

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 30TH JULY 2024 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

APOLOGIES: Mr S Lewis, Mr D Munnerley

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman, Mr J Cubitt. There was one report of a recent death of either a Holt resident or a person with Holt connections; a silence was held in respect of the passing of Mr Ollie Astin.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: There were no requested amendments from the minutes of the June meeting; the minutes of June meeting were accepted as a true record, Proposed Ms A shone, seconded Mr J Hughes, agreed by all.

POLICE REPORT: There was no Police presence at the meeting, but a report had been received from the local PCSO; there was one report of an incident in Holt in June.

The Clerk reported that he had been notified by Go Safe that they had attended Church Street on 9th July and 2 roadside courses had been carried out.

ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS: Holt Gardeners have advised that the Car Park has been awarded a Green Flag Award, with a flag and plaque to be displayed in the car park; this is in recognition of how well the car park area is maintained and how a haven for wildlife and insects has been created, along with a quiet area for tranquillity and contemplation in the Gabions seating area.

2. DEFIBRILLATOR: The Clerk advised that there have been some issues with the Defibrillator outside Nisa and that he is waiting to hear whether it either needs servicing or whether it may need to be replaced. The Clerk also advised that he has ordered a Bleed Trauma Kit which will initially be placed at Nisa as the Cross is a central part of the village.

3. PLAY EQUIPMENT: The Clerk has been advised by Mr J Cathrall that he hopes to start the painting of the Play Equipment and Gents Toilets at the beginning of September.

4. FINANCES: The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for month 3, June; it showed an income of £570.35 and expenditure of £3410.30; income was mostly from Bank Interest (£231), Bowling fees (£120), and Burial (£175); expenditure was made up of the normal expenses of salary and wages, grass cuts to the village entrance and Castle, grass cuts to the Cemetery and Hillfield POS, and grass cuts to the Bowling Green (£302); in addition, fees were paid to Audit Wales for 22/23 (£200), internal audit 23/24 (£335).

Proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr J Pridding, that the Finances be accepted.

5. CULVERT AT JUNCTION BORRAS ROAD/ROSSETT ROAD; this work has not yet been started by WCBC.

6. ALLOTMENTS: A discussion was held regarding future management of the allotments; it was agreed that Mr J Cubitt, Mr G Mitchell and possibly Mr D Bithell would meet with a representative of WCBC and visit allotments in Wrexham which belong to WCBC; the Clerk had been advised that WCBC allotments are checked each month as far as possible.

The tenancy agreements for WCBC and HCC are broadly similar; after discussion, it was further agreed that the allotments would be visited at the end of the season, October, and photographs taken for a baseline to be established as to the condition of the allotments and how they are being worked by the tenants; following on, the allotments will be inspected 3 times each year, photos taken at each visit and if it is seen that allotments are not being worked to their potential, letters will be sent to tenants advising that either improvements need to be made or consideration be given to relinquishing their tenancy.

It was also agreed to consider the rents charged at the next budget discussions.

7. GRASS CUTTING PLAY AREAS: The grass at the Dee Park play area has been cut by J&L Garden Services, at an interval of 4 weeks after the WCBC cut; it has been agreed to do another cut at the same interval after the next WCBC cut; it was also agreed to put grass cuts for the play areas in the next budget discussions.

8. TOILET OUTSIDE TAP: This has been installed; the Gardeners have asked for the handle to be changed to a lockable one in order that it cannot be turned on except by people with keys.

9. GULLEY GRIDS: The Clerk has met with a representative from Streetscene; the grids were inspected, and a few were found to be full, which will be scheduled to be emptied; in addition, some kerbs on Green Street will be reset. The path at the back of the bungalows at the entrance to Dee Park was inspected and repairs are needed; to be passed to Housing Dept at WCBC.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk has been in contact with other Community Council Clerks asking what accounting systems were being used, and any experiences with Scribe; the general consensus was that Scribe was an easy system to use but that it was expensive; it would appear that it was cost effective for larger councils but an approx. figure for a system for Holt to use would be £1200 per year; the Clerk felt that this was too expensive for Holt to use.

The Clerk had received an email, containing a report, which he had distributed to the Councillors called "Economic Development in Urban Villages and Rural Areas". The report, from WCBC, was to "consider what strategies are in place to develop economic development in urban villages and the rural areas of the Borough". It gave a definition of the Borough, Urban Villages, and Rural Villages. Holt was placed in the first group of rural villages, along with Bangor on Dee, Overton, Rossett and some others. The report categorised the rural villages as having a range of services confined to meeting local need, to be surrounded by countryside and therefore with limited development potential.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

a) Listed Building Consent for Internal and External Alterations, Former Presbyterian Church, Castle Street, Holt; **NO OBJECTIONS**

b) Installation of Oxidiser, Trans Continental Factory, Ash Road North, Wrexham Industrial Estate; NO OBJECTIONS

ITEM 3: AGENDA

- a) **Independent Remuneration Claim 23/24: The Clerk distributed the necessary forms for the Councillors to make a nil declaration for expenses, which were all signed.**
- b) **Holt Heritage Trail: : A letter had been received by the Chairman and Clerk from Mr Bob Campbell, informing that progress on the Riverside Project has unfortunately been stopped; this was due to some unresolvable issues regarding terms and conditions of the SPF Funding, issues which had the project gone ahead, would have left the Holt Gardeners having to repay considerable sums of money, if there had been any slippage from the timescales for the project, even if the reasons for the slippage were outside of the Gardeners control. Mr Campbell's letter further advised on some of the maintenance concerns that the Gardeners have with the area, such as access routes becoming restricted by trees, weeds encroaching and overgrowing onto the footpaths, and subsidence of some footpaths. The Gardeners asked for the Community Council to allocate resources to keep the area as accessible as possible, in addition to the work already done by the Council. In addition, Mr Campbell asked that the Community Council take the lead in considering opportunities in future, to look at ideas such as the Riverside Project; it was suggested that the Community Council, as a larger organisation, may be able to obtain the necessary insurance indemnities.**
During a discussion, some concern was raised as to the possibility of the Community Council taking on risk that may be considered unnecessary; it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would look at the area and the concerns raised in Mr Campbells letter, with a view to meeting with Mr Campbell and possibly Karen Murdoch from WCBC Museum Dept, to discuss possible ways forward.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs G Jones raised concerns about the weeds growing in the gulleys at various parts of the village; it was thought that WCBC were no longer using weed killer, but a WCBC had been seen spraying around the Borrass area; Clerk to contact Streetscene.

Mr J Pridding advised that Allweld were scheduled to install the new car park barrier next week.

Mr D Bithell advised that he and Mr Bob Campbell had cut the hedge back where Quakers Way meets Bridge Street.

Mr Bithell also asked if the ragwort weed could be cut down on the meadow behind Dee Park, and especially around the Dragon Fly; Clerk to contact Streetscene.

Mr Bithell also advised that the grass by the picnic area adjacent to the car park below the Bridge salon has not been cut.

Mr D Powell advised that children's footballs are going into the hedge at the Muga and getting punctured; although it has previously been considered too expensive to have the fence raised (£10,000+), he asked if it was possible to

consider putting up some sort of netting to stop the footballs going into the hedge; Clerk to speak to WCBC

ACCOUNTS: Approved for June, and proposed payments for July and August as no meeting in August. Proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr J Pridding

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

PAYMENTS FOR JULY

3090 – AVOW Salary, Wage, Charge	£880.53
3091 - Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green June	£287.50
3092 – WCBC, 6 Monthly Charge Play Area Inspections	£1029.6.
3093 – Mega Electrics, Testing, Maintenance Street Lights	£315.86
3094 – J&L Garden Services, Grass Cuts, Cemetery, BG Edge	£422.50
“ “ Grass Cuts Hillfield POS	
3095 – First Rescue & Training, Trauma Bleed Kit	£109.13
3096 – Holt Local History Soc, Replacement Cheque	£200.00
3097 – Farndon Heating Solutions, Check Toilets, Outside Tap	£234.00
3098 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green, July	£337.50
3099 – Monument Landscapes, Grass cuts Castle, Village Ent	£797.11

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR AUGUST

3100 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge	£880.53
3101 – Allweld Engineering, Brackets Church Green Benches	£833.48
“ “ New Height Restrictor, Car Park	
3102 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall, June, July	£60.80
3103 – EDF, Electricity Supply, Street Lights	£409.32
3104 – Hafren Dyfrdwy, Water Supply, Toilets, Cemetery, Allotments	£409.09
3105 – Healthmatic, Replacement Lock, Coin Unit, Ladies Toilets	£32.10
3106 – J&L Garden Services, Cemetery, BG Edge, Dee Park Play Ar	£597.50
“ “ “ Hillfield POS Grass Cuts, Maintenance	

NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL ON TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER AT 7-00PM

