

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 2024 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

**APOLOGIES: Mr J Cubitt, Mr D Powell, Mr A Jones, Mr J Pridding,
Mr D Munnerley**

It had been previously agreed by the Chairman and the Clerk that Mr Bob Campbell would be given time before the meeting was formally opened to advise the Community Council on the situation regarding the Holt Heritage Trail. Mr Campbell was welcomed by Mr S Lewis.

Mr Campbell advised that the project was first proposed around 2020 and funding had been applied for at that time but unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful; the project was never forgotten, and funding was applied for again in February of this year and this time the application was successful although subject to formal consent from WCBC who own the land. A grant of over £113k has been agreed. Phase one will run from Holt Castle to the bottom of Dee Lane, where it is hoped to construct a small car park for visitors; an all-weather path, with accessibility for disabled people, will follow the terrain, a path which should be resistant to the river flooding; more seating will be provided, with information stands, and it is hoped to get the meadow back to how it was years ago. There will also be created Willow and Hazel Coppiced areas, plants introduced to areas that temporarily hold water after flooding, and bio security stations put in place. In addition, new pegs will be created by PSAC along that stretch of river.

It was agreed by all that this was an exciting project which it is hoped will hugely benefit the village; Mr S Lewis thanked Mr Campbell for attending the meeting and informing the Councillors of the progress of the project; at this point, Mr Campbell left the meeting. It was suggested that funds may be needed for ongoing future maintenance and the Clerk suggested he will include this in the next budget proposals.

The meeting was then formally opened by the Vice Chairperson, Mr S Lewis. There were reports of 3 recent deaths of either a Holt resident or a person with Holt connections; a silence was held in respect of the passing of Mrs Iona Davies, Byron (Pat) St James and Mrs Shirley Lee.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The Clerk advised that he would be making some amendments to the Finance section of the May Minutes to reflect the Internal Audit and to indicate that it had been separately proposed and seconded that the Internal Audit Review had been accepted; the Clerk will send out new minutes and update the website. Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded Mr S Lewis, that the revised May Minutes be accepted.

POLICE REPORT: There was no Police presence at the meeting, but the Clerk had received an email advising of the Police Report for May which showed no incidents in the Holt area; at this point, the Clerk advised that he recently accompanied the PCSO and a Police Constable in carrying out a speeding check by Bellis Bros; the check was carried out on a Friday afternoon, between 5-15 to 5-45pm; 25 vehicles had been noted as driving faster than the limit at which Go Safe will prosecute, however these drivers will receive warning letters from the Police; in addition, another 25 vehicles were noted driving right on the limit for prosecution; it was noted by the Police that nearly all the vehicles that went past were driving over the 20mph limit and that they considered there was a problem with speeding in Holt; there will be more checks carried out in the future.

ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS: While the result of the Green Flag Award judging has not officially been announced, it would appear that Holt may be awarded a plaque and a flag in recognition of how well the car park is maintained. The Councillors would be happy for a flag and/or a plaque to be placed around the car park area .

2. FINANCES: The Finance sheet for May 2024, month 2, was discussed and agreed as satisfactory; Income was £851.62 with the main contributors being Bank interest at £260, Bowling Fees £260, and Burials/Cemetery £275; expenditure was £4904.88; this was made up of normal expenditure, but invoices had been paid for increased rates on the bowling green (only 40% relief this year), street lighting maintenance and £700 had been given in S137 grants (Holt Under 5's, second grant payment, HLHS, Three Trails Leaflet, 50% costs)

3. DEFIBRILLATOR: The Defibrillator is now onsite at Bellis Bros and this has been announced on the Holt Facebook page so that local residents are aware. Dr Helen McCarthy had been away on holiday, so the Clerk had contacted the local responders and one of them had come down and set it up. There had also been an issue with the defibrillator at Nisa, and the same responder had sorted that out, it would appear that the batteries had run out; a spare set of batteries has been purchased by the Clerk, and it may be necessary to purchase another set.

The Clerk has not yet purchased a Trauma Bleed Kit.

4. PLAY EQUIPMENT: The Clerk has contacted Mr J Cathrall to advise that his quote has been accepted for the painting of the Play Equipment at Dee Park, Church Green and the painting of the gents' toilets; the Clerk is waiting to hear back when the work will be started.

5. DOG FOULING: The Clerk has not yet written to the Chief Environment at WCBC to express concerns about dog fouling in the village.

6. SPEED LIMIT IN VILLAGE: The Clerk advised that under the new guidance, because Holt is a built-up residential area, there are no plans to alter the speed limit in the village from the default 20mph.

7.The Clerk has contacted WCBC to ask if the works to the road culvert at the junction of Borrass Road and Rossett Road can be completed asap; Councillor Morris has also had a conversation with representatives of WCBC to stress the urgent need to get the work done.

8. DIGITAL GUIDANCE: As some Councillors are not in attendance at the meeting, it was decided to speak about this policy at the next meeting.

9. ALLOTMENTS: The Clerk has passed to Mrs G Jones copies of the Tenancy Agreements from WCBC and Holt CC; measurements of each individual allotments have not been yet completed.

10. The Clerk advised that he has had some discussions with the Planning Officers regarding the Conservation Area and the need for consistency in planning decisions within the village to respect the Conservation Area; the Clerk has been assured that the CC's concerns will be passed onto the Chief Planning Officer and the Conservation Officer.

11. GRASS CUTTING PLAY AREAS: The Clerk has spoken to WCBC with regard to the cutting schedules used by WCBC in Holt; he was advised that they work to a 6-8 week schedule, which is weather dependent; he had asked if WCBC would have any objections if the CC arranged for interim cuts to be undertaken in order to keep the grass to a manageable length, and was advised this would not be a problem; the Clerk has subsequently asked J&L Garden Services to undertake a grass cut on Dee Park in a few weeks.

The Clerk had received a letter from a concerned local resident who asked if it was possible for more regular mowing to take place of the play areas; it is hoped that with the current arrangements now made, the grass can be kept at a suitable length. The Clerk advised that because of the discussions held with WCBC they may realise that the grass is cut, and litter is collected for free and due to budget constraints, may seek to impose charges in future years. The Clerk to write back to the concerned resident outlining the new arrangements.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE

The only correspondence received by the Clerk was to do with the new WCBC Planning Portal which seemed to be having some issues; guidance has been issued advising of the correct link to use to get onto either the old or new section on the portal.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Two Storey Side Extension, White Rose Cottage, Wrexham Road, Holt; **NO OBJECTION**

b) Installation of Replacement Windows, 7 Bridge Court, Holt, Wrexham; this is a retrospective application as the doors and windows have already been installed; this has previously been discussed and because of the policy change by the Conservation Officer WCBC, cannot be changed.

ITEM 3: AGENDA: There are no Agenda items to be discussed at this meeting.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs G Jones advised that Holt CP School pupils went to Maesglas Care Home in Holt with a graffiti artist to do a mural on a brick wall at the rear of the building; it has brightened up the building and the experience was enjoyed by the residents and pupils.

Ms A Shone said that the hedge on the left hand side of the footpath alongside Fairview needs cutting back; Clerk to contact Streetscene.

Mr D Bithell advised that North Wales Wildlife Trust in conjunction with WCBC will be holding a “Swift Boxes” event at the Kenyon Hall on July 16th; various sites within the village have been identified as suitable for Swift boxes to be put up, with the aim of encouraging Swifts to breed in safe and secure locations around the village.

Mr Bithell asked if the hedge at the junction of Quakers Way/Bridge Street could be cut back as pedestrians are having to step into the road to get past; Clerk to contact Streetscene: also, to mention weeds growing in the pavement gulleys.

Mr Bithell asked when the signs for the gate to Chester Lane on the allotments would be ready, Clerk advised that they have been ordered and hopefully ready for collection soon; also when will the car park barrier be ready; Clerk advised that Mr J Pridding had said that it will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

Mr Bithell also asked would a tap be fitted outside of the toilet block so the gardeners can water the tubs etc, Clerk advised he has asked a plumber and is waiting for it to be done.

A discussion was held about the state of the gulley grids as many in the village are full; it would appear that WCBC empty on a needs must basis; Clerk has requested that all the village grids be emptied; it was suggested asked a representative from Streetscene to do a walk around the village.

The road markings on village junctions were mentioned again, especially around the Cross; WCBC employ contractors to do this and there is a long waiting list.

It was mentioned that a traffic warden was seen around the village recently and a number of cars parked on double yellow lines around the Cross were ticketed.

Mr J Hughes advised that he had been contacted by a resident who lives in the bungalows at the entrance to Dee Park; the resident had complained about the footpath at the rear of the bungalows, Clerk to look and contact Streetscene.

Mr S Lewis advised there was sometimes an issue with young cyclists going up the top part of Dee Lane the wrong way, and then encountering vehicles coming down the correct way.

Mr Lewis also mentioned that he had been taking part in an archaeological dig on Croxton Field and because of parking issues, people attending the dig parked on the car park to be taken down to the dig; many positive comments had been received about how well the car park area, and the village in general, looked.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payment in May and proposed payments for June. Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded Mr J Hughes, Agreed by all

PAYMENTS FOR MAY

3068 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge	£880.53
3069 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green, April	£277.00
3070 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cuts Vill Entr & Castle	£353.90
3071 – J&L Garden Services, Grass Cuts Cemetery £275	
Grass Cuts Hillfield POS ££160	£435.00

3072 – WCBC, Rates Bowling Green 2024/5	£229.30
3073 – Holt Under 5's, S137 Grant, 2 nd Part	£500.00
3074 – EDF Energy, Street Light Power 01/02-30/04/24	£393.81
3075 – Holt Local History Society, Two Trails Leaflet, S137G	£200.00
3076 – Zurich Municipal, Insurance Renewal 2024/25	£812.52
3077 – Mega Electrical, street Light faults Jan-March 24	£444.92
3078 - Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall April	£30.40
3079 – Matt Rowlands, Website Support April-June 24	£60.00
3080 - J&L Garden Services, Cemetery and Car Park Grass Cuts	£287.50

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR JUNE

3081 – AVOW Salary, Wage, Charge	£880.53
3082 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green, May	£262.50
3083 – Chester Small Plant, repairs to Bowling Green Mower	£47.40
3084 – J&L Garden Services Cemetery Grass Cuts	£250.00
“ “ Hillfield POS	£160.00
3085 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hall Hire, May	£30.40
3086 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cut Castle, May	£267.91
“ “ Grass Cuts Village Entrance	£264.60
3087 – Audit Wales, Audit Fees, 2022/23	£200.00
3088 – JDH Business Services, Internal Audit 2023/24	£402.60
3089 – SLCC Membership Renewal	£154.00
DD – Scottish Power, Power Charge Toilet/Carpark Area	£490.36

**NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE
KENYON HALL ON TUESDAY 30TH JULY AT 7-00PM**

**PLEASE NOTE, THERE IS NO MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN
AUGUST.**

