

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

**In Attendance: Councillor H Williams, Chair, Farndon Parish Council**

**APOLOGIES: Councillor J Hughes**

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman, Mr J Cubitt. He gave a warm welcome to Councillor Hilary Williams, Chair of Farndon Parish Council, who following a meeting between Chairs and Clerks of Holt CC and Farndon PC and Local Councillors A Waddilove (Farndon) and M Morris (Holt), was invited to attend a meeting of Holt CC; it is hoped that in future, closer co-operation between the 2 Councils can be achieved, especially on matters of interest to both communities.

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 Mr Ellis Jones.

**POLICE REPORT:** The Clerk had distributed the Police Report for October which showed one reported incident for the month. The Clerk had also received an email from Inspector Stefan Lederle of North Wales Police entitled "Wrexham Rural District Inspector Quarterly Message", which the Clerk had previously distributed to the Councillors; the email contained an update of the work done by the district teams in the previous few months and advised that the "My Neighbourhood and Patrol Teams" will continue to focus on the three priority targets of "Increasing Visibility and Community Engagement, Improvement in the District Performance, and Improve Standards of Investigation and Quality of Service to the Public"

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

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND OTHER RELATED NEWS:** The Clerk advised that following on from the excellent results from the Wales in Bloom Competition, Holt Community Gardeners recently announced that they had been honoured with the "2025 RHS Community Award for Outstanding Sustainable Gardening". This prestigious national recognition is a "testament to the groups dedication, vision and positive impact on the village environment". HCG had been nominated by Wales in Bloom and supported by Peter Barton-Price, an advocate for community gardening.

**2. MUGA:** The Clerk reported that the cheque had been sent to pay for the work done in increasing the height of the sides of the MUGA.

**3. ALLOTMENTS:** The Clerk advised that no photos had been taken up to that point, but will be done before the next meeting.

**4. JOINT MEETING WITH FARNDON PC:** There were 5 attendees at the first joint meeting of the 2 Councils, which was held to consider issues that are of interest and concern to both Councils;

a) **Planning Applications;** Although at the time of the meeting there had been no formal applications for additional large-scale development in Farndon, there appeared to be interest in building on fields off Sibbersfield Lane (up to 460 houses), and on the field which currently has horses on it (up to 95 houses) on the opposite side of Sibbersfield Lane, adjoining the old road to Barton. Agents of potential developers had held public meetings and some notices had been sent to properties adjoining where the building will take place.

b) **Infrastructure in Farndon;** with regard to the potential development, a common theme from people in Farndon (and to an extent Holt), is the effect of potential large-scale development on Farndon School (which is full), the Doctors surgery (difficulty in getting appointments), shops (or lack of in Farndon and consequent extra vehicles in Holt), transport and road congestion.

c) **A534 Bypass;** at the joint meeting, both Local Authority Councillors explained what was happening with regard to the bypass following the fatal accident earlier in the year; although the formal Inquest had not yet been completed, following the "Notice of Future Prevention of Deaths" issued by the Coroner to WCBC, consultations were being held by both WCBC and CWaC, on reducing the speed limit on the bypass by

continuing the 40mph speed limit from the current end on the Holt side of the Brickyards corner to beyond the turn off to Farndon and Shocklach on the Cheshire side. This solution may not solve all of the issues with accidents, especially if it not policed to ensure motorists keep to the speed limits, but was agreed it is a step in the right direction

Councillor H Williams commented at this point, that when the bypass was first planned, it had been mooted to have a roundabout at the Farndon turn off at Sibbersfield Lane, but this was not included in the final works.

**5. PA SYSTEM:** The P A System had arrived and had been successfully used at the Remembrance Sunday service on The Cross; Holt Community Gardeners had asked to use it for their Artisan Market on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November and the Clerk had agreed to set it up.

**6. MEETING WITH BREEDON GROUP:** The Chairman has now arranged a meeting with the Footpaths Officer and Tree Officer from WCBC for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, initially meeting on The Cross before proceeding down to the footpath from the old Holt Endowed School, to the Castle.

**7. Santa's Float:** This has now been arranged to come to Holt on the evening of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, arriving at The Cross by 6-00pm; the organisers, Wrexham Round Table, have been in contact with Holt School so that the float is in the village early enough for the children to see it, as a pantomime is due to take place at the school at 6-30pm. After coming to and around Holt, the float will go to Farndon and then come back through Holt again later. The organisers of the float have asked for a small donation towards their costs,

and a sum of £200 was agreed, which can be actioned as a S137 Grant; Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr D Munnerley, agreed by all.

8. Audit and Website; The Clerk advised that he had sent the External Audit Opinion Statement to be included on the Holt Community Council website, along with Minutes of meetings; he will also send the 2025 Annual Report and the Section 6 Report when they are completed in the next few weeks.

9. Remembrance Sunday: Once again, the Remembrance Sunday service was successful and was well attended as usual; the new PA system was used and was considered a success; after the service, the Clerk had spoken to some ex-military servicemen who had attended and they had commented how much they had enjoyed the service and that it was a credit to the Community Council.

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

10. a) The Chair had received an email from a “solo activist”, Mr Jonathan Alwyn-Jones, who was currently investigating the possibility of developing a new or improved route from Wrexham to Stoke; he is seeking to gather community feedback and local perspectives of people living and working near to the A534 in order to build a strong evidence based case for improvements to be carried out on the route; after a discussion, it was agreed for the Clerk to write to thank Mr Alwyn-Jones for his email and to advise that this issue will be considered in due course.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** There had been no planning applications since the last meeting.

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

11 a). Section 137 and S19 Grants; Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had distributed a list of the grant applications and the amount give for S137 and S19 Grants last year; after a discussion, the following was agreed:

##### **S137 Grants:**

- 1) Royal British Legion, Poppies and Wooden Crosses, £97.00 (Already agreed
- 2) Holt Under 5's, Funding for summer extravaganza, £600.00
- 3) St Chads Church, Grant for upkeep of churchyard, £300
- 4) Holt Cool Cats, Replacement play toys etc, £200
- 5) Holt CP School, Installation of last piece outdoor play equipment, £1000
- 6) Kenyon Hall, Grant towards Remembrance Sunday refreshments, £30
- 7) Nightingale House Hospice, £200
- 8) Wales Air Ambulance, £200
- 9) Wrexham Round Table, Grants towards costs Santas Float, £200

##### **S19 Grant:**

- 1) Kenyon Hall Committee, Grant towards insurance cost village hall, £1750; the Clerk was asked to contact the Kenyon Hall Committee to ask whether the amount given covered the amount needed to pay for the insurance policy for the Hall.

**NB;** The Clerk was asked to contact the committee of Holt Under 5's to advise that as the grant given was towards the costs of the proposed summer extravaganza 2026, should the event not go ahead, a discussion would be

needed about the use of the funds and whether they would need to be returned, or re-allocated for other expenses/uses with the Under 5's.

b) Re-adoption of Standing Orders etc: last year, the Clerk was asked to do an in-depth review of the Standing Orders and the Financial Orders; it was suggested that this year another 2 policies should receive the same in-depth review and the Investment Strategy and the Risk assessment were chosen; Clerk to report back when completed; in the mean-time, the rest of the policies were re-adopted with no changes; Proposed Mr D Powell, seconded Mr S Lewis, agreed by all.

c) Pre-Budget discussions, Precept; The Clerk advised that as there appeared to be no issues mentioned in the recent National Government Budget that were likely to increase costs over and above normal inflationary increases, he would continue working on the CC budget for 2026-27 and would send out his recommendations before the next CC meeting to be held early January.

12 Finances: The Clerk had sent out the Finance Sheet and Finance Narrative for October 2025, month 7; Income was £1569.64 and Expenditure £2877.38; Income comprised of Bank Interest £244.64, Burial and Memorials £275 and WCBC £1050; Expenditure included the normal costs of salary and wages, General and Admin £645.57, Bowling Green £262.50, Cemetery and Allotments £702.00, Hillfield POS £169.50, S137 Grant £97

Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr D Powell that the allocation of grants and Finance Report be accepted, agreed by all.

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

Mrs G Jones commented that there were briars growing around the Post Box at the entrance to Dee Park, Clerk to contact Streetscene

Mrs A Shone advised that dog excrement had been found inside of the fenced area of the Dee Park Play Equipment; other people had also reported finding dog excrement around the village as well.

Mr J Pridding had advised that he had received a price of £250 to cut the hedge on Francis Lane, Proposed Mr S Lewis, seconded Mr D Powell, agreed. Mr D Bithell asked whether the hedges on the path up to the Cemetery, and also the hedges either side of the Bier House could be cut.

Councillor M Morris commented that road re-surfacing in the village was scheduled to be carried out in the next couple of months; at present, the areas to be re-surfaced had not been exactly decided upon.

Mr S Lewis reported that the light on the Give Way sign on the exit of Dee Park was not working, and also the lights on the signs on the upper part of Dee Lane had not been repaired (already previously reported)

**ACCOUNTS:** Approved for payments for November 2025: Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Mr D Powell, agreed by all

#### **PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER:**

3193 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge	£943.97
3194 – Shane Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green	£262.50
3195 – Royal British Legion, Poppies/ Crosses, Remembrance Serv	£97.00

<b>3196 – J&amp;L Garden Services, Grass Cuts Cemetery, Riverside, POS</b>	<b>£951.10</b>
<b>3197 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cuts Castle, Village Entrance</b>	<b>£371.81</b>
<b>3198 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hall Hire September</b>	<b>£30.40</b>
<b>3199 – Matt Rowlands. Web Hosting April-Sept, Domain Name Fee</b>	<b>£220.80</b>

**PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER**

<b>3200 – Avow, Salary, Wage, Charge</b>	<b>£943.97</b>
<b>3201 – PAS Sound Engineering, New PA System</b>	<b>£646.80</b>
<b>3202 – Streetscape Ltd, Increase Height of Sides, MUGA</b>	<b>£15060.00</b>
<b>3203 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cuts Village Ent October</b>	<b>£187.54</b>
<b>3204 – J&amp;L Garden Services, Grass Cut Cemetery</b>	<b>£304.75</b>
<b>3205 – EDF Energy Customers Ltd, Energy Supply Street Lights</b>	<b>£12.00</b>

**NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE  
KENYON HALL ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT 7-45PM**

