

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL- MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY May 30<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 Bithell, Mr A Jones, Mr J Hughes, Councillor M Morris, Mr G Mitchell, Clerk**

**APOLOGIES: Mr D Powell**

**ITEM 1a: Election of Community Council Chairperson 2023/24; it was proposed by Ms A Shone and seconded by Mr S Lewis, that Mr J Cubitt be once again elected as Chairperson; Mr Cubitt advised that he was happy to continue in the role; Agreed by all.**

**ITEM 1b: Election of Vice Chairperson 2023/24: it was proposed by Mrs G Jones and seconded by Mr J Cubitt, that Mr S Lewis be once again elected as Vice Chairperson; Mr Lewis was happy to continue in the role, Agreed by all.**

**The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman Mr J Cubitt who welcomed everyone. There were no reports of recent deaths in the village.**

**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 April; there 3 reported incidents, one of Anti-Social Behaviour (reports of youths smoking Cannabis) and two of Suspicious Circumstances (abandoned motorbike recovered and Unknown male approaching females). No recent Speed checks had been carried out in the village.**

**The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by a number of people about possible interference with graves in the cemetery, with flowers being pulled out of the pots; it has been established that the incidents are occurring during the daytime so is unlikely to be wild animals; the Clerk has asked people whose houses overlook the cemetery to keep watch for suspicious behaviour.**

**Mr Munnerley and his wife had both advised the Clerk of damage being done to their garden, with plants and a plant pot, being damaged. The Clerk had asked Councillor Munnerley to ring 101 and report it as an incident.**

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

**1.BOWLING GREEN: The Clerk reported to date £320 had been paid in fees for this year. Also, when the Council Tax invoice for the Bowling Green for 2023/24 had been received, it was for £363, which was a 50% increase over the Council Tax for 2022/23 of £240. The Clerk had rung WCBC to query this and was advised that the increase was due to a Business Rates revaluation by HMRC; accompanying the Council Tax invoice was a form to claim relief for Leisure Businesses which the Clerk returned and was able to report that relief**

of 75% of the Council Tax had been granted, making the amount to pay now £90.95.

**2.COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND COMMUNITY ORCHARD:** The Clerk advised that Councillor Morris had a site meeting with Russell Jones and Jacinta Challenor from WCBC to discuss the possibility of the Community Orchard being established behind the bungalows on Dee Park; there were no objections as long as the tenants were in agreement and WCBC will follow up with that and draw up the necessary agreement. At the meeting, Ms Challenor had advised that she had some fruit trees available and this information was passed to Bob Campbell of the Gardeners to make contact to make arrangements to get them picked up.

The area at the rear of the Dee Park gardens, going down to the meadows and the river, was also discussed as a possible site for more trees as long as they are dwarf stock and not allowed to grow to an excessive height; agreement will be needed from the Museum and Heritage Dept of WCBC, but they had previously said that they did not see any problems. Bob Campbell had previously established via Wrexham Heritage that Holt Castle may have had a Nuttery associated with it so this may be able to be incorporated with the fruit trees.

The members of the Community Gardeners are very happy that the Community Orchard and fruit tree planting are becoming a reality and hope to be able to do the planting in the autumn; this can be referenced in Holt's entry to Wales and Britain in Bloom.

Councillor Morris had also established via a Land Registry Search, the boundaries of the meadows and the ownership by WCBC.

**3.CHURCH GREEN BENCHES:** The Clerk had sent out the details of the websites of the Companies that can supply resin benches; Mr Lewis had looked at the sites and had seen some that he thought would be suitable and will send out the details to the other Councillors.

**4.FINANCE SHEET:** The Clerk gave a breakdown of the finances for April; a narrative had been distributed to all. The Clerk advised that in future, with the minutes, he would be showing payments made in the month reported, ie April but also proposed payments for the following month, May. Proposed Mr D Bithell, seconded Mr S Lewis that the finances be accepted.

**5.SKILLS TRAINING:** Mr D Powell had previously advised that the survey to establish the level of skills that Councillors feel they possess had been distributed and had been completed by all the Councillors. A report will be produced in due course.

**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 in the near future.

The Annual Report is now in draft form and it is hoped it will be finalised and ready to be published in the near future.

**7.DEFIBRILLATOR:** The Clerk advised that he had spoken to Roger Bellis and his son in law and they were happy for a defibrillator to be put on an outside wall near to the entrance to the site. The Clerk is trying to establish if the defibrillator owned by Bellis Bros is suitable to be put on the wall or if it will be necessary to purchase a new one.

**8.MUGA/PUBLIC OPEN SPACE:** The Clerk has received an email from the solicitors advising that the Transfer of Ownership has been completed and the

Land Registry is being updated; the solicitors were holding the sum of £65,570, which had been requested to be transferred into the Holt CC Business Account. As this sum is ringfenced for the expenditure for the Muga and POS, it will need to be shown separately in the accounts.

The Clerk advised that he will be contacting NatWest Bank to discuss whether to change over bank accounts as the interest received presently is small, considering the sums in the account.

The invoice for the transfer of ownership, £1245.00, has been paid to the solicitors.

**9.HOLT VILLAGE WEBSITE:** The Clerk has received an email from Matt Rowlands apologising for the delay as he had missed the email advising him to work on setting up a new website purely for Community Council business. After discussion, the Community Council agreed that it did not want to be involved with the non-working Holt Village website but would encourage any other local organisation should their members wish be responsible for the running of that website.

**10.CORONATION CELEBRATIONS:** The Holt Under 5's Coronation Celebrations held on the Church Green had been a great success; as part of the celebrations, the Holt Under 5's had agreed to give out free refreshments to the retired members of the community; it was proposed by Mr J Pridding, seconded by Ms A Shone, that a donation of £250 be given under S137 grants to Holt Under 5's in recognition of the extra workload and expense of the refreshments.

## **ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a) Installation of Solar Panels, Westwood, 4 The Pinfold, Holt: No Objections
- b) Variation of Condition1 of Planning Permission P/2022/0078 to Extend Time Period, Holt Bridge, Bridge Street, Holt: No Objections

**12.**The Chairman had received an email from a resident of the village concerning their garden wall which acts as a retaining wall for a neighbours house and is beginning to crack and bulge; in addition, a section of the retaining wall which backs onto land by Holt Castle, has partially collapsed. After a discussion, Councillor Morris suggested sending a copy of the letter to the Head of Building Control for Wrexham Council as the issue with the retaining wall does not come within the purview of Holt CC.

**13.** The Chairman brought to the attention of the Council, a flyer he had received concerning Farndon Community Club called "Let's Raise the Roof". The Community Club main roof is in need of repair at an estimated cost of circa £100k; fund raising events are being held, and as this is a neighbouring village community hall, it was suggested that supporting the events would be appreciated.

## **ITEM 3: AGENDA:**

There were no Agenda Items to consider.

**ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mrs G Jones advised that she had noticed that some of the play equipment both at Dee Park and the Church Green had areas in need of painting; the Clerk has received the Annual Play Equipment Safety Inspection from WCBC and Mrs Jones advised she would go through it to check on any areas of concern; the Clerk advised that the report had shown the areas to be “Low Risk”, no action needed.

Mrs Jones also advised that the street light by the car park entrance was obscured by the trees hanging over and the tree needed cutting back. (Street Light 24) Joe Hughes to be asked to cut the branches back.

Mr J Pridding asked whether consideration should be given to locking the cemetery gates at night as there had been reports of people accessing the cemetery after dark. This had been reported to the Police in case it was possible criminal activity.

Mr D Bithell reported that the pavement at the back entrance to Ingledene on Smithfield Street was in need of attention, as a manhole cover was sticking up and was a possible hazard; Clerk to contact StreetScene.

Mr A Jones advised that there were large potholes forming on the road between Borrass Head and Borrass Lane Cottages; Clerk to contact Streetscene. Councillor M Morris advised that the situation with the Local Development Plan had not changed. 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.

Mr S Lewis commented that the water on the right hand side of Dee Lane was still making the verge muddy; it was mentioned that this had been happening for some years because it may be draining from the adjacent field as the ground level is higher than the road.

A request for bins at the entrance to the village was made as there is nowhere for walkers to put litter.

It was mentioned that some of the windows at the back of Academy Garage were open and could possibly give rise to vandalism; Clerk was asked to contact the owners so that they could be shut.

The Clerk had circulated the details for a Memorial Tablet for the late Mr Roy Burek; there were no objections to the design. Mr J Cubitt advised that he was an interested party so did not vote on the design and wording. Proposed to be accepted Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr S Lewis, All Agreed.

**ACCOUNTS: Approved for payment in May; Proposed Mr D Bithell, Seconded Mr S Lewis. Agreed:**

2959 – AVOW Wage, Salary and Charge	£777.50
2960 – Mr S Coupland, Bowling Green, March/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 Lights 01/02-30/04	£401.43
2964 – Eric Jones, Grass Cuts Cemetery, April	£240.00
2965 – Kenyon Hall Committee Hall Hire April	£30.40
2966 – Zurich Municipal, Insurance Renewal	£707.83

## **PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR JUNE**

<b>2967 – AVOW. Salary, wage, and charge</b>	<b>£777.50</b>
<b>2968 – S Coupland, Bowling Green, May</b>	<b>£228.00</b>
<b>2969 – M&amp;L, Grass Cuts Village Entrance 11,19 April £170.11</b>	
<b>    M&amp;L, Grass Cuts Castle May 17<sup>th</sup> £252.00</b>	<b>£422.11</b>
<b>2970 – Eric Jones, Grass Cuts All Areas, Cemetery</b>	<b>£240.00</b>
<b>2971 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall May</b>	<b>£30.40</b>
<b>2972 – WCBC, Council Tax, Bowling Green, 01/04/23-31/03/24</b>	<b>£90.95</b>
<b>2973 – Holt Under 5's, S137 Grant, Coronation Celebration Teas</b>	<b>£250.00</b>

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL  
TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT 7-00 PM**

