

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 27TH MAY 2025 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

APOLOGIES: Mr J Cubitt, Ms A Shone, Mrs G Jones

ITEM 1: AGM

1a): Election of Holt Community Council Chairperson 2025-26; although Mr J Cubitt was unable to attend the meeting, he had previously advised that he would stand again as Chairperson should no-one else wish to take the role; as no other Councillor expressed an interest in becoming Chairperson, it was proposed by Mr D Munnerley, seconded by Mr J Hughes that Mr J Cubitt be once again elected as Chairman of Holt Community Council; Agreed by all.

1b): Election of Holt Community Council Vice Chairperson 2025-26; it was proposed by Mr D Bithell, seconded by Mr J Hughes that once again, Mr S Lewis be elected as Vice Chairman of Holt Community Council; Mr Lewis reluctantly agreed to take on the role again, but advised that this would be his last year in the office; Agreed by all

The meeting was formally opened by the Vice Chairman, Mr S Lewis. There were four 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 the late Mrs Margaret Shone, Mrs H Watson, Mrs J Bellis and Mrs Gillian Hughes-Wilding.

POLICE REPORT: The Clerk had distributed the Police Report for April which showed no reported incidents for the month; a speed check had been carried out adjacent to Isycoed School and 17 vehicles had been caught speeding at over 26mph.

The Clerk advised that he had replied to the email reported at last month's meeting regarding the difficulty in pulling out from the Cross onto Castle Street because of the parked vehicles; the Clerk had pointed out the actions taken by the Community Council in regards to parking, speeding and other vehicle related safety issues in the village. The Clerk had received a return email thanking him and for the efforts being made by the Council.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: There were no requested amendments from the minutes of the April meeting and accordingly, the minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record, Proposed Mr A Jones, seconded Mr S Lewis, agreed by all.

ITEM 1c): MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS: The Clerk advised that it had been a quiet month for the Holt Gardeners, although he is aware that lots of work is going on in preparation for Holt's entry into the "Wales in Bloom" competition. The Clerk advised the meeting that Holt was once again also involved in Wrexham's

entry into Wales In Bloom. As far as the Clerk was aware, there had been no further progress following the meeting with the Breedon Group. The Clerk advised that he had passed on to the Gardeners possible funding opportunities that he had received from One Voice Wales and other groups.

2. **DEFIBRILLATOR:** The Clerk advised that he had met up with Dr Helen McCarthy who now has the new defibrillator and is setting it up. The new Trauma cabinet has still to be installed.

3. **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** The Clerk has been advised that he had an email from the contractor, Mr J Catherall, to advise that the play areas equipment will be painted w/c 30th June.

4. **FINANCES:** The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for April, month one, 2025 which showed an income of £17,274.93 and expenditure of £2180.27; Income comprised the first Precept payment of £12,680, Toilet Doors £30.20, Burials of £250 and Bank Interest £57.39 (which was lower as funds have been transferred from the Liquidity 35 day account to the new Liquidity 95 day account), Bowling Green £120, Allotments £200 and VAT Reclaim for 2022/23 £3937.34; expenditure included the normal costs of salary and wages, General and Admin £99.40, Bowling Green £800.74 (included WCBC rates 2025/26), VAT £25.30. Proposed Mr J Hughes, seconded Mr A Jones that the finances be accepted.

The Clerk advised that he had received a letter advising that interest rates on the Liquidity 35Day account and the Business Reserve account were reducing again but the new Liquidity 95Day account was not.

The Clerk advised the meeting on the situation regarding the finances at year end March 2025; the year end showed a total income for the year to March 2025 of £42,281.81 which was £4221 under budget; expenditure was £47,694.37 which was £2920 over budget but the Council had purchased 2 new Defibrillators and Cabinets which explained the overspend.

The Clerk advised that 2025/26 may be challenging as the increase in the Precept had already been taken by the increase in general costs due to the increase in employers NI, and the increase in costs to WCBC due to the Council now having to pay for grass cutting to all the play areas as per the new Service Level Agreement.

5. **ALLOTMENTS:** Rents are being received and it looks like some allotment holders are making efforts to work them more than in previous years; the Clerk now has at least 2 people on the waiting list for allotments.

6. **GULLEY GRIDS:** The Clerk advised that he had been in touch with Bellis Bros who advised that the ditches surrounding their fields on Frog Lane had been cleaned out; The Clerk will contact WCBC to see how their works are progressing; 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:** This has been signed and returned to WCBC.

8. **CEMETERY:** The Clerk has received the invoice for the work done at the Cemetery to the hedges and paths, and also for the hedge cutting on Francis Lane.

9. **HOLT/FARNDON JUNCTIONS A534:** The Clerk has emailed Mr A Waddelove, CWaC Councillor for the Farndon Ward but has not yet heard back; the Clerk has also emailed WCBC to advise that the Community Council supported any action taken to prevent further accidents at the junctions. In addition, the Clerk

advised that he has written to Streetscene at WCBC to ask again if the white lines in the village could be considered for repainting; the Clerk had written to say that following the recent tragic accident on the A534 and the email regarding parking around the Cross, the Community Council were taking an enhanced approach to safety in the village and were also working with North Wales Police on the “3 Priorities”, one of which was parking; unfortunately, because the white lines were faint in many places in the village, this was not helping safety. The Clerk had received a reply noting the concerns and points raised in his email, but WCBC had not yet responded to the Coroners Report, but would consider all things that needed to be done including white lining if needed.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

10. The Clerk had received a communication from Severn Trent Water about the ongoing works to the water main at the Holt/Farndon Bridge; a letter explaining the works to be done had also been sent to local households. The Clerk had received an email from a local resident asking for permission to add an upright Cross to a cremated remains memorial as there was no room on the memorial to add another deceased person's details. A discussion was held regarding the request but the Councillors felt unable to agree to the request, on the grounds that it would create a precedent outside of the Cemetery policy and could lead to other requests for changes in the future, which would be difficult for the Council to turn down; Council Cemetery policy is to only allow Headstones, with or without a surround, for graves, or a cremated remains memorial either flat or a wedge shape. The Clerk had spoken to a local stonemason who advised that in these circumstances, a marble flower container, which come in different sizes, could be used to add on the details of the deceased and this could sit at the top of the cremated memorial. The Clerk will contact the local resident to inform of the Council's decision.

The Clerk had received an email requesting that one of the recently deceased persons be interred near to their son who had passed away a few years ago; the son was buried on the last row on the right hand side of the Cemetery, whereas the left hand side was currently being used for burials; the Clerk advised that there was precedent for granting familial requests to allow, where possible, burials near to other family members; as on this occasion, it was possible, it was agreed for the burial to be allowed at the start of a new row on the right hand side of the Cemetery.

11. PLANNING:

a) Replacement Windows within Holt Conservation Area, 10, The Gardens, Holt, Wrexham: NO OBJECTION

b) Variation Of Condition 1 Of Planning Permission P2021/0610 To Amend Landscape Plan, Location Net World Sports, Bryn Lane, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham: NO OBJECTION AT THIS STAGE

c) Two Storey Side Extension, Erection Of Porch And Installation Of Bay Windows To Front, Ambergate, Hugmore Lane, Llan Y Pwll, Wrexham, NO OBJECTION

d) Works To Trees In Holt Conservation Area, Location, Copper Leaves, Wrexham Road, Holt, Wrexham; this work has already started and nearing completion, so the Council cannot comment.

ITEM 3: AGENDA

12.INTERNAL AUDIT: The Clerk had received the Internal Audit back from the Auditors, with 2 points noted;

1) “We have not seen evidence that the contract for grass cutting in the village, which exceeded £3000 in 2024/25 has been awarded as per the financial regulations of the Council”. The Clerk had replied to the Auditors that he did not agree with this noted point as the grass cutting contract covers different areas in the village, such as the Cemetery, Hillfield POS and others, all of which have been quoted for at different times, are not linked, are invoiced separately, shown as such in the cash book, and as such do not contravene the Financial Regulations of the Council.

2) “The Minutes do not record that the Council has carried out an annual risk assessment. There is an agenda item Re-adoption of Policies, but it does not specify that the Council reviewed and adopted the risk assessment”. The Clerk advised that the “Re-adoption of Policies” was first discussed at the November 2024 meeting and he was asked to review, in depth, 2 policies a year to make sure that all sections were still relevant; the initial policies were the Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations; this was done and the Clerk reported back at the February meeting and advised that any changes needed had been previously actioned. Unfortunately, the Clerk had not included in the November minutes that the Policies had been re-adopted, subject to any possible changes highlighted in his review, which was an oversight. Proposed Mr S Lewis, seconded Mr J Hughes that the Internal Audit be accepted.

13. GRASS CUTTING DEE PARK: The Clerk advised the meeting that he had previously been advised that WCBC grass cutting did not follow a set routine which made it difficult to schedule additional cuts; the Clerk had contacted different people at WCBC and had eventually been able to email the lead officer of the grass cutting team and it was agreed that a base date for WCBC to cut the grass would be around the 25th of the month; this was possibly subject to some change due to weather and other possible pressures affecting the WCBC team. The Clerk had then advised that he would look to get additional cuts done to the Dee Park Play area, around the 8-10th of the month, but this could be subject to change due to weather and other pressures on the contractors.

It was agreed to see how these arrangements worked out going forward.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr D Bithell advised that the chevrons just before the Brickyards Corner had not been reinstated; the other signs had been either been replaced or put back up but not the chevrons. Clerk to contact WCBC.

Mr D Bithell asked if a “Give Way” sign could be installed at the point where the roads narrows, just before the turn off into the Pinfold; the traffic coming from Borrás/Rossett is supposed to give way to traffic coming from Holt, but many vehicles are not stopping, near misses are occurring and at some point, a collision may happen; Clerk to contact WCBC

Mr J Pridding advised that the last street light at the bottom end of Green Street, just before the traffic lights, seems to stay on longer than the other street lights; Clerk to contact Mega Electrics.

Mr S Lewis said that pot holes are starting to form in the centre of the road from the junction of Castle Street, Wrexham Road and Francis Lane, going up to the crossroads junction of Smithfield Street, Dee Lane and Wrexham Road; Clerk to contact Streetscene.

ACCOUNTS: Approved for payments for May 2025: Proposed Mr J Hughes, seconded Mr A Jones.

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

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR MAY 2025

3155 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge (Replaced by 3157, wrong date)	£943.97
3156 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green, May	£250.00
3157 – AVOW, Replacement Cheque	
3158 - Zurich Municipal, Insurance Renewal 2025-26	£774.05
3159 – Farndon Heating solutions, Repairs Public Toilets	£201.36
3160 – Audit Wales, All Wales External audit 2023/24	£535.00
3161 – Mr S E Jones, Hedge Cuts Francis Lane, Cemetery and Jobs	£740.00
3162 – J&L Garden Services, Hillfield POS, March, April, May	£489.60
3163 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hire Hall April	£30.40
3164 – Monument Landscapes, Castle Cuts May, Entrance Cuts	£465.38

NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL ON TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2025 AT 7-00PM

