor and arrange a date for the work to be carried out in the spring when the weather is drier.</p> <p>8. Parish Council email addresses (.gov) – feedback.</p> <p>Parish Councillor Ms M. Taylor has carried out some research on this and considered it would be better to transfer the website and all parish council email addresses to .gov. The current website is due for renewal in February so a final decision will be made then.</p>	<p><b>CL</b></p> <p><b>CL</b></p> <p><b>CL</b></p> <p><b>CL</b></p> <p><b>CL</b></p> <p><b>JH</b></p> <p><b>MT</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Finance.</b></p> <p>1. To note the current bank balances.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the current account balance is £1,844.79 and the deposit account balance is £20,268.98.</p> <p>2. To consider payments retrospectively.</p> <p>The following payments were reviewed and approved retrospectively by Parish Council.</p>	

15 November 2025	Bank transfer	20.11.2025 7b	Top Cut Ltd	168.00
15 November 2025	Bank transfer	20.11.2025 7b	Top Cut Ltd	450.00
15 November 2025	Bank transfer	20.11.2025 7b	Nora Parsons Day Centre	150.00
19 November 2025	Bank transfer	20.11.2025 7b	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	412.38

3. To review the current spend against budget.  
Parish Council noted the Accounts spreadsheet which had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the Meeting.

Parish Council approved an invoice for £8.99 for Mr P. Winney for equipment for the Christmas tree lights.

Parish Council approved a donation of £100 to Holt Millennium Green to support the Community Christmas event. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill agreed to provide an invoice for the Clerk.

Parish Council approved the purchase of some litter pickers by Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill and the Clerk asked her to submit the bill so she could process the payment.

4. To discuss the budget forecast for the next 5 years and finalise the precept figures for 2026/27.

The Chairman went through the proposed precept for 2026/27 of £14,710 which equates to a 6% increase on the previous year. This includes the expected increase in website costs.

The Chairman summarized the 5 year budget forecast.

The precept was unanimously approved and the Clerk was asked to submit the figures to MHDC.

JH

JH

CL

**8.**

**Planning.**

1. Applications pending.

Application No.	Location Details	Decision Status
M/25/00590/FUL M/25/00591/LBC	Naunton Farm Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NG Extensions and alterations to create a flat at second floor level for holiday let use.	Pending Decision

*Parish Council had previously recommended approval of this application.*

M/25/00400/FUL Land At (Os 8144	Erection of 33no. dwellings, including	Pending Decision
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	6324) Holt Heath	13no. affordable dwellings, new access off B4196, new landscaping and associated works		
<i>No further information on this application.</i>				
<p>2. Approvals/ Refusals. There were no issues to discuss.</p> <p>3. Other planning issues. There were no issues to discuss.</p>				
<b>9.</b>	<b>Correspondence for information.</b>			
All relevant correspondence has been circulated prior to the meeting..				
<b>10.</b>	<b>Clerk’s report on urgent decisions since the last meeting.</b>			
<p>The Clerk reported that due to ill health the Lengthsman had expressed that he would not be renewing his contract in 2026. However, Top Cut had expressed an interest in taking over the Lengthsman role in the Parish. Parish Council expressed regret at losing Rob Harrison after many years service but agreed that it was a good solution for Top Cut to take over the Lengthsman role.</p>				
<b>11.</b>	<b>Councillor’s reports and items for future agendas.</b>			
<p>1. Litter picking banner. The Clerk reported that this had still not been received despite the invoice having been paid and she would chase it up, as previously there had been a delay due to the clarity of the artwork.</p>				
<p>2. Village Hall. The Chairman reported that 4 quotes had been received. 2 have been discounted and 2 remain both of which are local companies. These 2 companies have been asked to resubmit their tenders as the plans have been slightly amended.</p>				
<p>3. Christmas tree and Wildflower area. It was agreed to place the issue of a replacement Christmas Tree and also reseeding the Wildflower area for 2026 on the agenda of the next meeting.</p>				
<b>CL</b>				
<b>CL</b>				

<b>12.</b>	<b>Date for the next Meeting.</b>  This is scheduled for Thursday 15 January 2026. The Clerk had previously circulated all the dates for Parish Council Meetings in 2026. The Chairman wished all members of Parish Council a Merry Christmas.	
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