

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL- MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY JUNE 27TH 2023 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

APOLOGIES: Mr J Cubitt, Mr D Munnerley, Mr A Jones

The meeting was formally opened by the Vice Chairperson, Mr S Lewis who welcomed everyone. There were two reports of recent deaths in the village and a silence was held in respect of the passing of Julie Bagnall and Rainald Davies.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: There had been 2 requests for amendments which the Clerk had already actioned; The first was to mention that it is hoped to be able to publish the Annual Report soon, and the second was that Mr J Cubitt had recused himself from any decision regarding the memorial Tablet for the late Mr Roy Burek. Proposed Mr J Pridding seconded Mr J Hughes, 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 May; there were a number of incidents reported in the area but only one for Holt, which was the theft of fuel from Commercial Premises; none of the Councillors present were aware of this happening. The other reported incidents were for the Wrexham Industrial Estate and Abenbury, both areas covered by the PCSO as well as Holt.

Councillor Morris reported that he had attended a speed check on Castle Street with the PCSO but there were no reported speeding incidents.

The Clerk had received a letter from Sarah Atherton, MP for Wrexham, advising that 207 additional Police Officers had been recruited to cover North Wales and through the 2023/24 Police Funding Settlement, North Wales will receive up to £193.4m, an increase of £8.1m on the previous 2022/23 budget; there are also initiatives in North Wales to focus on tackling anti-social behaviour.

ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.BOWLING GREEN: The Clerk reported to date £380 had been paid in fees for this year, which was £300 from the Bowlers and £80 via the WI.

2.COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND COMMUNITY ORCHARD: The Clerk advised that there was no further news on the proposed Community Orchard but it was hoped that everything will be ready for the Autumn.

The Community Gardeners are busy tidying around the village in preparation for the judging for Wales and Britain in Bloom; floral bikes are increasingly appearing around the village; the judging dates for the "In Bloom"

Competitions are 11th July for Wrexham's entry in Wales in Bloom, of which Holt is part of the route; 14th July for the judging of Holt for its own entry in Wales in Bloom and 2nd August for Holt in Britain in Bloom.

The Clerk had been asked by the Gardeners if the Community Council could contribute/assist with the purchase of some signs pointing the way to the

Castle as part of the village entry into Wales in Bloom; it had previously been agreed at budget setting to contribute, if necessary, to the expenses for the Wales in Bloom village entry; although a precise sum for the signs was not known, it was thought to be in the low hundreds of pounds. The Gardeners are waiting on quotes for bespoke village signs incorporating the Castle and possibly the Dragonfly statue,

3.CHURCH GREEN BENCHES: There has not been any further progression with the purchasing of replacement benches for the Church Green.

4.FINANCE SHEET: The Clerk gave a breakdown of the finances for May; a narrative had been distributed to all. It was agreed that the finances are acceptable at this time, although it is early in the budget year. The Clerk advised that he hoped to be able to keep spending within the amount of the first Precept payment, although there were some ad hoc payments such as Audit fees to be paid within the next month or so. The Clerk had not yet spoken to NatWest Bank about any ways of increasing the amount of interest received on the money in the Bank. Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded Mr D Powell, that the finances be accepted.

5.SKILLS TRAINING: Mr D Powell hoped to be able to circulate the results of the survey into additional training needs of the Councillors in the near future; initial findings are that some Councillors would like additional training in areas such as Sustainability, Climate Change, Legal Skills and Knowledge.

6.FINANCE GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT: There has been no further progress on this as another meeting has not yet been held due to illness but it is 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 has emailed Dr Helen McCarthy to ask whether the Defibrillator which Bellis Bros have on site, which is kept in a case, is suitable to be located on an outside wall of Bellis Bros premises. If it is not suitable, the Community Council will need to consider whether to purchase another defibrillator to be sited at Bellis Bros premises, on an external wall.

8.MUGA/PUBLIC OPEN SPACE: The sum of £65,570 has been transferred into the Business Reserve Account of the Community Council; NB this sum is ringfenced for the maintenance of the MUGA and Hillfield Estate Open Space and cannot be used within the general accounts.

Following the last meeting, the Clerk advised he had contacted Streetscape, the company who had installed the MUGA, for an estimate to convert the two long sides to a 3m height; the estimate was £10850 plus VAT. It was discussed but as this would take approx. one third of the funds received from Castle Green Homes for the maintenance of the MUGA, the Community Councillors decided not to proceed.

Gran Howard has advised that he has sold the grounds maintenance part of his business to J&L Garden Services; the Clerk has met both partners who are keen to work with the Community Council and have agreed to complete the necessary grounds maintenance at the sum agreed with Grant Howard.

Proposed Mr S Lewis, seconded by Mr D Bithell to continue with J&L for this financial year.

9.HOLT VILLAGE WEBSITE: The Clerk has not heard anything further from Matt Rowlands regarding the creation of a Community Council business only website but will contact him for a progress report.

10.CORONATION CELEBRATIONS: The Clerk has passed over the Cheque for £250 to the Holt Under 5's for their work in providing refreshments for the elderly at the Coronation Celebrations.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) Work to trees in Holt Conservation Area-, Smithfield House, Castle Street, Holt: No Objections

b) A discussion was held regarding the receipt of Schedule 1B notices re Publicity and Consultation before Applying for Planning Permission for the Proposed development of "Utopia City" on land north of Bryn Lane, Wrexham Industrial Estate. As this is a notice before Planning Permission is formally applied for, the Community Council have no issues at this time.

12.The Clerk had received a phone call asking what was the Community Council's view on the "Wild Camping" site which was proposed for the meadows in Farndon; the Clerk had advised that at this time, the Community Council had no particular view as the site is in England, and had not really started yet; it was commented that it may bring trade to the village businesses.

13. The Clerk has received an email from Brian Goodwin, Secretary to St Chad's Church Council regarding resurrecting the Parish Newsletter. Various Village organisations were being contacted for their views and to ascertain if there is any demand in what is a digital age, for a parish newsletter. It was the view of the Councillors that older members of the village may enjoy reading a newsletter, and that when previously circulated, it had been popular; however, it was acknowledged that there would be a lot of time and expense involved in producing a parish newsletter.

ITEM 3: AGENDA:

14.a) Internal Audit Report 2023:

The Internal Audit Report 2023 had identified 3 issues on the Action Plan:

"There was no evidence that the new Clerk had been issued a contract of employment" – the Clerk advised this was in the file sent for audit, had been missed by the auditor, and when shown when the files were collected, had been evidenced as available.

"The Council purchased a solar lantern during 2023, but was not on the Asset Register" – this has now been added to the Asset Register.

"Total other receipts and total other payments do not agree to the cash book, they are both £360 less than the balances in the cash book" – a cheque had been received from Holt Town Trust for £3950 instead of £3590, a total of £360 was returned to Holt Town Trust via a cheque. The amounts were entered correctly in the cash book, but a net figure of £3590 was entered onto the HCC Monthly Cash Book Summary which meant that the receipts and payments for November onwards were £360 out with regards to the Cash Book.

Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr J Pridding that the report be accepted.

b) Play Equipment: Councillor Mrs G Jones commented that the Annual Play Equipment Inspection Report had shown some areas where the equipment may need remedial works. The report had scored the play equipment as low

risk and that to carry out remedial works would incur costs. It was agreed to arrange an onsite meeting with Carla Hinde, Landscape Officer WCBC, to look over the equipment to see if any immediate work was needed at this time.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs G Jones advised that the hedge at the junction of Quakers Way and Bridge Street was overgrown and hanging over the pavement; Clerk was asked to contact Streetscene.

Mr J Pridding advised that Mr A Jones had sent a message asking for the roadside verges leading to Borrass Head to be cut, Clerk to contact Streetscene.

Mr D Bithell asked if it was possible for the road gulley drains to be emptied as he had noticed some were full of rubbish; also where Chester Lane met Frog Lane had potholes; Clerk will meet with Mr Bithell to check over the areas of concern and then contact Streetscene, although it was mentioned that Chester Lane may be a private road.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payment in June; Proposed Ms A Shone, Seconded Mr D Powell. Agreed:

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

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR JULY

2974 – AVOW. Salary, wage, and charge	£777.50
2975 – S Coupland, Bowling Green, June	£260.00
2976 - Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall June	£30.40
2977 – Mega Electrical Ltd, Maintenance Inspection Streetlights	£240.00
2978 – Mega Electrical Ltd, Electrical Test Streetlights	£144.96
2979 – Audit Wales, External Audit Fees 2022	£200.00
2980 – JDH Business Services, Internal Audit 2022/23 £369.00	
Data Protection Services 2022/23 £480.00	£849.00
2981 – M&L, Grass Cuts Village Entrance 5,12 May £170.11	
Grass Cuts Village Entrance 30/5, 9,30/6 £255.17	
Grass Cuts Holt Castle 14/6 £252.00	£677.28
2982 – Cancelled	
2983 – Healthmatic Ltd, Repairs Gents Toilet Door	£330.00
2984 – WCBC, Inspection Maintenance, Play Areas	£792.00
2985 – Eric Jones, Grass Cuts All Areas Except Allotment Drive	£220.00
2986 – The Clean Police, Toilet Cleaning July	£120.00

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

