

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL- MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY JULY 25TH 2023 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

APOLOGIES: Mr J Cubitt, Mr J Hughes, Mr A Jones, Mr J Pridding

The meeting was formally opened by the Vice Chairperson, Mr S Lewis who welcomed everyone. There was one report of a recent death in the village and a silence was held in respect of the passing of Mrs J Sawford.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: There were no requests for any amendments and the Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as a true record; Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded Mrs G Jones.

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 June which had been passed on to Councillors; there were a number of incidents reported in the area but only two for Holt, which was the theft of items from farm shop in Holt and a number of hoax calls had been made regarding premises in Ashley Court, Holt. The other reported incidents were other areas covered by the PCSO as well as Holt.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the PCSO about Cannabis and drug paraphernalia being found near to Dee Park and requesting some foot patrols around the village.

ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS: The Clerk advised that Councillor Morris had received an email from Russell Jones, Housing Manager, WCBC, advising that someone would be visiting the Contract Holders (Tenants) of the Dee Park bungalows to canvass their opinion on the proposed siting of the Community Orchard on the piece of ground situated behind the bungalows; it is hoped to have a response, hopefully positive, soon.

The judging has taken place for the Wales in Bloom Competitions, both for Holt and Wrexham's entry; the judging for the Britain in Bloom Competition is on August 2nd; it was commented how well the village looked and that a lot of work had taken place by not only the Gardeners, but other people in the village.

The two new signs giving directions to the Castle have been put up.

2.CHURCH GREEN BENCHES: Mr S Lewis had looked at the websites for recycled benches and had found one which he thought was suitable; the Clerk will send out the details and a decision can be made at the next meeting.

3.FINANCE SHEET: The Clerk gave a breakdown of the Finance Sheet for June which showed expenditure of £2465; however, the Clerk advised that July expenditure would be significantly higher as there were adhoc invoices such as for Audit Fees, for Street Light inspections and WCBC 6 monthly Play Area Inspections to be paid. Proposed Mr D Munnerley, seconded Mr D Powell, that the finance sheet was accepted.

4.SKILLS TRAINING: Mr D Powell had sent out the first draft of the Community Council Skills Training Matrix which was based upon the responses to the skills survey which had been sent out in April; the results showed that some Councillors have intermediate or advanced skill levels in Charing Meetings, Project Management and Consultation and Engagement whereas the areas where some Councillors had no or basic levels of capabilities and knowledge were Legal Skills and Knowledge, Website Development and Management and Financial Accounting and Reporting.

When asked, Councillors indicated that from the listed areas, if training was provided, Legal Skills and Knowledge and Sustainability and Climate Change were the most popular areas and Website Development and Management and Charing Meetings were the least popular.

With regards to the areas of responsibility re: the Community Council, the knowledge base was mainly between Some and Good Knowledge and Capability; when asked which areas Councillors would like to know more, Planning and Finances and Local Businesses were the most popular and Toilet Management the least popular.

It was agreed for Councillors to review the matrix and to further discuss at the next meeting.

5.DEFIBRILLATOR: The Clerk had not yet heard back regarding whether the defibrillator which is kept in a case at Bellis Bros, is suitable to be placed in an outside cabinet.

6.MUGA/PUBLIC OPEN SPACE: The Hillfield Public Open Space is now being managed by J&L Garden Services; it was commented that after the judging had taken place for the Britain in Bloom competition, the edges of the paths will need to be cut back.

7.HOLT VILLAGE WEBSITE: The Clerk had been in contact with Matt Rowlands regarding the village website; he has been able to access the initial website with a view to reimplementing it with the addition of a Community Council web page that would allow uploading and sharing Community Council documents with the wider community; the Councillors discussed this but it was felt that there would be the risk that unless someone from the Council was in charge of the administration of the site, the website could go down and the Community Council would be back in a similar position as now where there is no way of putting Community Council business onto a generally accessible website;in addition, this could mean that the Community Council could become responsible for the admin of the rest of the site. The overriding view was that it was safer for the Community Council to have it's own bespoke website, administered by the Community Council; it was mentioned that if the original village website was resurrected and someone could be found to administer it, the Community Council could consider paying the hosting fees. The Clerk was asked to go back to Matt Rowlands for further discussions.

8. PLAY EQUIPMENT: a meeting has been arranged with Carla Hinde from WCBC to inspect the play equipment at Dee Park and the Church Green because of concerns highlighted following the Annual Play Equipment Inspection and the subsequent reports issued.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) Variation of Conditions 2&3 of Planning Permission p/2015/0617 to Amend Materials, Westfield Depot, Buck road, Commonwood, Holt: **NO OBJECTIONS**

10.The Clerk had received correspondence advising of the upcoming change to the default speed limit in residential areas in Wales from 30mph to 20mph; it was felt that this would be good for the village but concerns were expressed because some drivers do not keep to the existing limits especially on the main roads, Bridge Street, Castle Street, and Wrexham Road. It was agreed that if after a period of adjustment, some drivers ignore the new limits, the PCSO will need to be informed

ITEM 3: AGENDA:

11. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION CLAIM FOR 2023/24: The Clerk advised the Councillors of their right to claim expenses; all present expressed that they did not wish to claim any funding for expenses and the necessary form was completed.

12. FINANCES: The Clerk advised that he had now spoken to Natwest Bank regarding increasing the interest received on the money now in the Business Reserve account; there were a number of accounts available depending on how much notice was needed to take money out or the amount to be invested; The Clerk advised the Councillors on the relative merits of the different options and after a discussion, it was decided to open a Business Liquidity Manager 35 day Notice Account and to transfer £85,000, the maximum covered under the FSCS (Financial Services Compensation Scheme) Guarantee; the interest rate on the Liquidity Manager 35 Account would be approx. 3% compared to the approx. 1.46% presently earned in the Business Reserve account.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs G Jones advised that Holt CP School had recently won an award and £550 in the Welsh Heritage Schools Initiative Competition (Little Schools Section); the Councillors sent their congratulations via Mrs Jones.

Mr D Munnerley advised that the verge on the left hand side of the exit from Wrexham Road joining onto the A534 needed to be cut, Clerk to contact Streetscene after the judging for the Britain in Bloom Competition.

Ms A Shone advised that the window at the back of the old Academy Garage overlooking the Dee Park Play Area was still open; Clerk to try to contact the owner.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payment in July and pre-approved for August as no meeting: Proposed Mr D Munnerley, Seconded Mr D Powell. Agreed:

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	£152.21
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
2987 – J&L Garden Services, Grass Cuts, Hillfield POS, May		£145.00

PAYMENTS FOR AUGUST IN LIEU OF NO MEETING

2988 - AVOW, Salary, wage, and charge		£777.50
2989 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts, Bowling Green July		£220.00
2990 - J&L Garden Services, Grass Cuts, Hillfield POS, June		£145.00
2991 – Eric Jones, Grass Cuts Cemetery Areas		£240.00
2992 - J&L Garden Services, Grass Cuts, Hillfield POS, July		£145.00
2993 – FM Security (NW) Ltd, Repairs CCTV, Toilets		£152.40
2994 – M&L, Grass Cuts Holt Castle 17/07 (£252.00)		
Grass Cuts Village Entrance x3 July (£255.17)		£507.17
2995 - EDF Energy, Street Lights		£551.98
2996 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hall Hire July		£30.40
2997 – Hafren Dyfrdwy, Water Allotments, Cemetery, BG,		£100.51

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

2998 – AVOW, Salary, wage, and charge		£777.50
2999 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts, Bowling Green, August		£270.00
3000 - M&L, Grass Cuts Holt Castle 03/08 (£252.00)		
Grass Cuts Village Entrance x3 Aug (£255.17)		£507.17
3001 – Hafren Dyfrdwy, Water Supply Toilets 04/01-25/07/23		£1483.11
3002 – Farndon Heating Solutions, Excess Consumption, Toilets		£54.00

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL ON
TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER AT 7-00 PM**

