

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

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

APOLOGIES: Mr J Cubitt, MrJ Hughes, Ms A Shone

The meeting was formally opened by the Vice Chairperson, Mr S Lewis, who welcomed everyone. There were reports of 2 recent deaths in the village and a silence was held in respect of the passing of Moira Bellis and Pat Porter.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: There were no requests for any amendments and the minutes of the October meeting were accepted as a true record; Proposed Mr S Lewis, seconded Mr D Munnerley.

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 had been 3 incidents in Holt reported to the Police in October.

ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS: Further to the note last month re: creating a Nature and Heritage Reserve along the banks of the River Dee, a meeting has been arranged for Wednesday January 10th 2024; initially, the meeting will start at The Cross, where representatives from Holt Community Council (Chairman, Mr J Cubitt, Clerk, Mr G Mitchell) will meet with Mr Bob Campbell, Mr Peter Bostock of Holt Gardeners, representatives from WCBC and the North Wales Wildlife Trust, and possibly other interested parties.

Further to the minutes of the October meeting re Green Flag Award application by Holt Gardeners for the car park area, the Clerk had contacted Holt Gardeners for more information on the changes needed. A reply had been received detailing the changes to be considered; briefly, they are, display plants on the bier and underplant with flowers, manage flower bed at entrance to the car park to make a positive impact for visitors, manage toilet planters, leave grass areas cut around the perimeter of the car park, except for approx. 18 inches adjacent to the kerbs; other potential changes involve management of the area around the gabion and the wooded area.

Following a discussion, the Councillors were happy with the application for the Green Flag Award.

2. CHURCH BENCHES: The Clerk advised that the benches have been delivered to the Clerk's address; the Clerk informed the meeting that the benches were extremely heavy and would need machinery (possibly a tractor with forks) to move them to the Church Green; it was decided that that before installing the benches, retaining brackets would need to be fabricated to ensure that the benches could not be moved.

3. FINANCES: The Clerk advised that Income for October was £421, and Expenditure was £2883; Increase from Bank Interest has continued to give extra income which is a reflection of the increased balance due to the ring-fenced bulk sum from the Hillfield Gardens development and the movement of

funds to the NatWest Liquidity 35 account. Proposed Mr J Pridding, seconded Mr A Jones that the Finance Narrative be accepted.

4. **SKILLS TRAINING:** Mr Powell was congratulated for his work on the Skills Matrix; Councillors were asked to consider which courses they would consider to be beneficial to both their overall experience and to how it would benefit the Council; to be discussed again at the next meeting

5. **DEFIBRILLATOR:** The Clerk advised that he had not yet managed to speak to anyone at Bellis Bros to ask if they were still happy to have an additional defibrillator sighted outside and near to the entrance of the Garden Centre.

6. **MUGA/PUBLIC OPEN SPACE:** Some Councillors had seen how the hedge adjoining Francis Lane and the Hillfield Open Space had been cut back and complemented how well the job had been done.

7. **HOLT VILLAGE WEBSITE:** The website <http://holtcommunitycouncil.gov.uk> has now been purchased and will soon be registered to the Council; once registered and with some alterations to the content, it will be ready to be released which it is hoped will be either at the end of the year or early in January. Matt Rowland has advised that he will be willing to act as host for the website, and to be in charge of making sure background work is up to date; this will be at a cost of £20 per month and the Clerk was asked to find out what the hosting work will involve before a decision is made as to whether to go ahead with this.

8. **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** The Clerk stated that he had not yet met with Mr J Catherall to discuss a quote for the painting of the play equipment; it was suggested that possibly other local decorators may be willing to quote to do the work.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) Extension to External Home Office, 3 The Gardens, Holt; some concern was raised about this application because the increased size will affect the streetscene in the Conservation area; also, concern was mentioned as to how much the building was being used as an office and therefore the need for toilets with the main house close by; Clerk to contact the planning officer

b) Construction of Wildlife Pond and Associated Landscaping, Land North of Bryn Lane, Wrexham Industrial Estate; **NO OBJECTIONS**

ITEM 3: AGENDA:

10. Re-adoption of Standing Orders, Chairmanship, Risk Assessment, Code Of Conduct, Financial Orders, Retention Policy, Investment Strategy, Freedom of Information: Following a discussion, it was decided that because there had been no changes to the above policies, they could be re-adopted without change. Proposed Mr J Pridding, seconded Mr S Lewis; Agreed all.

11. Pre-Budget Discussion: The Clerk informed the meeting that he had already had preliminary meetings with Mr Paul Hinchliffe in order to prepare the budget for next year and it was hoped to meet with the Chairman and Vice Chairman early in December to go through the budget. Areas such as Skills Training and Council Website need to be included for next year, but it was felt they could be accommodated out of the normal budget.

Preliminary indications are that although inflation had been high in the last 12 months, the rate prevailing in October of 4.8% should give a sufficient increase to the precept and therefore the budget for 2024-25.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr D Munnerley advised that the grass on the Dee Park Play Area was very long and had not been cut since the end of the Local Government Workers strike; consequently, the children were not playing in the area. It was pointed out that the Council had a service level agreement with WCBC; a discussion was had as to whether it was possible to come out of the SLA and arrange for a private contractor to make a one-off cut and remove the excess grass. Clerk to speak to WCBC again.

Mr D Bithell told the meeting that the light outside number 39 Dee Park was out again; Clerk to contact Mega Electrics again.

Mr J Pridding mentioned that signs were needed at the allotments as the gate to Chester Lane is being left open; in addition, a car is being left on the parking area overnight which is against policy; Clerk to speak to XL signs on the Wrexham Industrial Estate.

Mr A Jones informed the meeting that the road signs at Borrass Head have still not been replaced; Clerk to contact Streetscene, WCBC

The Clerk informed the meeting that in his opinion, many cars passing through the village, especially at peak times, were not adhering to the new national speed limit of 20mph. The problem is especially bad with vehicles coming over the bridge, which is a 30mph limit and then continuing up Bridge Street, Church Street and on out of the village via Castle Street, travelling at least at 30mph, and many times at greater speeds. Although many people disagree with the new speed limit, it is the law and should be observed, especially in built up areas with cars parked often on both sides of the road. The police have been informed of the issue and asked to carry out speed checks early in the morning and late afternoon. It was suggested that a meeting be held with Farndon Parish councillors to see if a joint approach to lowering the speed limit on the bridge, which is an ancient monument, can be achieved.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payment in November and pre-proposed payments for December as there is no meeting in December. Proposed Mr J Pridding, Seconded Mr D Powell. Agreed all:

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

3012 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge	£777.50
3013 – Stuart Jones, Hedge Cutting Cemetery, Bowling Green	£920.00
3014 – Apple Sounds, Hire Sound System, Remembrance Service	£258.00
3015 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cut Village Entrance, October	£85.06
3016 – Marmax Products, 2 Benches Church Green	£864.00
3017 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hall Hire October	£30.40
3018 – J&L Garden Services, Grass Cuts, Wild Border Areas Hillfield POS October, Remove cuttings	£285.00
3019 - EDF Energy, Street Lights 1/8/23-31/10/23	£515.53
3020 – CANCELLED	

3021 – Holt Cool Cats, S137 Grant	£250.00
3022 – St Chads Church, Holt, S137 Grant, Upkeep Churchyard	£350.00
3023 – Holt Under 5's, S137 Grant (Part One)	£200.00
3024 – Kenyon Hall Committee, S19 Grant £1750, £30 Refreshments	£1780.00
3025 – Holt Community Gardeners, S137 Grant	£750.00
3026 – Mr G Mitchell, Purchase Domain Name, Website, Netwise	£160.80
3027 – Mr G Mitchell, General Expenses, Stamps, Postage etc	£126.01

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER

3028 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge	£777.50
3029 – Eric Jones, Grass cuts, cemetery, all areas except bridge	£220.00
3030 – J&L Garden Services, Grass Cuts Hillfield POS, NOV	£145.00
3031 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall, NOV	£30.40
3032 – Nightingale House Hospice, S137 Grant	£250.00
3033 – Family Friends, Salvation Army, S137 Grant	£100.00
3034 – Wales Air Ambulance, S137 Grant	£100.00
3035 – Macmillan Cancer Support, S137 Grant	£100.00
3036 – Matt Rowlands, 2nd Payment Website Design	£275.00
3037 – Hope House Hospice, S137 Grant	£250.00
3039 – Wrexham Sounds Replacement Cheque S137 2022	£100.00
3041 – Erlas Victorian Walled Garden, S137 Grant	£100.00
DD - Scottish Power, Energy Usage, Toilet area	£975.47

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL ON
MONDAY 28th JANUARY 2024 AT 7-00PM**

