

**HOLT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30 p.m. ON THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2023 IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL.**

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

In Attendance:- County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown, District Councillor Mr D. Clarke, Jemma and John Neale and Lynda Hart (Parishioners).

Absent:- C. John, M. Taylor

1.	<p><u>Public Question Time.</u> The Chairman welcomed Mr John and Mrs Jemma Neale and Mrs Lynda Hart to the meeting. They explained they had attended the meeting after an invitation from the Clerk to discuss the issue of speeding outside the 30mph zone on the A443 and Ockeridge Lane. They were particularly concerned that the speed of vehicles past the properties on these roads where residents are turning in and out of driveways. They also expressed concern about more vulnerable road users. A further issue was raised that the Ockeridge Lane junction is too wide and vehicles do not slow down when turning off the A443. The Neales also reported that they had had to notify the police that people were doing doughnuts in the junction at night. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown explained it is difficult to take action against speeding in a derestricted zone. The speed limits were set 25 years ago on these roads and County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown acknowledged that they really should be reevaluated particularly with the increased volume of traffic. -County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown promised to take the following action:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data collection of the vehicle speeds on these roads. The Neales confirmed that the last data collection took place in 2010. • Highways engineer visit to look at Ockeridge lane junction and see whether it needs realigning. <p>Parish Council asked to kept informed of the progress on these issues and requested that they could attend the meeting with the Highways engineer. The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Neale and Mrs Hart for attending the meeting and said Parish Council would keep them informed of the outcome of the meeting with Highways.</p>	SRB
2.	<p><u>To consider apologies and approve reasons for absence.</u> The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Mrs C. John and Mrs M. Taylor. Parish Council approved the reasons for absence.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest.</u> a) Register of Interests. There had been no changes to the Register of Interests. b) Registration of Personal Interests. Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper registered a personal interest in planning application M/23/00977/HP The Farmhouse, Top Barn Farm. c) Registration of Prejudicial Interests. There was no registration of Prejudicial Interests. d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation. There had been no written requests for dispensation.</p>	

4.	<p><u>Minutes.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on 19 October 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 J. Hill and unanimously agreed Parish Council. The Chairman signed the Minutes.</p>
5.	<p><u>County and District Councillor reports for information.</u></p> <p>County Councillors Mrs S. Richardson-Brown’s report was discussed under agenda item 1 Public Question Time and agenda item 6b Highways issues. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke reported the following items of note:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Divisional Fund. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke pledged £150.00 from his Divisional Fund to support the carols at Christmas on the Millennium Green. He was thanked for his generous donation by Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill on behalf of the Millennium Green. b) Drain cleaning. Following the exceptional wet weather and localised flash flooding the District Council are attempting to clean and drains and gulleys to reduce the likelihood of flooding in the future. c) Planning. The new local plan has not yet been finalised and consequently there is no 5 year land supply. This situation is likely to continue for 12 months. Hallow has recently lost an appeal to build 70 houses within the Parish.
6.	<p><u>Progress reports for information.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Village VAS – feedback re feasibility study into the installation of additional VAS on A4133. It was reported that Highways had reviewed the signs for the mini roundabout and deemed them adequate. This was disappointing to Parish Council. Highways have approved a site for a VAS in the 40mph zone approaching the mini roundabout. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown pledged £1000.00 from his Community Fund to fund a VAS for this location. He also agreed to honour his previous promise to cover the insurance premium increase due to the defibrillator theft. The Clerk agreed to contact him with the relevant financial information. b) Highways issues – installation of low-level fencing on verge on A4133 – feedback on feasibility study. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams reported that the verge belongs to Platform Housing. He reported that he had logged the concerns regarding the litter and the vehicles parking in front of the property for 1 The Heath. Parish Council agreed that they would wait to see the outcome of this referral before taking further action. c) Hedging– update on progress to cut back overhanging hedging throughout the village. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill agreed to ask the relevant homeowner to cut back the hedging overhanging at the bus shelter. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams agreed to ask Highways whether they were responsible for the hedging opposite the village hall or whether the homeowners were responsible. The Clerk agreed to ask the Lengthsman to clean the leaves in the bus lay-bye. d) Village Hall rebuild project – update on current position.

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Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper reported that the Village Hall project is progressing well and the Quantity Surveyor has been particularly helpful in sourcing grants. Realistically a further £250,000 grant funding is required. An Open Meeting will be held at the Village Hall next week to present the plans to the community. These are not finalised and can still be amended dependent on the amount of funding obtained.

d) Resignation of PCSO Deb Abbotts – update on replacement Community Police Officer.
The Clerk was asked to contact the new PCSO and remind them that they had scheduled a speed survey within the Parish.

e) Purchase of new litter bin for Millennium Green – progress report.
Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill reported that the 2 new litter bins for the Millennium Green have been installed.

f) Christmas on the Green – update on progress of the event, including approval of the risk assessment.
A discussion took place in relation to the Christmas on the Green event and the roles were allocated to members of the Parish Council. The risk assessment was reviewed and agreed by members of Parish Council.

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7. Discussion re precept loan for the Village Hall project.

Parish Council agreed that there was no further action to be taken in relation to this application and it will be revisited in April/May. At this stage the progress of the Village Hall project and associated grant funding should be clearer. It is not possible to apply for the precept loan until planning permission for the project has been finalised.

8. Finance.

a) To note the current bank balances.
It was reported that the current account bank balance currently stood at £1,572.46 and the deposit account at £13,105.55.

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.

22 October 2023	Bank transfer	17-11-2023 8b	Top Cut (grass cutting September)	168.00
22 October 2023	Bank transfer	17-11-2023 8b	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00
22 October 2023	Bank transfer	17-11-2023 8b	Mr RT Harrison (Lengthsman)	143.10
23 October 2023	Bank transfer	17-11-2023 8b	Worcestershire CALC	459.00
30 October 2023	Bank transfer	17-11-2023 8b	Hallow PCC (Remembrance Wreath)	20.00
30 October 2023	Bank transfer	17-11-2023 8b	Glasdon UK ltd (litter bin)	376.06
05 November 2023	Bank charges	17-11-2023 8b	Bank charges	8.00
12 November 2023	Bank transfer	17-11-2023 8b	Top Cut (grass cutting October)	168.00

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

d) To review the 5-year budget against the forecast.
The Clerk presented the 5-year budget forecast to Parish Council. A discussion took place between members of Parish Council. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams reported that he had looked at precepts of similar sized parishes and Holt precept is relatively low in comparison. It was agreed to increase the precept by £500 for 2024/25 and allocate this money to the Village Hall project. This will equate to a 7.69% increase in the precept.

e) To set the Precept for 2024/25.
Parish Council agreed the Precept figures for 2024/45 and the Clerk was asked to prepare the paperwork for submission to MHDC.

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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/23/01169/HP</u>	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.	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<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)

b) Approvals/Refusals.

<u>M/23/00654/HP</u>	4 Worcester Road Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NH	Partial two storey extension to the rear; removal of existing detached garage; new detached garage.	Approved
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c) Other Planning Issues.

M/22/01773/FUL Ball Mill Bungalow, Main Road, Hallow, WR2 6LS
Proposal: New build dwelling to replace existing Ball Mill Bungalow.
Appeal to Planning Inspectorate 01/08/2023 (APP/J1860/W/23/3320554)

It was reported that this Appeal had been dismissed and the application refused.

	<p>1 Witley Road – referral to Planning Enforcement.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Planning Enforcement reporting that they had visited this property and that the large structures in the garden were for private use only and they were satisfied that no planning infringements had taken place. The case had therefore been closed.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Correspondence for information.</u></p> <p>The Clerk 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>The Clerk reported that there were no matters to note.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Councillor’s reports and items for future agendas.</u></p> <p>There were no matters to note.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting.</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 18 January 2024. The Chairman thanked all members of Parish Council and invited them to join him in a drink to celebrate Christmas.</p>	