

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL- MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> 2023 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

**APOLOGIES:** None

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

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** There were no requests for any amendments; Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr D Bithell, accepted as a true record.

**POLICE REPORT:** There was no Police presence at the meeting but the Clerk had received an email from PCSO Lisa-Marie Davies advising of the statistics for March; there 3 reported incidents; one was the damage to Holt Castle, one was an assault on a teenager (Mr Bithell had been informed by the parents of the victim that the perpetrators had been found and were being dealt with by the Police), and the 3<sup>rd</sup> was the executed drug warrant at a cannabis grow at a residential property in the village.

Mr Bithell had seen a couple of teenagers smoking cannabis by the Dee Park Play area, an alleged drug dealer had been seen by the Church Green, and a crowd of teenagers had been seen by the Dragon Fly near to where the picnic bench had been thrown in the river. All of these incidents had been reported to the Police, and a request for regular patrols in the village had been made.

**ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**1. BOWLING GREEN:** The Clerk advised that the Bowling Green was now open; fees had been kept at £20 for the year, and the Clerk had spoken to members of the bowlers and the WI, to advise that it was important to try and increase the number of people using the bowling green and increasing the amount of fees paid; to date £240 had been paid in fees for this year.

**2. COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND COMMUNITY ORCHARD:** The Clerk had delivered the cheque for £500 to the Community Gardeners and had received an email of thanks from them.

Within the email, the gardeners advised that they had been looking after the long bed in the cemetery, at the right of the Bier House (in front of the Holly hedge); the Gardeners were requesting permission to install a bench there to provide space for “relaxation and contemplation”. A discussion was held and in principle, there were no objections from the Council but any bench needs to conform with the benches already in situ in the cemetery. Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Ms A Shone, Agreed.

The Gardeners had also requested that the area of meadows past the Castle and along the riverbank, not to be mowed, except for the footpaths; this is the area normally looked after by Adam Pridding. By not mowing this area, it will increase the biodiversity and allow wildlife to thrive. It will also assist Holt's entry into the Wales and Britain in Bloom competitions as 30% of the marks are awarded to matters related to the environment, and by not mowing the

area, the village environmental credentials will be enhanced. Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Ms A Shone, Agreed.

The Gardeners also advised that the Floral Bikes were now a permanent feature in the village and would continue to be maintained; it was also requested that any persons with their own Floral Bike continue to maintain them.

**3.CHURCH GREEN BENCHES:** The Clerk advised that he had details of 2 companies that supplied resin benches and as each company had a number of options at differing prices, he would send details of the websites out to Councillors to look at themselves.

**4.FINANCE SHEET:** The Clerk gave a breakdown of the finances to the year end and gave an explanation which showed a healthy year end figure; a narrative had been distributed to all. Proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr D Munnerley that these be accepted.

**5.SKILLS TRAINING:** Mr D Powell advised that the survey to establish the level of skills that Councillors feel they possess had been distributed. The Chairman advised that there were dates available for training and encouraged Councillors to take appropriate courses if they wished.

**6.FINANCE GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT:** There has been no further progress on this as another meeting has not yet been held but it was hoped a draft could be sent out soon; the Chairman advised that he was working on the annual report and hoped to have the draft for that ready imminently.

**7.DEFIBRILLATOR:** The Clerk advised that as of yet, he has not heard anything more with regards to the siting of a defibrillator on an outside wall at Bellis Garden Centre.

**8.MUGA/PUBLIC OPEN SPACE:** The Clerk advised that all the paperwork had been signed and returned to the solicitors and he was waiting to hear when the transfer of ownership and funds had been made. He further advised that he had contacted Grant Howard regarding the maintenance of the POS; he had sent one of his men down to mow the grass but it had already been cut by the contractors working for Castle Green Homes; the Clerk advised that he would email Castle Green Homes to advise that the Community Council would take over responsibility for the POS from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

**9.HOLT VILLAGE WEBSITE:** The Clerk has sent an email to both Bob Campbell and Matt Rowlands in order to try and progress both setting up a new website purely for Community Council Business and also to see what is needed to resurrect the existing village website; the Clerk has also spoken to the old Clerk, Mrs J Pierce to see what previous minutes are accessible on the laptop

**10.CORONATION CELEBRATIONS:** Unfortunately, the Kenyon Hall Committee are unable to organise and run a Coronation Coffee Morning due to a lack of volunteers; the preparations for the Holt Under 5's celebration on the Church Green on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 are well advanced.

**11.AOB:** Mr Lewis advised that the lights on the signs on the upper part of Dee Lane have not been repaired; also between the entrance to Dee Park and the junction of Francis Lane and Dee lane, there is a street sign post/upstand but no sign attached; it is believed that it is an "Access Only" sign that is missing

## **ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a) Erection New Stable Block, Cae Ffynnon, Holt Rd, Llan Y Pwll: No Objections

b) Demolition of Existing Conservatory and Erection 2 Storey Rear Extension, Holmlea, Church street, Holt:(Chairman and Clerk recused themselves as neighbours): No Objections

c) Removal of Wall and Creation of New Doorway (In Retrospect), Plas Bostock Farm. Commonwood, Holt: No Objections

13.The Clerk had received an email from a resident of the village concerning badger sets in a neighbours garden, which although do not impact the resident's property at this time, may do so in the future; the resident has contacted ELM (Ecological Land Management), Wrexham Council and Councillor Morris, as well as the Community Council. A discussion was held as to what action the Community Council can take, but as badgers are a protected species, any action has to be taken by licensed authorities such as Wrexham Council. The resident has contacted the best organisations for assistance.

14). The Clerk has received a renewal for the annual insurance with Zurich; the renewal cost is £707.83 which is a small increase from last year; Proposed Mr S Lewis, Seconded, Mr J Pridding, Agreed.

## **ITEM 3: AGENDA:**

15.The Clerk has now heard from JDH regarding about the Internal audit . Proposed Mrs G Jones, Seconded Mr J Pridding that this is accepted. Agreed

## **ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mrs G Jones has received a request for the Public Toilets to be opened for general use on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May for the Holt Under 5's celebration being held on the Church Green; also to make sure that the grass is cut on the Church Green before the 6<sup>th</sup> May; Clerk to contact StreetScene.

Mr J Hughes advised that when the grave was dug for the late Mrs Olive Ellis, some of the soil spilt onto an adjoining grave and some flowers were damaged; Clerk to speak to the gravediggers.

Mr S Lewis reported that the gates on Bryn Estyn lane are not locked, allowing cars from both Clays Golf Club and people exiting the Industrial Estate to cut through past the rugby Club; Clerk to contact StreetScene.

Mr D Powell advised that the long sides on the Muga need to be increased in height as a child was recently chasing to stop a ball going over the low fence, tripped and hurt themselves necessitating a visit to hospital. Clerk to find out costs to increase the fence sides.

Councillor M Morris advised on the situation with the Local Development Plan; the Local Development plan has been ongoing for many years and the Welsh Government Inspectors have now approved the draft plan; unfortunately, for various reasons, a majority of Wrexham Councillors have now decided to reject the Plan in its present form and have voted not to accept it; this means that Wrexham Council does not at this time have a Local Development Plan (the only authority in Wales not to have a Local Development Plan in place). It may mean that the Welsh Government may impose the LDP on Wrexham or

may order a judicial review which will have financial implications for the Council.

**ACCOUNTS:** Approved for payment in April; proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr D Munnerley. Agreed:

2952 – AVOW Wage, salary and charge	£777.50
2953 – Mr S Coupland, Bowling Green, March/April	£210.00
2954 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall, March	£30.40
2955 – One Voice Wales, Training Course Fee J Cubitt	£27.50
2956 – Eric Jones, Grass Cuts All Areas	£240.00
2957 – M&L, Grass Cuts, Village Entrance	£85.06
2958 – Clean Police, Deep Clean Toilets, March	£120.00
DD - Scottish Power, Energy Toilets	£63.28
DD - Information Commissioners Office, GDPR Renewal	£35.00

#### **PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR MAY**

2959 – AVOW. Salary, wage, and charge	£777.50
2960 – S Coupland, Bowling Green, April	£140.00
2961 – Allington Hughes, Solicitors, Legal Fees Transfer Muga/POS	£1245.00
2962 – WCBC, Trade Refuse, April-Sept	£530.00
2963 – EDF, Energy Street Lighting, 01/02-30/04	£401.43
2964 – Eric Jones, Grass Cuts All Areas	£240.00
2965 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall, April	£30.40
2966 – Zurich Insurance, Policy Renewal 2023/24	£707.83

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL  
TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> MAY AT 7-00 PM**

