

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 29TH APRIL 2025 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

PRESENT: Councillors: Mr S Lewis, Mrs G Jones, Mr D Munnerley, Mr J Hughes, Mr D Powell. Mr D Bithell, Councillor M Morris, Mr G Mitchell, Clerk

APOLOGIES: Mr J Cubitt, Ms A Shone, Mr A Jones, Mr J Pridding

The meeting was formally opened by the Vice Chairman, Mr S Lewis. 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 the late Mrs Rose Jones

POLICE REPORT: The Clerk had distributed the Police Report for March which showed 2 reported incidents for the month; although PCSO Maddocks was not in attendance, the Clerk was able to remind Councillors that an extensive Police drugs raid had recently taken place by Cheshire Constabulary in conjunction with North Wales Police; ten arrests had been made across Chester and North Wales, with one in the local area.

The Chairman, Mr J Cubitt, had received an email from a concerned driver passing through the village, highlighting the difficulty in pulling out onto Castle Street via the Cross because of the number of parked vehicles near to the junction. The driver, who was in a large van, had to take off his seatbelt to be able to lean forward to see if any traffic was coming, pulled out into Castle Street, and in doing so, was photographed by a GoSafe speed van further up the road and subsequently received a summons. The driver was asking what the view of the Community Council was regarding the parking; the Clerk has been asked to reply and will point out the request made for the white and yellow lines to be repainted, requests for further visits from traffic wardens, and the 3 Priorities agreed by the Community Council with the local Police

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: There were no requested amendments from the minutes of the March meeting and accordingly, the minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record, Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr D Powell, agreed by all.

ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS: The Clerk advised that he had received a number of emails from Holt Gardeners. The Gardeners had been put in touch with the management at the Hotel Wrexham, and after a number of meetings (and a visit from the hotel management to Holt), it was agreed that Hotel Wrexham would sponsor some of the planters on the Cross; Hotel Wrexham also would like to get more involved with the village and as well as working with the Gardeners are willing to look at additional help for other village groups such as Holt Under Fives and Holt School.

The Gardeners had emailed to express their thanks for the removal of the debris left following the fallen tree behind the toilets. The Gardeners advised that Enfy had turned over the Coronation Meadow and wild flower seeds had

been sown. The Gardeners, following on from Councillor Cubitt's meeting with the Borrass Quarry Liason Group, have had a meeting with representatives of the Breedon Group who are keen to be involved with Holt and to help with projects around the village such as footpath improvements to the Castle site. Details of the proposal have been exchanged and it is hoped that, if agreed, work can start soon and the area can then be included in the Holt Wales in Bloom entry.

2. DEFIBRILLATOR: The Clerk advised that he hoped to meet up with Dr Helen McCarthy in the next week to set up the new defibrillator. The new Trauma cabinet has still to be installed.

3. PLAY EQUIPMENT: The Clerk has been advised that the play areas equipment will be painted after the Easter Holidays, when the children are back in school. He said that he will email around the holidays to confirm a date,

4. FINANCES: The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for March 2025 which showed an income of £342.62 and expenditure of £3651.80; Income comprised Toilet Doors £28.40, Burials of £100 and Bank Interest £214.22; expenditure included the normal costs of salary and wages, Clerks expenses £236.48, General and Admin £826.90, Toilets and Village General £782.98, Hillfield POS £740.00 and VAT £205.91. Proposed Mr S Lewis, seconded Mrs G Jones that the finances be accepted.

The Clerk advised that the new NatWest 95 day account was now opened but that he had received a letter advising that interest rates were dropping. He further advised that once he had completed the paperwork for the Internal Audit, he would be better able to advise on the end of year accounts 2024-25 and to give a clearer picture on the financial position of the Community Council.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the VAT claim for 2022-23 has now been submitted; doing this created some difficulties as all of the sign in details were in the previous clerk's name, and to change them over took some considerable time. When the Clerk phoned the VAT section of HMRC, he was told that only one detail could be changed on one phone call so he was able to update his name and address on the HMRC database; he was, with help from the VAT admin officer able to submit the first tranche of VAT refunds but to submit further applications, the Clerk would need to call back to change his telephone number so that he could receive a code to be able to sign in; this took a considerable amount of phone calls and time but was eventually done and the VAT submissions for 2023-24 and 2024-25 have now been completed.

5. ALLOTMENTS: The Clerk had distributed 2 letters to allotment holders, one advising of the new increased rents and the other advising of the need for some allotment holders to make improvements to the condition of their allotments; photographs had been taken by the Clerk, and also by Mrs G Jones, so a baseline was now available and when further photos are taken, it will be possible to see if improvements have been made.

6. GULLEY GRIDS: The gulley grid near to the path from Dee Park to the Play Area has been cleaned out; it was commented that it was a partial clean out as the grass around the grid was not cut back and as such the rain may wash rubbish into the grid and block it again. Mr D Bithell said that there were still gulley grids in Frog Lane that had not been emptied, the Clerk has been advised that they will be done in due course.

7. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT: WCBC have cut the grass twice in April, on the 1st and 25th of the month; the Clerk was asked to contact the contractors who do additional cuts to see if they could cut the Dee Park play area in the next few weeks.

8. CEMETERY: The work to the hedges and paths in the Cemetery had been completed by Mr S Jones. The Clerk at this point mentioned that he had received an email asking why the contractor used had not put out warning signs regarding the work being carried out, if the contractor had various pieces of relevant documentation and whether hedge cutting was allowed at that time of year. The Clerk had replied that a walk round had taken place before work had commenced to check the hedges for nesting birds; the Clerk then received a further email asking why a formal reply had not been sent to answer the questions posed in the original email; the Clerk had replied back asking for the name and address of the person sending the emails as the Community Council, (along with most other Councils) have a policy of not considering or formally replying to anonymous communications; to this date, no information had been received back.

9. AUDITS: The Clerk said that he is working on the Internal Audit requirements, would be taking them to the Auditor on May 8th and will be collected May 22nd; once the Internal audit is completed, the Clerk can look to submit the Welsh External Audit.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

10. The Clerk had received an email from the Finance Dept at WCBC advising that due to a “processing error”, the payment of the 1st Precept payment would not be paid until April 8th, rather than the beginning of the month as per normal; luckily, this had not created any financial issues.

An email had been received from One Voice Wales to inform that the Community Council would need to produce a Section 6 Report in 2025 to show how they have met the statutory “Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Duty”. The Clerk had passed this information to the Chair, Mr J Cubitt and he has advised that he will try to attend one of the short webinars which explain the requirements of the Section 6 Duty and how the Council can meet this statutory reporting duty for 2025.

An email had been received regarding the Wrexham National Eisteddfod which this year is being held at Isycoed. Councillor Morris advised the meeting as to where this event will be held, and some concern was raised regarding parking, traffic volume and arrangements in case of inclement weather.

A communication had also been received regarding Wrexham’s bid for UK City of Culture 2029; a series of Community drop ins will be held in different parts of the Borough to enable people to find out more about the bid, its aims, progress so far and what it could mean for Wrexham.

11. PLANNING:

a) Formation of Vehicular Access and Closure of Existing Vehicular Access, Erlas Victorian Walled Garden, Bryn Estyn Road, Wrexham: **NO OBJECTION**

b) A Pre-Notice has been received relating to a proposed development of a Strategic Ecology Corridor at land off Francis Lane and land adjoining the B5130 Wrexham. The applicant is a fully owned subsidiary of Net World Sports and is planning to submit full planning permission for the proposed development at these locations,

making up 4 parcels of land in total, which will be proposed for ecological enhancement. As this is a Pre-Notice, no comment was made at this stage.

ITEM 3: AGENDA

12. Petition for changes to Holt/Farndon Junctions, A534. The Clerk had been contacted to ask if he was willing to be involved with promoting the petition in Holt; due to his position with Holt Community Council, he was unable to formally agree to be involved but did advise that he would submit the matter to a meeting of the Community Council. Everyone on the Council was concerned regarding the recent death that occurred at the Holt junction with the A534, but the consensus was that the Council as a formal body could not be involved with the petition, but individual Councillors could sign the petition if they wished to do so. As the Coroner had sent a Notice of Prevention of Future Deaths to WCBC, it was felt best for Holt CC not to comment. However, the Clerk was asked to write to the appropriate department at WCBC to advise that the CC supported any action taken by WCBC to improve the junction. It was also suggested for the Clerk to contact Councillor A Waddelove, Cheshire West and Chester Councillor for the Farndon Ward to try to set up a meeting with Council Chairs, Clerks and Councillor Morris to discuss joint action to include both Holt and Farndon junctions.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There were no items under AOB.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payments for April 2025: Proposed Mr S Lewis, seconded Mrs G Jones.

PAYMENTS FOR MARCH

3143 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge, Year End Fee	£895.53
3144 – WCBC, Repairs to Trio Springer, Church Green Play Area	£576.00
3145 – J&L Garden Services, POS Jan-Mar, Hedge Cut etc	£740.00
3146 – Brash Designs, Web Hosting Jan-March	£60.00
3147 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall February	£30.40
3148 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cut Holt Castle	£264.60
3149 – G Mitchell, Clerks Expenses, Printing and Travel	£263.14

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR APRIL

3150 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall March	£30.40
3151 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge	£1276.83
3152 – Chester Small Plant, Sharpen Blades Mower, BG	£151.80
3153 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts, Work Bowling Green	£442.50
3154 – WCBC, Business Rates, Bowling Green 2025-26	£231.74
DD - Information Commissioners Office, Data Protection Renewal	£47.00

NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL ON TUESDAY 27TH MAY 2025 AT 7-00PM

