

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL- MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH 2022 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

PRESENT: Councillors – Mr S Lewis, Ms A Shone, Mr J Pridding, Mr D Powell, Councillor M Morris, Mr D Munnerley, Mr D Bithell, Mr J Hughes, Mr G Mitchell, Clerk

APOLOGIES: Mr J Cubitt, Mrs G Jones, Mr A Jones

Before the meeting was formally opened, a meeting was held with Mrs Sarah Atherton, MP for Wrexham; Mrs Atherton had requested a meeting as part of her policy of meeting local Community Councils and organisations to discuss any local concerns that she can assist with, in her capacity as MP for Wrexham.

A number of issues were discussed;

- a) There was the rumour that the local bus from Wrexham to Chester, via Holt and Farndon, was to stop; Mrs Atherton said that she would write to Stagecoach to ask what were the intentions for the route going forward**
- b) No report had been received from the local PCSO and some Councillors were concerned at the lack of contact; the Clerk apologised and advised that he had not sent a copy of the Agenda or minutes from the last meeting; Mrs Atherton advised that she would write to the local Police Inspector for the area**
- c) A general discussion was held regarding waiting times for medical treatment in the area, especially involving Wrexham Maelor Hospital; Mrs Atherton was aware of this issue and is in regular discussions with members of the Welsh Senedd**

As there were no other matters, Mr Lewis thanked Mrs Atherton for attending the meeting and in turn Mrs Atherton advised that she was willing to help with any concerns raised by the Council.

Mr Lewis welcomed the 2 new Councillors, Mr J Hughes and Mr D Bithell; the Clerk asked both Councillors to sign the DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT, in the presence of the Clerk/RFO who countersigned as per requirement of Law

The meeting was formally opened by the Deputy Chairman Mr S Lewis and welcomed everyone. A silence was held in respect of the late Mr George Edge, Mr Colin Hughes and Mrs Carol Anne Route.

MINUTES: Mr S Lewis proposed these be approved as a true record, seconded by Ms A Shone

ITEM 1 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1) TOILETS:

- a) The Clerk had been asked to try to get quotes for a water supply to be placed on the outside of the back wall of the toilet block, in a lockable box; he has received 1 quote so far of £250 and was waiting on a meeting to get another quote.
- b) The Clerk advised that there had been a blockage in the toilets which had been cleared by Mr Stuart Jones, who will also refit the downspout which was found in the toilet lockup.
- c) The Clerk advised that he had put signs up in the toilets advising that the toilets were monitored by CCTV and any persons believed to have caused damage would be reported to the police; the Clerk had spoken to the PCSO regarding some minor damage and as the children who it was believed may have been involved were local, it was agreed that Mrs Jones and Ms Shone would speak to the parents, which had been done.

2) **ALLOTMENTS:** The agreed improvements have not been carried out to Allotment 7 yet; also Joe Hughes has agreed to cut up the fallen apple tree by the entrance to the allotments from the cemetery side.

3) **BOWLING GREEN:** The Clerk had met with Shane Coupland who maintains the Bowling Green but was unable to get a idea of costs to improve the condition. Mr Coupland had advised that at present he was unable to take on anymore work as he was very busy, but that to make a material and lasting improvement to the Bowling Green would cost “thousands” and would be ongoing each year; Mr Coupland advised that the underlying foundations were poor which affected the drainage and that there was deep thatch on the green which also affected the drainage and would need a machine to remove. It was agreed to discuss again at the next meeting.

The Clerk advised that the lock has been repaired, the striker plate had moved but the lock itself was serviceable; the Clerk advised that if the issue of keys was a problem, a hasp and staple and new lock could be put on the door at minimal cost and keys could then be restricted.

4) **MUGA:** A meeting had taken place with representatives of the WMBC, Councillors of Holt CC and representatives of Castle Green Homes, (CGH); CGH advised that a new plan was in place for the surface water drainage issue, and that the “pond” was going to be filled in using aqua cells which would in turn be filled with rocks; it was hoped that this would improve the drainage and that the surface could then be landscaped.

5) **CEMETERY BINS:** Clerk had contacted a representative of the refuse department of WMBC and the issue of the bins not being emptied has been resolved.

6) The Townfield Lane, Farndon Archaeological dig has now been completed and it had been decided that it was a metal working site.

- 7) A meeting was held at the house of Mr J Cubitt to complete the online forms for changing the NatWest Bank mandate; had been completed but at the time of the meeting, the mandate had still not been changed over.
- 8) **FINANCIAL SHEET:** This was discussed and the variances explained; at present, the actual spend as to the budget is looking favourable.; proposed acceptance Mr S Lewis, seconded by Mr J Pridding.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

9) PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a) No 18, Smithfield Drive, Holt; Roof extension, rear dormer extension, and single storey rear extension; no objections;
- b) No 5, Dee Villas, Holt; Renewal of roof covering; no objections
- c) No 2, Dee Villas, Holt; Replacement roof; no objections
- d) Ty Dewr, Bryn Estyn Road, Wrexham; Works to protected trees; no objections

- 10) The Clerk advised that he had received an email from Bob Campbell on behalf of the Holt Gardeners, enquiring if it would be possible to drop the kerbs in the car park adjacent to the new gabion wall area and seating. This would be to provide wheel chair/disability access to the area. The Clerk was asked to get quotes.

In addition, Mr Campbell asked if the hedges adjoining the footpath at Fairview down to the Dragonfly sculpture could be trimmed back, once again to improve wheelchair access; this was discussed but it was pointed out that the hedges on the first part of the footpath were at the bottom of the gardens of private households and as such it was their responsibility to keep them cut back. The Clerk was asked to view the hedges and report at the next meeting.

- 11) The Clerk had received an email from Brian Goodwin of the Holt Gardeners asking permission to place a plaque that the gardeners had received in recognition of their recent success in the Wales in Bloom competition on the notice board on the Cross; this was discussed and unanimously agreed; Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded by Mr S Lewis.

ITEM 3: AGENDA

- 12) Chester Marathon; the Clerk advised he had arranged for the toilets to be opened; no other arrangements need making by the Council

13) Remembrance Sunday; The Clerk advised that Cat Williams had agreed to play the cornet on the cross on Remembrance Sunday. The Clerk had received a quote from Apple Sound for the provision of the sound system for the Remembrance Service on the Cross at a cost of £234, the price had been £221 in 2021; this was agreed as acceptable; proposed Mr S Lewis, seconded Mrs A Shone.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14) a) Mr D Munnerley enquired if there were any general arrangements regarding litter picking in the village as he was aware of a previous campaign; Councillor M Morris advised this was part of the Keep Wales Tidy; Mr P Gaade had been involved with this and it is believed he has the litter picking equipment.

b) Mr D Bithell asked if it was possible to do anything about the area of Dee Park, at the end nearest to the play area, which floods when it rains heavily; he advised that when the “gulley sucker” vehicle comes around, it is not possible to do all of the grids as there are cars in the way; Councillor Morris advised emailing either Mr Jamie Edge or Greg McArthur to assist

c) Mr J Pridding advised that the reflecting upright strip on the narrowing of Frog Lane opposite the Pinfold had been knocked over and needed re-fixing.

ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT SEPTEMBER

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| 2886 – AVOW, Wage, 1 x Salary, charge | £749.51 |
| 2887 - Kenyon Hall, Hire of Room July | £25.20 |
| 2888 - Shane Coupland, August Cuts Bowling Green | £244.00 |
| 2889 – M&L Grass Cuts, Village Entrance | £162.00 |

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER AT THE KENYON HALL

- 9) Pie advised that she has typed up a notice re cemetery rules to be put up in the carpark notice board.

The memorial for the late Mrs A Baker was approved; proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mrs A Shone.

- 10) PLAY EQUIPMENT DEE PARK: The new play equipment has been ordered and should be delivered at the end of October; Mrs G Jones advised concern about the condition of the baby swing on Dee Park playground, Mrs Pierce advised she would deal with it.
- 11) FINANCIAL SHEET: The Financial sheet had been circulated to the Councillors; it was discussed and variances explained; proposed acceptance by Mr S Lewis seconded by Mr J Pridding.
- 12) A meeting with Sarah Atherton, MP, has been agreed to take place at the beginning of the September meeting; a 15 minute slot has been allocated; Mr S Lewis will be chairing the meeting as Mr J Cubitt is away.
- 13) The PCSO had advised that the car which had been continuously parked on the car park was taxed so it could not be moved.
- 14) The Chairman advised that the Townfield Lane, Farndon Archaeological dig was going ahead
- 15) The footpath from the Dee Park Play Area to Dee Park has still not been repaired and the street sign on the entrance to Chapel Lane has not been repaired (Clerk had previously taped the cover over the electrics back on); Clerk to contact WMBC again.
- 16) It was reported that there were some issues with removing the names of ex-councillors from the website.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE

17) PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a) No 2 The Gardens, Holt, Replace existing roof: **NO OBJECTIONS**
- b) Nos 1-5 Caer Castell, Holt, Replace existing roof, fascia, soffits and guttering: **NO OBJECTIONS**
- c) Land between Walden House and Holt Lodge Cottages, Hugmore Lane, Llanypwll, Erection of building to store equipment: **NO OBJECTIONS**
- d) Clarity House, Borrass Road, Borrass, Change of use of building from Class B1 (Offices) to Class D2 (Assembly and Leisure): **NO OBJECTIONS**

18) Electrics:

- a) Mrs Pierce had emailed Gary Jones, WMBC re: the supply and charging for electricity used at the charging point on the car park; Mr Jones had replied that the usage will be looked at annually, and the Community Council will be re-imbursed for the cost of the electric as the power is taken from the supply in the toilet block.
- b) Mrs Pierce had contacted Nicola Ellis, WMBC, re: supply of electricity to the allotments and had been advised that no allotments controlled by WMBC had an electric supply.

19) Chester Marathon: a letter had been received from Callum Shields, Events Director, Chester Marathon, advising of the date, areas affected and road closures; Clerk to ensure toilets are open and free to use while the marathon is taking place.

20) The Clerk had received an email from Paul Gaade advising that he still had keys for the notice boards and could he keep hold of them so that he could put up notices for the church and the flower club; Councillors agreed this arrangement to continue.

ITEM 3: AGENDA

21) A discussion was held regarding Co-opting Mr Jeremy Hughes and Mr Dave Bithell as Councillors onto the Community Council; it was agreed that there was no problems with this taking place; Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr S Lewis.

Clerk to send a copy of the July minutes to Mr Hughes and Mr Bithell and invite them to the next meeting to be held Tuesday 27th September 2022.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

General Matters:

22)Mr J Cubitt advised that the waste bin at the Holt/Farndon bridge was full and overflowing; Clerk to contact WMBC

23)The new litter bin at Llanypwll has been installed

24)The Clerk advised that he had had a telephone conversation with a lady called Wendy Huth who was enquiring whether the Community Council owned any land which was suitable for keeping horses as she was looking to set up a equine sanctuary in the area; Clerk advised Ms Huth to contact Holt Town Trust and local persons who keep horses.

25)Mr Pierce, retiring Clerk, advised that the minute book was nearly full and a new book will soon be needed; after some discussion, it was decided to go over to a “loose leaf” system in the future: Proposed Mr J Cubitt, seconded Mr S Lewis

26)It was agreed that after the meeting on Monday August 1st, a further meeting will be held at the house of Mr J Cubitt consisting of Mr Cubitt, Mr Lewis, Mr Mitchell and Mrs Pierce to complete the online forms for changing the bank mandate re NatWest Bank; new signatories to be Mr J Cubitt, Mr S Lewis and Mr G Mitchell; proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr J Pridding

ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT MEETING HELD 26TH JULY:

These were proposed by Mr S Lewis and seconded by Mr D Powell

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| 2872 - AVOW Wage, 2 x Salary & charge | £1188.87 |
| 2873 - M&L Grass Cuts, Castle | £240.00 |
| 2874 - M&L Grass Cuts, Village | £81.00 |
| 2875 - Mega Street Lights Maintenance and Tests (1/3 Estate) | £263.84 |
| 2876 - Kenyon Hall, Hire of Room June | £25.20 |
| 2877 - SE Jones, Roof Repair, Border Children’s Portion Cemetery | £490 |
| 2878 - J Pierce, Expenses, Keys Water Supply Allotments | £19.75 |
| 2879 - M&L, Grass Cuts, 2 x Village, 1 x Castle | £402.00 |
| 2880 - S. Coupland, Weeding and Grass Cuts, Bowling Green | £160.00 |
| 2881 - Hafren D, Water Supply, Toilets, Bowling Green, Allotments | £ 277.00 |

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| DD – Scottish Power, Electric Supply Toilets | £95.25 |
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ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT AUGUST, PRE-APPROVED JULY MEETING AS NO MEETING IN AUGUST.

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| 2882 – AVOW Wage, 1 x Salary and Charge | £749.51 |
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| 2883 – EDF Energy, Electrics Street Lights | £226.96 |
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| 2884 – The Clean Police, Clean Toilets, July | £120.00 |
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| 2885 – E Jones, Grass Cuts All Areas | £240.00 |
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| 2886 – J Pierce, Expenses, Box and Stamps | £26.32 |
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Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th September at the Kenyon Hall