

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

**APOLOGIES: Councillors Mr S Lewis, Mr D Munnerley, Mrs G Jones
Ms A Shone**

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman, Mr J Cubitt. There were three reports of a recent death of either a Holt resident or a person with Holt connections. A silence was held in respect of Mrs M Warwick, Mr C Pridding and Mr Derek Kettle.

POLICE REPORT: The Clerk had distributed the Police Report for January, as well as the one for November 2025 which had not been received; there was one reported incident for November and two incidents reported for January 2026 in Holt. An email had also been received from Inspector S Lederle giving an update of some of the work carried out by the various Police teams over the Xmas and New Year period, and also to provide an insight into the current performance of the Police teams in the area. A PCSO had also been down to look at the parking situation at the pull in below Dee Villas on Bridge Street.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: There was no requested amendments from the minutes of the January meeting and accordingly, the minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record.

Proposed Mr J Hughes, seconded Mr A Jones, agreed by all.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND OTHER RELATED NEWS: The Clerk advised that January, along with December, are usually quiet months for Gardening Group news and no emails had been received from the Gardening group; following on from the letter received last month regarding cutting of the Peace Garden hedge, this had been done already to some extent by the Gardening Group. Mr D Bithell suggested that the hedge was getting quite high and it was agreed to lower the height and cut it back at the end of the year. Mr Bithell also advised that he had cut the holly hedges either side of the Cemetery gates, for which he was thanked by the other Councillors. Mr S Jones is still continuing to cut the large hedge on the left-hand side of the Cemetery walkway, but due to the ongoing mains electrical work still being carried out on Green Street, was unable to get a vehicle in to remove the hedge cuttings, but this would be done in the near future.

The Chair advised that through his work with the local history society, he had been made aware that the Gardening Group were in the early stages of looking at commissioning and siting some one-off wooden statues, commemorating Holt's history and were hoping to get grants to have them made; although at this point it was early days in the project, he thought that the Community Council would be approached at some point in the future to be involved.

2. ALLOTMENTS: The Clerk advised that he had taken photos of the allotments but was unhappy with the quality and would be taking more.

3. JOINT MEETING WITH FARNDON PC: The Clerk reported that he had attended a public meeting held at Farndon Community Centre regarding the outline planning permission received for the construction of up to 90 houses on the field across from the Community Centre, on the old Barton Road, where horses are normally kept; he reported that it was a well-attended meeting, held by Councillor A Waddelove, in conjunction with Farndon PC; there were a number of comments made regarding why the development should not go ahead, (Dr's full, school full, inadequate shops, too much traffic, water supply insufficient, sewage full). Following a discussion with the Chair, and on behalf of Holt CC and Holt Village, the Clerk submitted an objection to this housing development. There are other possible planning applications imminent which could, if all agreed, increase the size of Farndon by circa 50%. This would have a knock-on effect on Holt, in terms of the volume of traffic (potentially up to 750-1000 extra vehicles), and as mentioned, the effect on the Dr's surgery, school etc.

4. The Clerk had returned the forms to WCBC showing a precept increase for Holt CC of 3.5% and a new Precept for Holt of £39,370 for 2026-27. Councillor Morris advised that WCBC had received an additional settlement from the Welsh Government which meant that the precept increase for 2026-27 for WCBC would be 4.9%.

5. Finances: The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for January, month 10. Income for January was £289.37 and Expenditure was £3380.97; Income comprised of Cemetery £100 and Bank Interest of £189.37; Expenditure included salary and wages, General Admin £1153, Muga £565.50, S137 Grants £400, VAT £339.50.

Proposed by Mr D Bithell, seconded by Mr J Hughes, agreed by all, that the Finance Report for January 2026 be accepted.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

6. The Clerk had received a letter from the lady whose Mercedes had been reported as parking over the pavement on the pull in area below Dee Villas on Bridge Street; as noted in the Police Report, she had received a visit and had received a "Problematic Parking" warning notice from the Police; her letter advised that when she had bought the property on Dee Villas, she had bought it with a parking space; she advised that she now tries to park diagonally to the side wall, and although the back of the car slightly overhangs the pavement, it is better than how the car was previously parked; she has tried talking to other residents who park there to try to get a uniform approach, but with little success. She made the point in the letter that other people will still park there covering the pavement and that she did not want to park on the road as this would only make the traffic situation worse. It was agreed that she was trying her best not to park overhanging the pavement and if other vehicles did so, and were seen by the Police, enforcement action could follow.

Councillor Morris advised that there were 2 spare garages at the back of the Flats and this information would be passed on.

The Clerk had received the new Service Level Agreement for the Play Areas from WCBC and he was able to report that the charges had only increased by 2%. The new costings for all the Play Areas are £3459 plus VAT, which includes monthly inspections and the annual safety inspection by an outside agency.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a) Alterations to the Front Elevation Including Re-Render and Replacement Doors/Windows and Re-Model Existing Garage and Utility/Boot Room, Rose Cottage, Wrexham Road, Holt: NO OBJECTIONS
- b) Change Of Use of Buildings from Class C2 (Care Home) to Class 3 (2 NO Dwellings), Coach House, Green Street, Holt: these are amended plans which have previously been discussed: NO OBJECTIONS
- c) Single Storey Side Extension to Provide Six additional Residential Bedrooms with En-Suite Facilities and Associated Landscaping, Maesglas Care Home, Green Street, Holt. The Clerk and Chair had already been approached by a resident who lives on Laburnum Way and the rear of whose property is affected by this proposal; the resident had strongly objected to this proposal, was asking for CC support and an objection had been registered by the CC in support of the resident.

ITEM 3: AGENDA

7. a) Pride In Place Impact Funding (PiPIF); WCBC had sent out information regarding the Pride in Place Impact Fund which had come to them via the UK Government; £1.5 million had been made available to WCBC and they had taken the decision to split the funding equally between all the Town and Community Councils in their Borough. The money was to be split over 2 years, 2025/26 and 2026/27, with £22,058.50 available each year and because it had taken some time to be arranged and set up, the funding for 2025/26 was rolled over into the following year; the PiPIF has certain conditions and criteria in how it can be spent, and there are 3 priority themes;

1) Community Spaces; creating, extending, improving and refurbishing existing community facilities and enabling community organisations to control or have ownership of underutilised but valued local assets

2) Public Spaces: enhancing the physical environment in public spaces, eg, improving green spaces or access to, via footpaths, improvements to riverside walks, creating or refurbishing play areas, sports pitches, improving bus shelters

3) High Street and Town Revitalisation: making the area more attractive to encourage economic activity.

The funding is Capital Only, with applications needed to be submitted by the end of April 2026, and works completed by March 27th 2027.

After a discussion, it was agreed for the Clerk to put a notice on Facebook, inviting suggestions from village residents as to how they would like the money to be spent, for the benefit of the whole village.

b). Bowling Green Future: The Clerk had advised at the January meeting that he would include this item on the agenda for February as he thought a discussion was needed regarding the future of the Bowling Green; it is being increasingly subsidised each year, the Community rates have increased, the discount has decreased and the number of people using the bowling green has declined year on year. It was commented that although work has been carried out to try to improve the playing surface, it was still in a poor condition which may be a reason why it is not used very often. It was agreed to try and get quotes to see what improvements could be made to improve the green to an extent where its popularity may improve and new members would join.

c) Litter Bins: The Clerk had received an email from the Wrexham Litter Pickers asking if the Community Council would support them in their efforts to get the

litter bin at the bottom of Dee Lane replaced. This bin has been vandalised a number of times, and WCBC have taken it away and it was rumoured that it would not be replaced. The Clerk had contacted Streetscene at WCBC and they had advised that they have new bins on order and it would be replaced in the near future.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councillor M Morris advised that he has an upcoming meeting with a representative from WCBC Highways Dept to discuss a number of things and he intended to ask if anything could be done about the parking issue at the top of Dee-Side; the Clerk advised that Mr D Munnerley had asked for this to be brought up as he had been contacted by concerned residents, of whom some live down Dee-Side, in the old Holt Endowed School buildings and adjoining the footpath, as they were having issues getting out at times because of parked vehicles. It was commented that the situation recently had been exacerbated by the road resurfacing works and BT installing new cables for fibre broadband.

Accounts: Approved for payments for February 2025

PAYMENTS JANUARY 2026

3214 – Wales Air Ambulance, S137 Grant	£200.00
3215 – Avow, Salary, Wage, Charge	£943.97
3216 – Nightingale House, S137 Grant	£200.00
3217 – WCBC, Half Yearly Charge, Inspection/Maintain Play Areas	£2035.80
3218 – EDF Customers Ltd, Street Lights Energy	£1.20
3219 – Nightingale House Hospice, S137 Grant	£200.00
3220 – WCBC, Half Yearly Play Area Inspections	£2035.80
3221 - EDF Energy Ltd, Street Lighting Power	£1.20

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

3219 – Cheque Cancelled	£NIL
3220 – Avow, salary, Wage, Charge	£943.97
3221 – Mega Electrics, Fault Repairs, Street Lights	£322.50
3220 – Nhh Hafren Dyfrdwy Cyf, Water Toilets, Cemetery, Allotments	£479.57
3221 – J&L Garden Servs, Hillfield POS Nov-Jan, Hedge Cuts	£758.80

NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT ON TUESDAY 31st MARCH 2026 AT 7-00PM

