

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL- MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY March 28TH 2023 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

APOLOGIES: Mr D Munnerley, Mr J Pridding

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman Mr J Cubitt who welcomed everyone. A silence was held in respect of the late Mrs Olive Ellis, who sadly had passed away a few days before her 100th birthday.

MINUTES: Mr D Powell asked if No 7 “Skills Training” could be amended as he had not yet sent out the survey but intended to in the near future; the Clerk apologised for the error and advised would amend the minutes accordingly. Ms A Shone proposed these now be approved as a true record, seconded by Mr D Bithell.

POLICE REPORT: There was no Police presence at the meeting but the Clerk had received an email from PCSO Lisa-Marie Davies advising that there were no statistics for February; she further advised that the recent incident at a property on Smithfield Green would be in the March report.

ITEM 1:MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1) BOWLING GREEN:** The Clerk advised that following the email from Mr A Cope he had replied to Mr Cope on behalf of the Community Council, to inform him that the Council was not able to meet the request to match the £1000 offered by the bowlers to finance further work to improve the condition of the bowling green. The Clerk had shown in his reply that the bowling green was subsidised quite substantially each year and the Community Council did not think that at this point, at a time when many people were struggling financially, extra funding could be justified. The numbers of bowlers paying subscriptions had fallen last year to approx. 26 (plus the WI), but even with substantial extra investment, there was no guarantee that the numbers would increase to a point where the annual subsidy would drop significantly.

Mr Cope had subsequently replied via email explaining that the hope had been that with extra investment to the bowling green, it would improve the condition and attract more users; he had also advised that he thought alternative arrangements should be put in place for the collection of the subscriptions; the Clerk will put up notices advising that the bowling green will be open from April 1st 2023, subscriptions held at £20 and outlining various ways they can be paid such as bank transfer, cheque or cash; envelopes will be left at the pavilion and receipts given for any payments made.

A discussion was held regarding the future of the bowling green and although the Community Council is committed to maintaining it for this

year, if the numbers keep falling and costs increasing, a decision may have to be made at some point re viability and the amount of subsidy.

- 2) **COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND COMMUNITY ORCHARD:** The Clerk read out emails that had been sent by Councillor Morris to WCBC regarding signage for the Castle; WCBC had replied stating that they are applying to get funding from the Welsh Gov to put up new “gateway signage” on the key routes into the county (ie Holt/Farndon Bridge) which will incorporate icons highlighting local attractions such as the Castle; if the application is successful, the signs will be installed in the Autumn. Councillor Morris had pointed out that it was hoped that some new “finger post” signs could be installed in time for the Wales and Britain in Bloom Competitions. Discussions are hopefully ongoing.

The Clerk read out a letter from Holt Community Gardeners requesting, if possible, for the Community Council to consider further financial support to the Gardeners, to assist with purchasing more plants and compost ready for the Wales and Britain in Bloom competitions. As this is a benefit for the whole village, it was unanimously agreed by the Council. A cheque for £500 will be given to Holt Community Gardeners. Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr J Hughes. The Clerk pointed out that previous funds have been given under S137 grants and funds to assist with the entry by Holt into the Wales and Britain in Bloom competitions have been allocated in the budget for 2023-24.

- 3) **CHURCH GREEN BENCHES:** The Church Green benches have been removed by Councillor A Jones; the Clerk advised that he had contacted a resident of Dee Park who had purchased a resin bench as a memorial and had details of the Company used; also the Clerk had contacted WCBC to see if they had details of any companies that the Council had used to supply benches.
- 4) **FINANCE SHEET:** The Clerk gave a breakdown of the finances to date and gave a narrative explanation of the figures which were similar to the previous month and still looking positive; as no narrative had been distributed, it was not possible to propose or second acceptance of the figures.
- 5) **SKILLS TRAINING:** Mr D Powell advised that the survey to establish the level of skills that Councillors feel they possess will be sent out soon. The Chairman advised that there were dates available for training and encouraged new Councillors to take the appropriate course; Mr D Bithell and Mr A Jones agreed to undertake the course, Clerk to book the date.
- 6) **FINANCE GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT:** Mr Paul Hinchliffe has drawn up a document outlining what the Council needs to achieve under the Finance Governance Toolkit and how it currently performs, and it is hoped to present the report to the full council soon.:
- 7) **DEFIBRILLATOR:** The Chairman advised that there is a defibrillator at Farndon Community Centre; the Clerk advised that following a request from Farndon Parish Council, a defibrillator is to be situated outside of

Farndon Surgery; the Clerk has spoken to Mr Roger bellis, who has agreed to speak with staff to consider moving the defibrillator onto an outside wall to enable it to be used at any time.

- 8) **MUGA/PUBLIC OPEN SPACE:** The Clerk has received a reply to his email from Castle Green Homes with the points accepted. It is expected that the paperwork for the transfer of responsibility of the Muga/POS will be soon be available for signing by the Chairman and Clerk on behalf of the Community Council.
- 9) **HOLT VILLAGE WEBSITE:** The Clerk had been to see the village resident who had advised that they no longer had anything to do with the website and did not want to keep the domain name; a discussion was held and it was felt that as the website need to be primarily for the publication of Council matters, using the old domain name may cause confusion and a new domain name such as "Holt Community Council.co.uk" may be better; Clerk to contact Bob Campbell and Matt Rowlands to progress the matter and also to see if Jean Pierce still has the minutes of the old meetings on her laptop and if so, need to see if these can be uploaded onto the new website when available.
- 10) **CORONATION CELEBRATIONS:** Holt Under 5's are having an afternoon celebration on May 6th on the Church Green, for which the Community Council has already assisted with funding; it is hoped that there could be a celebration in the Kenyon Hall on the Monday and the Council would be willing to assist again with funding if necessary.
- 11) **POT HOLES:** The Clerk had contacted Street Scene, Wrexham, about the potholes in the village and gave a list of the worst ones, and these have all been repaired.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

- 12) The Clerk had received an email from One Voice Wales offering a reduced subscription for the first year should the Council decide to join with One Voice Wales; after a discussion, it was decided not to join at this time.

The Clerk had received an email from Erlas Victorian Walled Garden, a local charity which works alongside adults with additional learning needs and provides education and a work experience in a garden environment; the Charity invited Councillors to walk around the gardens and to see the work carried out; some Councillors have already been around the area and it was agreed to consider the Charity when the next S137 grants are discussed.

The Clerk had received an email asking for the contact details of the Councillors from a company called Freedom Fibre who want to promote fibre internet in the village; the Clerk was asked to reply advising that all communication should come via the Clerk who would pass details onto Councillors and when fibre internet is in the village, a presentation could be arranged with various interested companies if necessary.

13) PLANNING APPLICATIONS: No planning applications had been received.

ITEM 3: AGENDA:

The Clerk had not heard anything about the Internal audit at this time.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs G Jones advised the Council of the recent success of Mrs Sally Hughes, teacher at Holt CP School who had recently been crowned Primary School Teacher Of The Year at the Evening Leader Educational Awards Ceremony; the Clerk was asked to write to congratulate Mrs Hughes on behalf of the Community Council.

Clerk was asked to contact Street Scene, Wrexham, to get the grit bins checked as the one by Lilac Cottage has rubbish in it.

Mr J Hughes asked that the condition of the road by the Pinfold be reported as it is in need of repair; also Mr Hughes asked why the portaloos were still on the car park; councillor Morris said that WCBC were coming back to work on the windows of council properties but he would call to ask when it was being moved.

Mr S Lewis advised that the "Access Only" sign on Quaker's Lane is missing; also the handrail at the end of Francis lane has not been repaired yet and the gulley in Dee Lane has not been repaired.

The Clerk advised regarding the issue with cyclists stopping at Cleopatras Coffee Shop and parking bikes up against the seating on the Cross, usually on a Saturday morning; the Clerk had received an email from a concerned local resident and this had been forwarded to the local PCSO to ask for a Police Drive-by as the actions of the cyclists may constitute a public nuisance.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payment in March; proposed Mr J Hughes, seconded Ms A Shone. Agreed:

2942 – AVOW Wage, salary and charge	£749.51
2943 – Mr I Pierce, Electrical Repairs, Toilets	£340.00
2944 – AVOW, Payroll, Year End Fee	£15.00
2945 – M&L, Grass Cuts Village entrance	£81.00
2946 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall February	£30.40
2948 – Chester Small Plant Ltd, Service and Repair Mower	£345.12
2949 – A Pridding, Meadows Grass Cutting	£600.00
2950 – WCBC, Inspection, Maintenance, Play areas 10/22-03/23	£338.40
2951 – Holt Community Gardeners, S137 Grant, Plants and Compost	£500.00
DD - Scottish Power, Energy Toilets	£210.56

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL
TUESDAY 25th April AT 7-00 PM**

14)ITEM 2 : CORRESPONDENCE:

ITEM 3: AGENDA:

15) MUGA/PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (POS):

16) HOLT VILLAGE WEBSITE:

17)

18)ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

**ACCOUNTS: Approved for payment in February; Proposed Mr S Lewis,
seconded Mr D Powell, Agreed:**

2934 – AVOW Wages, salary and Charge	£749.51
2935 – B Lightwood, Kerb Lowering, Gabions, Car Park	£600.00
2936 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall, January	£30.40
2937 – S Coupland, January work, Bowling Green	£115.00
2938 – Dr H McCarthy, Defibrillator replacements	£140.84
2939 – PM Norman, Toilets Repairs	£108.00
2941 – EDF Energy, Street Lights energy 02/11/22-31/01/23	£407.60
2942 – Hafren Dyfrdwy, Water, Allotments, Bowling Green, Cemetery	£57.14

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL 25TH APRIL 2023 AT
7PM.**

