

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Mrs G Jones, Ms A Shone, Mr D Powell

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman, Mr J Cubitt. There were two 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 Raymond Thomas and Mr Paul Kent.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** There were no requested amendments from the minutes of the September meeting; the minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record, Proposed Mr D Munnerley, seconded Mr A Jones, agreed by all.

**POLICE REPORT:** There was no Police presence at the meeting, but a report had been received from the local PCSO for September which showed no incidents reported for the Holt area.

The Clerk had received an email from PCSO Lisa-Marie Davies to advise that, for personal reasons, she was moving areas and would send out another email when she knew who her replacement would be.

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

**1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS:** Holt Gardeners have advised that they have cancelled the Xmas Fayre that is normally held on the Cross at the beginning of December; the Autumn Fayre had not been as successful as in previous years and income had been reduced; in addition, the Gardeners were finding it difficult to find willing volunteers to assist and so, reluctantly, had taken the decision to cancel the Xmas Fayre, for this year only.

A discussion was then held regarding the effects of the numbers of people who came into the village to watch the Chester Marathon, on the same morning, Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>, as the Gardeners Autumn Fayre; while it had been expected that the amount of people would help the Autumn Fayre, because of the numbers of people milling around, it seemed to have the opposite effect; Mr J Hughes mentioned that the takings in Nisa were down for the day; it was also mentioned that cars had been parked "all over the place", especially on the Wrexham side of the village, with the main road and Francis Lane, particularly affected; in addition, Mr J Pridding advised that the bollards put out down Green Street to stopping parking have only recently been collected.

The Clerk was asked to speak to Bellis Bros to find out if they were affected and to then write to the Chester Marathon organisers to express the concerns of the Community Council and to request that for future events, the Police be asked to have a presence in the village to ensure that the parking of visitors

does not have a detrimental effect on residents lives; the Community Council wants to encourage visitors to the village, and for them to leave with a favourable impression of the village, but inconsiderate parking should not make life difficult for the residents.

**2. DEFIBRILLATOR:** The Clerk has obtained prices for a new Zoll Defibrillator, (£895+vat), Housing Cabinet, (£450+vat), Bleed Kit Cabinet (£290+vat); in addition, to get the existing Defib at Nisa serviced will cost £175+vat. After a discussion, it was agreed for the Clerk to purchase a new Zoll Defib, Cabinet, and Bleed Kit Cabinet, which will be installed outside Nisa. The existing Defib at Nisa will be serviced, with a view to either keeping as a spare, or looking at getting it installed somewhere near to the Bridge between Holt and Farndon. The Clerk has not yet heard back from Dr McCarthy re prices for holding a training session for the Defib and for the Trauma kit  
Proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr J Pridding to purchase the new equipment.

**3. PLAY EQUIPMENT:** The Clerk has heard back from Mr J Catherall advising that due to the wet weather, he had been unable to get to painting of the Play Equipment at Dee Park and the Church Green and the Gents Toilets; it was decided that the winter months were not the best time for outdoor painting, so the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Catherall and suggest putting back the work until around April 2025.

**4. FINANCES:** The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for month 6, September; it showed an income for the month of £519.02 and expenditure for September of £2126.21.

Income was from Bank Interest (£260), Burial (£75), Toilet Doors (£56.05), Allotments (£105), and a Misc Wayleave cheque from Scottish Power of £22.97. Expenditure was made up of the normal expenses of salary and wages, grass cuts to the village entrance and Castle, (£443.21), grass cuts to the Bowling Green (£275); in addition, Scottish Power, power supply Toilets, (503.73) and replacement lockable outdoor tap at Toilets, (£23.74)

Proposed Mr J Pridding, seconded Mr S Lewis, that the Finances be accepted. The Clerk suggested that in the new budget discussions and figures, it would be advantageous if separate lines are added in for known expenses such as grass and hedge cutting, which are part of the normal yearly expenditure.

The Clerk had received notification from NatWest Bank that the interest rate of funds held in the Business Reserve Account (0.10%) and the Liquidity 35 Day Notice Account (0.25%) was reducing.

**5. ALLOTMENTS:** The lady who previously helped with 10b has been told that she is now the new sole tenant, and her small allotment will be allocated in the near future.

The Clerk advised that he has recently been contacted by a village resident who would like to rent an allotment. Baseline pictures of the allotments have not yet been taken.

**6. GULLEY GRIDS:** The Clerk advised that he has emailed asking for the gulley sweeper to visit the village, and for the pavement sweeper to come to do the pavements, some of which are covered with leaves.

**7. WEEDS IN GULLEYS:** The Clerk has emailed Darren Williams, Chief Officer Environment and Technical, regarding getting the weeds in the gulleys removed; Mr Williams has passed the request onto a Streetscene supervisor, who has advised that they are cutting back on spraying for environmental

reasons; Streetscene are sure that Holt does get visited re weed removal, but perhaps not as often as in the past; Streetscene also asked what areas need looking at to remove weeds.

8. The Clerk had been to Clays Golf Club to look at the nets that had been erected and the next step would be to speak to WCBC to see if they were happy; a discussion was held regarding possible cost of erecting netting, and whether it would be better to use the money to go towards putting up a manufacturers fence; Clerk was asked to get prices again from the manufacturers.

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

9. The Clerk had received an email from One Voice Wales with a survey to do a self-assessment of the Councils current Digital and Information Technology setup. The intent of the survey was to allow the council to think through how they are working digitally, to consider good practice they can adopt, as well as prepare for any next steps needed. The Clerk was asked to complete the survey.

The Clerk had received an email from the Wales Audit Team asking for information and clarification regarding some aspects of the Councils business; one of the main questions was why the Council had received funds for the Muga and Hillfield Open Space; the Clerk had replied to all of the questions but had heard nothing since.

Posters and some flyers from the Cinnamon Dog Trust had been received, asking if anyone local was interested in helping elderly people in walking their dogs; the Clerk will put up the information in the notice boards.

The Clerk had received a list of the roads that were to be considered for reversion to 30mph; Holt village speed limit is staying at 20mph; the nearest roads to Holt under consideration Holt Road from the A534 link to Cefn Road roundabout and from the Cefn Road roundabout to the Tesco roundabout (2 separate areas for individual consideration).

#### **10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

a) Installation of Replacement Windows, 4, Bridge Court, Holt; as other properties on Bridge Court have already been granted planning permission, the Council made **NO COMMENT**,

b) Variation of Licensable Activity Under the Licensing Act 2003; application by Hotel Wrexham, Holt Road, Wrexham LL13 9SW; under the terms of the Licensing Act, individuals can make representation on the application, provided that they are affected by the proposals, Councillors and the Community Council can make representations on behalf of named individuals that are affected, or Councillors and the Community Council can make representations in their own right, provided they are affected by the application. The representations must relate to The Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Protection of Children from Harm, Public Nuisance, or Public Safety.

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

- a) Remembrance Sunday: The Clerk informed the meeting that Apple Sound are no longer supplying PA systems for outside events; the Clerk has managed to borrow a small system from Farndon PTA which should hopefully be adequate for Remembrance Sunday. The Clerk suggested

that the CC should consider purchasing their own small PA system as the cost of hiring was over £200/year and an adequate system could be purchased for a similar cost; in addition, the system could be used for other village events such as the Gardeners Fayres. Councillor S Lewis said he would look into costings.

Mr D Bithell, Mr J Cubitt and Mr S Lewis advised that they would be able to assist in putting up the poppies before Remembrance Sunday.

- b) Grants: S19 grant , £1750 to Kenyon Hall Committee plus £30 for refreshments for Remembrance Sunday.

S137 Grants: Holt Under 5's: Total £731.06: to purchase a children's picnic table (£48), 2x Outdoor Storage Boxes (£90), Obstacle Course Starter Pack, (£321.58), Rope ladder (£13.99), Bulk Bags Playsand (£104.50); St Chad's Church £350, Holt Cool Cats £150, Holt Community Gardeners £750, Holt CP School £1500 towards outdoor play equipment. Because of the amount of each individual grant request, the Councillors decided that for this year, they would honour all the requests from Holt organisations only, but that in future years funding requests would have to be reviewed in light of budget constraints.

- c) Budgets: the Clerk advised that he would start on the budget for 2025-26 in the next few weeks; he would be making proposals for increases in facilities provided by the Community Council, for discussion by the Councillors. The Clerk will send out to Councillors information regarding prices charged by other Councils for services.

#### ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs G Jones said that an elderly person had slipped on the leaves by the Flats opposite the Church Green; the Clerk has already requested sweepers to visit the village

Mr D Munnerley asked if the grass on the Dee Park Play Area could have one final cut before winter, Clerk to contact the contractors.

Mr S Lewis advised that the "No Right Turn" sign in the right hand side hedge on the entrance to Dee Park from Francis lane was covered by the hedge and the hedge needed cutting back; also the lights on the signs on the top of Dee Lane (from Wrexham Road to Francis Lane) had not been repaired; Clerk to contact Streetscene; the rubbish on the bank on Dee lane had not yet been moved; the Clerk advised he had tried to contact the owners of the property but there was no one answering the door.

Mrs A Shone asked if the signs for the public footpaths could be checked to make sure they are all visible; Clerk to contact Sion Roberts at WCBC

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payments for October. Proposed Mr J Pridding, seconded Mr S Lewis

#### PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 3111 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge, October                          | £880.53 |
| 3112 – J&L Garden Services, Hillfield POS, Grass Cuts, etc, Aug/Sep |         |
| "    "    Grass Cuts x2 Cemetery                                    | £770.00 |
| 3113 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green, September          | £150.00 |
| 3114 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cuts Village Ent, July, Sept      | £267.81 |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>3115 – AllWeld, Frames Signs Allotments</b>                        | <b>£125.03</b> |
| <b>3116 – Matt Rowlands, Tech Support, Website, Domain Name Renew</b> | <b>£220.80</b> |
| <b>3117 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall September</b>              | <b>£30.40</b>  |

**PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER**

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>3118 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge, November</b>  | <b>£880.53</b>  |
| <b>3119 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts, Jobs, Bowling Green, October</b>                                  | <b>£150.00</b>  |
| <b>3120 – J&amp;L Garden Services, Cuts Cemetery (X3), Riverside, POS</b>                               | <b>£1057.50</b> |
| <b>3121 – Gresford RBL, Poppies, Crosses, Remembrance Sunday S137</b>                                   | <b>£112.00</b>  |
| <b>3122 – WCBC, Trade Refuse Removal, April 24 – March 25</b>   | <b>£1133.00</b> |
| <b>3123 – Holt Under 5's, S137 Grant</b>  | <b>£731.06</b>  |
| <b>3124 – St Chads Church, S137 Grant</b>   | <b>£350.00</b>  |
| <b>3125 – Holt Cool Cats, S137 Grant</b>  | <b>£150.00</b>  |
| <b>3126 – Holt Community Gardeners, S137 Grant</b>  | <b>£750.00</b>  |
| <b>3127 – Holt CP School, S137 Grant</b>  | <b>£1500.00</b> |
| <b>3128 – Kenyon Hall Committee, S137 Grant, Refreshments<br/>Remembrance Sunday, Hire Hall October</b> | <b>£1810.40</b> |

**NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE  
KENYON HALL ON TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER AT 7-00PM**

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