

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL: MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22TH 2022 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

PRESENT: Councillors – Mr J Cubitt, Mrs G Jones, Ms A Shone, Councillor M Morris, Mr D Bithell, Mr J Hughes, Mr A Jones, Mr J Pridding, Mr G Mitchell, Clerk

APOLOGIES: Mr D Powell, Mr S Lewis, Mr D Munnerley

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman Mr J Cubitt who welcomed everyone. A silence was held in respect of the late Marie Lieblin.

POLICE REPORT:

PCSO's Tim Peers and Georgina Clayton attended the meeting as Sergeant N Harvey was unavailable; the PCSO's, who do not cover the Holt area, read out the Monthly Council Police report which showed that there had been no ASB incidents, 6 Road Related Incidents (5xbikes/Quad bikes in Cefn Road/Wrexham Ind Est and 1 drug driver arrested on Wrexham Road, Holt), 2 reports of Arson at HMP Berwyn and 2 reports of Theft, 1 at HMP Berwyn and 1 on the Wrexham Ind Est.

There then followed a discussion on general matters in the village, such as speeding and anti-social parking, especially by the Cross bus stops in the morning. Councillor Morris mentioned that he was still waiting to have a meeting with Sergeant Harvey, which had again been cancelled; the general view of the Councillors was that there was a need to recruit more PCSO's.

The Chairman, Mr Cubitt, thanked the PCSO's for their attendance at the meeting. The meeting then continued as normal.

MINUTES: Ms A Shone proposed these be approved as a true record, seconded by Mr D Bithell.

ITEM 1 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

ALLOTMENTS: The Clerk had met with Grant Howard who had quoted £150 to erect a fence between allotments 7a and 7b and an entrance gate into 7b; this was agreed, Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr J Pridding.

BOWLING GREEN: The Clerk advised that he had contacted WCBC to find out how they maintained their bowling greens and was advised that in some cases, they were in a similar position to Holt CC, in that it was difficult to afford to meet the bowlers' expectations. The bowling green at Ponciau had been let go as the upkeep was too expensive. One suggestion was that the bowlers could be offered the option to take over the maintenance and running of the bowling green on a lease basis. After some discussion, it was agreed to continue to maintain the bowling green as per current arrangements.

MUGA: The Clerk and Councillor Morris both advised that they had received emails from Castle Green Homes (CGH) regarding the transfer of the open space and the Muga; as the amendments to the former basin, which is now a below ground soakaway, have now been completed, CGH want to hand over the area to Holt Community Council; in the original agreement of 2016, CGH were to be responsible for the maintenance of the area for the first 12 months after completion; however, CGH do not have a maintenance team on their books and do not want to employ an outside company to do the maintenance, preferring to formally hand the area over to Holt CC now. In the original agreement of 2016, it was agreed that Holt CC would receive £1500/year for the maintenance of the Muga and £24k over 10 years for the maintenance of the open space area

Councillor Morris advised that the Council should get in touch with their solicitors as a legal agreement re the handover would be needed and in addition, an easement to the original agreement would also be needed because of the changes to the drainage issue.

The Clerk was advised to contact the solicitors who assisted with drawing up the original agreement, Allington Hughes, Wrexham to start the process of the handover.

HOLT COMMUNITY GARDENERS: It was agreed that it was hoped that the Community Gardeners could be involved to some degree with the future maintenance of the open space area, especially with Holt having been entered into Wales in Bloom for 2023.

The Clerk reminded the Councillors of the Community Gardeners Xmas Fayre on the Cross on Sunday November 27th.

FINANCIAL SHEET: The Clerk advised as there was no meeting in December, October and Novembers' Financial sheet would be sent out together.

HEDGE BY FAIRVIEW FOOTPATH: The Clerk had spoken to Sion Roberts from WCBC re the cutting of the hedge adjacent to the footpath running alongside Fairview down towards the river; it was advised that if the Community Council agreed to cut the hedge, some of which was in private ownership, this may create a precedent and issues with other hedges needing cutting in the village, also in private ownership; it was mentioned that one private owner may not give permission for the hedge to be cut back. The Clerk was asked to speak to Sion Roberts again with a view to an onsite meeting so that Mr Roberts can advise on what can and needs to be done with the hedge.

The Bypass Bridge bin has been replaced.

The matting at Dee Park playground was repaired when the Whirlygig was installed.

Agenda Issues:

- Remembrance Sunday went well;

- S137, 4 cheques not yet sent out as Clerk waiting on a new cheque book;
- Skills Training; Mr Cubitt has read the document and advised that a Training Plan needs to be drawn up soon, an Annual Report needs to be compiled and that the Community Council meetings need to be available for people to be able to attend remotely; as the Village meetings rooms do not have Wi Fi access, this may not be possible.
It was agreed to put the matter of Skills Training on the Agenda for the next meeting

ITEM 2 – CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk had been in contact with Carla Hughes from WCBC and she advised that the Church Green Play Area was not in use; the Clerk advised that he had received a cheque from Holt Town Trust for the 50% contribution towards the bark replacement but had inadvertently asked for £3950 instead of £3590; a cheque for the difference will be given to Holt Town Trust.

The benches adjoining the Church Green Play Area were discussed as it had been reported that some repairs maybe needed to some of them; Mrs G Jones was asked to find out who owned/was responsible for the benches, Holt CC or Holt Town Trust

Henry Cook from North Wales Wildlife Trust had been in touch to ask if the Community Council wished for the current contract for the hedge cutting at Holt Copse to be continued; this was discussed and it was agreed to continue the current arrangements.

The Clerk advised that he had received an email from Rachel Twiss who is the “Ageing Well” Officer for WCBC explaining about the role, the future aims and how Community Councils can engage with what is important to people when it comes to ageing well. It was agreed to invite Ms Twiss to a future Community Council meeting.

A letter had been received from Brian Goodwin, Secretary to Holt Community Gardeners. Mr Goodwin advised that as part of their preparations for Wales in Bloom 2023, the Gardeners were looking to exploit the potential of the village as an interesting place to visit, and to that end had identified 2 areas where improvements would be beneficial; the first was Holt Castle; Mr Goodwin explained that there is only one sign, at the top of Dee-Side, to advise that the Castle was even there and alternative approaches were not even signposted; the Gardeners were in discussions to have bespoke signage made but wanted to know if Holt CC would support and approve the fabrication and erection of new signage re the Castle and would be able to financially assist. The other area where the Gardeners thought improvements could be made was to the Notice Boards on the Cross, which have in some parts become in need of repair and refurbishment, especially the boards on which the notices are placed.

Councillor Morris advised that WCBC Tourist and Information department may be able to assist with the signs and he would contact them to ask.

After a discussion, the Councillors agreed that in principle they supported the idea of new signage and would be happy to work with Holt Gardeners to develop further this project; unfortunately, until the Precept was agreed for 2023/24, agreement on a financial contribution would need to be postponed.

It was further agreed to look at the Notice Board on the Cross with a view to making any repairs/improvements which were needed.

The Clerk advised that he had received a quote of £500 plus VAT to lower the kerbs in the Car Park to allow wheelchair access to the Gabion area. Proposed Mr J Pridding, seconded Ms A Shone that the work be carried out.

A communication has been received from the Welsh Government advising that the maximum appropriate sum per elector for the purposes of S137 grants has been increased from £8.82 to £9.93.

An email has been received from SLCC re: The Finance and Governance Toolkit for Community and Town Councils; Councillor Cubitt has looked through this and advised there needs to be a review of the financial arrangements the Council has in place to ensure that the appropriate standards are met. It was agreed that the Chair, Clerk and one other (possibly Paul Hinchliffe due to his financial background and knowledge of the finances of Holt CC) would meet in the New Year to review the process

ITEM 3 – AGENDA:

It was agreed that no changes were needed to the Standing Orders, Chairmanship, Risk Assessment, Code of Conduct, Financial Orders, Retention Policy, Investment Strategy, and Freedom of Information; Proposed Mr J Pridding, seconded Mr A Jones, agreed to be re-adopted.

Pre-Budget Discussion: It was agreed that there was a need for forward planning for 2023/24 as there were events that may need funding; Holt's entry into the Wales in Bloom along with the King's Coronation would need to be considered and Councillors were asked to think of other areas where funding may be needed next year.

Precept for 2023/24: The Chair, New Clerk and previous Clerk, Mrs J Pierce are to meet with Mr P Hinchliffe in December to work out the potential Precept for 2023/24. With consideration to the rate of inflation, it was thought that an indicative Precept would be circa 5%.

ITEM 4 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Chair, Mr Cubitt, mentioned that the hedge below the bungalows on Bridge Street, just past the Church Green needs cutting; Clerk to contact WMBC

It has been reported that a truck has been seen parking a number of times, on the parking bay below the bungalows on Bridge Street; Clerk to let PCSO know.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payment in November and pre agreed for December as no meeting is held in December; Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Ms A Shone, Agreed.

NOVEMBER ACCOUNTS:

2902 – AVOW Wages, Salary and Charge	£749.51
2903 – WCBC, Recharge Local Elections	£169.04
2904 – Mega Electrical, Lighting Faults 04/22-09/22	£345.80
2905 – Holt Under 5's, Section 137 Grant	£650.00
2906 – St Chads Church, S137 Grant, Upkeep graveyard	£350.00
2907 – Holt CP School, S137 Grant, Replacement Curtains	£800.00
2908 – Wales Air Ambulance, S137 Grant	£100.00
2909 – Nightingale House Hospice, S137 Grant	£250.00
2910 – Hope House Hospice, S137 Grant	£250.00
2911 – Holt Cool Cats, S137 Grant	£300.00
2912 – Kenyon Hall Committee, S19 Grant, October Hall Hire, Remembrance Sunday Refreshments	£1802.20
2913 – Apple Sound, Remembrance Sunday Sound Hire	£234.00
2914 – Royal British Legion, Remembrance Sunday, Wreathes	£150.00
2915 – Holt Town Trust, Repayment Church Green Bark	£360.00
2916 – Sutcliffe Play, Installation Whirlygig, Dee Park	£2070.89
2919 – WCBC, Church Green Bark Replacement	£8616.60

DECEMBER ACCOUNTS:

2917 – Shane Coupland, Oct, Nov cuts, Aeration	£575.00
2918 – AVOW, Wages, Salary, and Charge	£749.51
2920 – M&L Village Entrance Grass Cuts, October Acct	£81.00
2921 – Wrexham Sounds, S137 Grant	£100.00
2922 – Calon FM, S137 Grant	£100.00
2923 – Family & Friends, Salvation Army S137 Grant	£100.00
2924 – Cerebral Palsy Cymru, S137 Grant	£100.00
2925 – WCBC, Trade refuse, 2 nd Payment	£515.00
2926 – Kenyon Hall Committee, November Hall Hire	£25.20
2927 – M&L Village Entrance Grass Cuts, November Acct	£81.00

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL, MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2023 AT 7PM.

