

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Mr A Jones

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman, Mr J Cubitt. There were three reports of recent deaths of either a Holt resident or a person with Holt connections; a silence was held in respect of the passing of Mr Neil Jones, Mr P McDougall and Mr Gwyn Jones.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** There were no requested amendments from the minutes of the July meeting; the minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record, Proposed Mrs G Jones, 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 for August which showed no incidents reported for the Holt area; there was no report in July.

**ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS:** Holt Gardeners have advised that they are holding their annual Fruit Festival on Holt Cross on Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>, the same day as the Chester Marathon, which hopefully will bring more people to the festival.

Holt Gardeners had applied for funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to increase green energy generation and storage, to enhance the new wildlife pond, and to purchase additional equipment for the gardening activities; they were delighted to announce that they had received £3800 which will go partly to update the wind turbine and purchase additional storage batteries.

**2. DEFIBRILLATOR:** The Clerk advised that he had been informed by Dr Helen McCarthy, First Responder for Holt, that in the opinion of herself and a colleague, the defibrillator at Nisa was now in need of replacement as it is 10 years old and starting to have some issues and with the cabinet; the Clerk advised that he had checked and that it was possible to get the defibrillator serviced; the Clerk was asked to get a price to service the defibrillator and the cost to purchase a new defibrillator and cabinet; also to obtain a price for a cabinet to be located externally at Nisa for the Trauma Bleed kit.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to look at holding a training session for the defibrillator and possibly the Trauma Bleed kit; Clerk to obtain prices.

**3. PLAY EQUIPMENT:** The painting of the Play Equipment at Dee Park and the Church Green and the Gents Toilets has not yet been done; the Clerk has emailed and text Mr Cathrall for a new date (as was supposed to start early September) but had not yet heard back.

**4. FINANCES:** The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for months 4&5, July and August; it showed an income for July of £12,961.66 (which included the 2<sup>nd</sup> Precept payment of £12,076) and income in August of £433.39; expenditure for July was £4613.73 and August £3222.82.

Other Income was mostly from Bank Interest (£269.21 and £255.74), Bowling fees (£20), Burial (£375 and £100) and Toilet Doors (£41.45 and £58.65).

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 (£187.50 and £268.23), Hillfield POS (£160 and £235), and grass cuts to the Bowling Green (£700 and £75); in addition, Muga expenses were £553 (1<sup>st</sup> Inspection) Street Lights Maintenance £263.22 and Street Light power £389.83.

Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded Mr S Lewis, 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 letter of resignation from the Allotment holder of 10B has been received; also, a letter from a lady, who used to assist with looking after 10B was received, asking if she could now take over the tenancy of that allotment; as the lady already has a smaller allotment, it was agreed that she can take over the tenancy of 10B and her allotment passed to the next in line. A discussion was held regarding future management of the allotments; it was agreed that the allotments would be visited at the end of the season, October, by Mrs G Jones, Mr D Bithell and the Clerk 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:** It was agreed to put grass cuts for the play areas in the next budget discussions.

**8. TOILET OUTSIDE TAP:** The tap has been changed to one with a lock.

**9. GULLEY GRIDS:** The Clerk advised that as far as he was aware, all the gully grids in the village had been emptied; he had spoken to the team carrying this out and had been advised that some grids near to the Church Green had tree roots growing in them.

Councillor Morris advised that he has used part of his budget under the Environment Improvement Scheme to have the path at the back of the bungalows at the entrance to Dee Park repaired by WCBC

**10. WEEDS IN GULLEYS:** Councillor Morris had contacted Mr Darren Williams, Chief Officer Environment & Technical to ask what the policy was for spraying weeds by WCBC; the reply received advised that spraying does still continue but the spray used does not kill down to the roots of the weeds, only the growth; the Clerk was asked to write to Mr Williams requesting that spraying is carried out in the village; in addition, to ask the policy on removing ragwort weeds such as behind Dee Park as if not removed, is likely to spread and make the situation worse in the future.

**11. HOLT HERITAGE TRAIL:** The Chairman and Clerk have not yet looked at the Area to consider the points raised in Mr R Campbells letter regarding stopping progress on the Riverside Project.

**12.** The Clerk advised that he had contacted WCBC regarding erecting a higher fence at the side of the Muga, in order to stop the footballs going into the hedge. The Clerk had previously contacted the company which installed the Muga and had been quoted over £10k for the work; with regard to putting up netting, WCBC had advised that any netting would need to be inspected to ensure that it met with Health and Safety Guidelines and did not create a potential risk to users, especially young children. Councillor Lewis advised that Clays Golf Club had recently had nets erected and the Clerk was asked to go to look at them to see if they would be suitable.

#### **ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:**

Councillor Morris had received communication from Virgin Media advising of the work to be carried out in the villages of Holt and Farndon to install full fibre internet cables; unfortunately, by the time the email was received, work had already started in Holt and was progressing at pace.

The Clerk advised that he had been speaking to surveyors from Freedom Fibre who were also looking to install full fibre cables in the village soon.

#### **13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a) Demolition Of Boundary Wall and Erection Of A New Wall; Councillor Morris had already replied to this application and the Clerk also, on behalf of the Community Council; it was noted that this was a retrospective application as the boundary wall had already been demolished.

b) Variation of Planning Permission to Amend Landscape Plan, Net World Sports, Wrexham Industrial Estate; **NO OBJECTIONS**

c) Erection of Agricultural Building, Hugmore House, Hugmore Lane, Llan Y Pwll, Wrexham; **NO OBJECTIONS**

d) Demolition of Garage and Erection of Outbuildings, 6, Fairview, Holt; **NO OBJECTIONS**

e) Single Storey Rear Extension, Including Link To And Conversion Of Garage, Fieldway, Green Street, Holt; **NO OBJECTIONS**

f) Construction Of Agricultural Slurry Store With Associated Reception Pit And Separator, Borrass Head Farm, Borrass Road, Borrass; **NO OBJECTIONS**

#### **ITEM 3: AGENDA**

a) The Clerk has contacted Apple Sound re supplying the PA system; also will contact Mr P Gaade regarding asking a Church representative to attend. Poppies and signs will need to be put up by the end of October; wreaths have been ordered.

b) Toilets will be open on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October for the Chester Marathon

c) Mr D Powell was asked to look at the paperwork for Digital Guidance and will report back to the Council

d) A preliminary discussion was held regarding the budget for 2025/26; the Clerk advised that with the ongoing financial issues affecting WCBC, it was reasonable to expect that the WCBC precept for next year would be at or near to the level of 2024; in addition charges for services provided by WCBC would increase and it is expected that the Community Council

will be invoiced from April 2025 for the grass cutting and litter removal at the play areas, which have previously been provided at no cost. With all this in mind, the Clerk suggested that Councillors give some consideration to ensuring services provided by the Community Council reflect the possible increases in costs and at least keep pace with inflation.

#### **ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mrs G Jones raised concerns about possible drug use in the village; the Clerk advised that the Police were aware of drugs being used but that this seemed to be an issue in many areas; Councillors were asked to pass on any evidence of drug dealing or use that they became aware of, and this would be passed onto the Police.

Mr D Munnerley asked what was happening about the hedge running at the back of the old Academy Garage and the side of the garden at number 51 Dee Park; the Clerk had previously been advised that the hedge at the back of the old garage were the responsibility of WCBC and would be cut after the end of September; it was also mentioned that the new owners of number 52 would be cutting the hedge in due course.

Mr S Lewis asked if the hedge along the footpath on the old Wrexham Road could be cut as it was overgrown and encroaching on the footpath; Clerk to contact Streetscene.

**ACCOUNTS:** Approved for August and September, and proposed payments for October. Proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr J Pridding

#### **PAYMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER**

3107 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cutting Bowling Green, August	£275.00
3108 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge, September	£880.53
3109 – Holt Community Gardeners, Locking Tap, Rear of Toilets	£23.74
3110 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cuts Castle & Village Ent	£443.21
DD - Scottish Power, Power Charge, Toilets, Car Park Area	£503.73

#### **PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER**

3111 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge, October	£880.53
3112 – J&L Garden Services, Hillfield POS, Grass Cuts, etc, Aug/Sep “ “ , Cemetery Grass Cuts	£770.00
3113 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts bowling Green, September	£150.00
3114 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cuts Village Ent, July, Sept	£267.81
3115 – AllWeld, Frames Signs Allotments	£125.03
3116 – Matt Rowlands, Tech Support, Website, Domain Name Renew	£220.80
3117 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall September	£30.40

**NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AT 7-00PM**



