

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

APOLOGIES: Ms A Shone, Mr D Munnerley, Mr D Bithell

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 Carol Smith and Miss Penney.

POLICE REPORT: The new PCSO for Holt, Emma Maddocks, was at the meeting and she was welcomed by all of the Councillors; PCSO Maddocks advised on the Police Report for October, which contained two reportable incidents in Holt. A discussion was then held regarding the various issues in Holt, namely, drugs, speeding and parking. PCSO Maddocks advised that unfortunately, drug taking was an issue in many villages, but Police were working hard to shut down the suppliers; any information from the public would help in this regard. GoSafe had been in the village with a speed camera van a number of times in October and November and the Community Council will continue to press for more checks to be made. Parking on the Cross was discussed; the Clerk advised that a request was with StreetScene for the white lines to be repainted and also the yellow “No-Parking” lines; unfortunately, there are many requests for this service from other areas. It was noted that the issues with speeding and parking are all caused by drivers disregarding the law and the safety of pedestrians and other road users. Following the discussion, PCSO left the meeting after being thanked for attending by the Chairman.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: There were no requested amendments from the minutes of the October meeting; the minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record, Proposed Mr J Pridding, seconded Mr S Lewis, agreed by all.

ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS: The Clerk advised that he had spoken to members of management at Bellis Bros, who had confirmed that the takings on the day of the Chester Marathon were considerably reduced compared to other Sundays; they also considered parking to be an issue and many people had parked their cars on the car park but then went to the marathon and did not shop on site.

The Clerk advised that he would be writing in due course both to the organisers of the Chester Marathon but also to the Police to request additional assets to be in place for the next Chester Marathon to manage the parking

around the village to ensure that it did not unduly affect the lives of the residents.

2. DEFIBRILLATOR: The Clerk advised that he had not yet ordered the new Defibrillator and cabinet and the cabinet for the Bleed Trauma kit as he was waiting to make sure that the next Precept payment was made by WCBC and in the bank to ensure that there were no cash flow issues should there be any unexpected expenditure.

3. PLAY EQUIPMENT: The Clerk has been in contact with Mr J Catherall and it has been agreed that the painting of the external play equipment will be the first external job that he will do when the weather improves and dries up in the spring.

The Clerk advised that the Trio Springer on the Church Green Play Area had been damaged; he has spoken to WCBC who have contacted the manufacturers, who have agreed to repair the play item free of charge but that there will be a £480 carriage charge to take the equipment to the manufacturers and back; although the equipment could still be used to an extent without the damaged piece, it was agreed, reluctantly, to pay the carriage charge; Proposed Mr D Powell, seconded Mr S Lewis.

4. FINANCES: The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for month 7, October; it showed an income for the month of £640.40 and expenditure for October of £2444.67.

Income was from Bank Interest (£248), Burial (£200), Toilet Doors (£42), Allotments (£150).

Expenditure was made up of the normal expenses of salary and wages, grass cuts to the Bowling Green (£150), grass cuts to the cemetery, (£450), Hillfield POS, (£320), grass cuts village entrance (£224), VAT, (£82), Frames for signs on allotment gates (£104), website hosting and domain name annual fee (£200). The Clerk advised that by opening a new NatWest Liquidity 95 day account and transferring the amount originally received from Castle Green Homes into that account, it would go some way in counteracting the reduction in interest rates that is due on the other bank accounts.

The Clerk was asked to put a breakdown of bank accounts in the finance narrative

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

5. ALLOTMENTS: No photographs of the allotments have been taken to date.

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. MUGA: The Clerk has spoken to WCBC who advised that any nets installed would have to meet stringent Health and Safety criteria. The Clerk advised that in the New Year, he will contact the installers of the MUGA to get prices to install one side fence, 2 side fences and also an overhead canopy.

8. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: This had been a success and was once again attended by many people; the PA sound system that the Clerk had borrowed had worked well, and it was decided to purchase a similar system for use going forward, both for Remembrance Sunday and other village events.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

9. There was no correspondence that had not been covered in other areas.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: The Clerk informed the meeting that he had not received any planning applications prior to the meeting; Councillor Morris advised that one had come out late in the afternoon for a replacement hut at Wrexham Golf Club; the Clerk advised that he would send it out to the Councillors, and if there were any objections to let him know so that he could reply within the timescales.

ITEM 3: AGENDA

- a) **Re-adoption of Policies;** A discussion was held regarding the re-adoption of the Policies used by the Community Council; the 2024 internal audit had flagged up that due to the increase in the amount in the bank accounts because of the funds received from Castle Green Homes, there were issues with the Standing Orders and the Financial Orders; although most policies do not change, it was agreed that it would be beneficial if two policies per year were subject to a thorough review to make sure that all sections were still relevant; the two initial policies to be reviewed are the Standing Orders and the Financial Orders. Proposed Mr S Lewis, seconded Mr J Hughes.
- b) **Pre-Budget Discussion:** The Clerk advised that he had made a start on the budget for 2025-26; he had been advised that initial thoughts were that WCBC's Council Tax increase would likely be between 6-10%, although no formal discussions had yet taken place; the Clerk had been advised that the grass cutting and litter picking, previously received from WCBC for free, would likely be charged from 2025-26; in addition, it was likely that due to the NI increases announced in the UK Government Budget, services provided by contractors to the Community Council would likely be increasing by an amount greater than the rate of inflation.
- c) **Precept 2025-26;** The Clerk reported that he was working on a preliminary precept increase of 5%; in addition, he was recommending that the charges for Cemetery along with Allotment fees would be increased; the charges for the cemetery would not have been reviewed in 3 years by April 2025, and the allotment charges had not increased since 2018; the recommendation would also be that charges for the Toilets and the Bowling Green would not be increased

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs G Jones advised the meeting that Holt CP School have vibrant and well supported Football and Netball Clubs and the Football team recently came second in a local area tournament; the Netball team have used the Muga for practise, and it is hoped that this will continue in the future.

Mr J Hughes asked about the Rainbow Foundation as he was aware of an elderly resident who was struggling with a Blue Badge application; Councillor Morris advised that the Rainbow Foundation was now run by AVOW and had recently taken on a new agent for the area. Councillor Morris advised that he would pass the details of the new agent to the Clerk.

Mr A Jones asked if the potholes on the road leading down from the Borrás Head junction could be reported as they were getting quite big; Clerk to contact StreetScene.

Mr J Pridding asked what was happening about the road flooding at Esp Hill as it seemed to have been going on for weeks; Councillor Morris suggested speaking to Natural Resources Wales and to also contact WCBC, name of contact and email address would be passed to the Clerk; the Clerk advised that he would also speak to Bellis Bros as he was aware that they had been speaking to WCBC.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payments for November and proposed accounts for December as there is no meeting in December of the Community Council. Proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr J Hughes.

PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

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

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER

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| 3129 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge, December | £880.53 |
| 3130 – G Mitchell, Clerks Interim Expenses | £194.89 |
| 3131 – JH Tree Surgery, Emergency Tree Cutting, Car Park Area | £890.00 |
| 3132 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cuts Village Entrance | £178.60 |
| 3133 – J&L Garden Services, Grass cuts Dee Park Play Area/POS | £210.00 |
| 3134 – Healthmatic, Repairs Toilet Cash Box Electrics | £336.00 |

NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL ON TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY AT 7-00PM

