

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

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mr J Cubitt, Mr D Munnerley, Mr A Jones

The meeting was formally opened by the Vice Chairman, Mr S Lewis. There were no reports of a recent death of either a Holt resident or a person with Holt connections.

POLICE REPORT: The Clerk had distributed the Police Report for February and there was one reported incident for the month. An email had also been received from Inspector S Lederle advising that he was leaving as the District Inspector for Wrexham Rural as he was going to work on a temporary project within the Force area; his email gave details of his temporary replacement as Inspector and also details of the Support Sergeant who will be assisting the Inspector.

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 Pridding, seconded Mr J Hughes, agreed by all.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND OTHER RELATED NEWS: The Clerk advised that the Gardening Group had “received a national award from Social Farms and Gardens (SF&G), a UK wide charity supporting communities to farm, garden and grow together. Its Community Management Awards (Cymru) celebrate community led green space projects accessing and making good use of land in communities throughout Wales”. As part of the award, the Gardening Group were required to formulate a Well-Being Pledge in line with the Welsh Governments Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Well-Being Pledge had 7 titles which were “Prosperous, Resilient, Healthy, Equal, Cohesive, Vibrant Culture and Globally Responsible and each title had a short description attached, which gave information about how the Gardening Group operate.

At the last meeting, the Chair advised that 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. The Clerk advised that the Community Council had now received formal notification regarding the proposal and because some applications for grants may require a joint funding, the CC may be asked to provide some financial support.

2. ALLOTMENTS: The Clerk advised that following reports that the tenant of Allotment Number 1 has passed away some-time late last year, he had spoken to his widow to try to find out what her plans were for the allotment which had not been worked last year. She had advised that it was on her list of things to sort out and would be in contact when she had decided what to do regarding the allotment.

3. JOINT MEETING WITH FARNDON PC: The Clerk reported that on the previous night, he had gone to a very well attended public meeting held at Farndon Community Centre regarding the outline planning permission received for the construction of up to 40 houses on a field down Crewe Lane, Farndon and the 400+ on the field owned by Barnston Estates, off Sibbersfield Lane and behind Nightingale Close/Lime Tree Drive; as at the meeting held on the previous month regarding the building of 90 houses nearly opposite the Community Centre, there were a number of comments and reasons given why the developments should not go ahead, (Dr's full, school full, inadequate shops, too much traffic, water supply insufficient, sewage full, effect on the village environment). Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk, on behalf of Holt CC and the residents of Holt Village, would submit an objection to these housing developments. It was agreed that if all of the developments went ahead, the effects on Farndon would potentially be devastating, but would also have a big effect on the residents of Holt.

4. Finances: The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for February, month 11. Income for February was £524.36 and Expenditure was £2504.84; Income comprised of Cemetery £350 and Bank Interest of £174.36; Expenditure included salary and wages, General Admin £22, Hillfield POS £758.80, Toilets and Village General £363.74, Cemetery and Allotments £115.83, Street Lights maintenance £268.75, VAT £53.75.

Proposed by Ms A Shone, seconded by Mr J Hughes, agreed by all, that the Finance Report for February 2026 be accepted.

5. The Clerk had passed on the details to Councillor Pridding of the contact details for the correct department at WCBC, in order that the lady with the Mercedes car parking in the pull-in below Dee Villas on Bridge Street, could enquire about the cost and availability of a lockup garage behind the Flats off Quakers Way.

6. Councillor Morris reported that he had had a meeting with a representative from WCBC Highways Dept and the matter of the parking issue at the top of Dee-side, where it joins Church Street/Castle Street was discussed and consideration may be given to see what options were available.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

7. The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by the Secretary from Port Sunlight Angling Club who own the fishing rights along the River Dee; he advised that when one of the Water Bailiffs was working on the river bank, he was nearly hit by a golf ball hit from somewhere on the Dee Park estate; on looking round, he found well over 35 golf balls in the vicinity which meant that this was not an isolated incident. This was obviously a serious incident as not only was it dangerous for the Water Bailiff, the area is also frequented by dog walkers, families with children, and other people walking along the river bank. The Clerk advised that he had put a post on Facebook, advising of what had happened, and warning that should there be any more similar reports re: golf balls, the Police would be informed; the Clerk had made some enquires and had been given possible names of people who may be involved, and should any more reports be received, the names would be passed to the Police. The Clerk had also received a report of possible rubbish fly-tipping by a resident whose garden backs on to the field which runs from the bottom of

Dee Lane to the Castle and is owned by WCBC Museum Dept; the Clerk had reported this to WCBC and he was aware that someone else had also reported to WCBC and an enforcement officer would be sent to have a look and potentially take action.

Councillor Pridding asked regarding the situation with Holt Hill on Green Street; he had heard that CADW had advised that it was no longer a listed building and the owner had incurred extra expense because of this; Councillor Morris said that he had been in a number of meetings with the owner, CADW and the WCBC Conservation Officer regarding the reconstruction of the property; although it was now not listed (because it had been demolished and was being rebuilt), the expectation was that it would be rebuilt using similar construction materials and methods as per the original building and the owner was aware of this.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a) **First Floor Rear Extension, 2, The Cottages, Rossett Road, Commonwood, Holt, Wrexham: NO OBJECTIONS**
- b) **Works to Trees Protected by Tree Preservation Order, WCBC, 1, Bryn Estyn Court, Wrexham: NO OBJECTIONS**
- c) **Single Storey Side and Rear Extension, 12, Hugmore Lane, Llan y Pwll, Wrexham: NO OBJECTIONS**
- d) **Two Storey Rear Extension, Erection of Porch, Installation of Replacement Windows, Rendering to Brickwork, Replacement Front Garden Wall and Gate including Landscaping to Front, and Replacement of Existing Garage with Lean-To Structure to Side of Property: Sunnyside, Wrexham Road, Holt, Wrexham: NO OBJECTIONS**

It was noted that the Planning Application to provide Six Additional Residential Bedrooms to Maesglas Care Home, Green Street, Holt, has been withdrawn at this time.

ITEM 3: AGENDA

8. a) **Pride in Place Impact Funding (PiPIF); The Clerk had put a post on Facebook regarding PiPIF funding and replies had been received with suggestions of how the money should be spent; the suggestions ranged from new interactive speed signs, repairs to pavements, funding for the Kenyon Hall and additional play equipment on the Church Green. All of the suggestions were considered, along with those already suggested by the Community Council; unfortunately, replacement of the interactive speed signs is not within PiPIF criteria, and the repairs to pavements is the responsibility of WCBC not the Community Council.**

Five suggestions were discussed in detail, which were 1) Funding for the Kenyon Hall, 2) Upgrading the Bowling Green, 3) Continuation of the side Cemetery paths to the allotment fence, 4) Additional Play Equipment for the Church Green, 5) Funding from the Holt Gardeners Group for their "Community Heritage Sculpture Project".

- 1) **Funding for The Kenyon Hall; quotes had been received for external painting of the woodwork (except new fascia boards, clock tower and**

roof vents) and restoring and refinishing the interior sprung floor; both quotes totalled approx. £10k and this was agreed

- 2) A quote of £8400 plus vat had been received to remove the bowling green surface, aerate and spread 40 tons of sports sand, cultivate and level ready to seed, and reseed; after a discussion, it was agreed to add this to the funding application because if work is not carried out to bring the bowling green up to a level where new people will use it, it will continue to only be used by a few people and be a wasted asset for the village.
- 3) A quote of £11810 plus vat had been received for the extension to the Cemetery paths; other quotes will be sought but it was agreed to add this to the funding proposal; it was noted that this work had been included in potential future funding in budget considerations and by getting it done via the PiPIF, could free up funding for other works.
- 4) A number of replies to the Facebook posting had been about additional play equipment for the Church Green, which had already been discussed by the Community Council; it was pointed out that the Church Green is owned by Holt Town Trust, and is leased to WCBC on a 99 year lease, with many years outstanding; in addition, there are 2 statutory footpaths running diagonally across the Green from top to bottom, which are 1.6 metres wide and nothing can be put on or within close vicinity of the footpaths. The Clerk had been to the play areas at Tattenhall, Tilston and Rossett and taken photos which he would send to the Councillors.

The Clerk advised that he had received an email from a concerned resident who overlooks the Church Green advising of periodic issues with anti-social behaviour. Suggestions for extra equipment had included a “zip wire”, but this was discounted due to the potential for noise and anti-social behaviour, especially in the evening. It was agreed however to look at funding for additional equipment for younger children, although initial enquires had shown that costs may be prohibitive in terms of what could be purchased with the funding available.

- 5) The application from the Gardening Group for funding assistance totalling £41,976 for the “Community Heritage Sculpture Project” was discussed at length; unfortunately, it was felt that while it was a laudable project, it did not meet the main criteria for applications for PiPIF funding which was “linking the proposal to the evidence of need from the local community”; in addition, the application “must demonstrate that the proposal has been identified through community involvement and engagement”. While this proposal may have been a topic with the Gardening Group, there did not seem to be any evidence of involvement from the wider village.

Proposals 1,2,3,4 have all been under consideration by the Community Council in some form or other for some time; it was agreed that it was important to support and where possible, improve local assets and also to meet the needs of the village and residents for the immediate future. It was pointed out that one of the main aims of the CC, improvement for access down the footpath to the Castle could not be considered due to timescales.

It was proposed by Mr S Lewis, seconded by Ms A Shone, agreed by all, that proposals 1,2,3,4 should form Holt CC's application for the Pride in Place Impact Fund.

b) Internal and External Audits; Formal Receipt of Internal Audit; the Clerk advised that he had recently received an email from JDH regarding the Internal Audit but due to the time taken over PiPIF, had not had time to look at it in detail; proposed Mr J Pridding, seconded Mr D Powell that JDH are accepted as internal auditors for 2025-26; Agreed by all.

The Clerk advised that had also heard from the Welsh Audit Office regarding the general Audit for 2025-26; the Audit will be the more basic form, similar to the Internal Audit.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr A Jones had sent a message that a road sign had disappeared from near the junction of Borrass Road and Borrass Hall Lane; as it was not known which sign this was, the Clerk said that he would contact Mr Jones.

Mr D Munnerley had sent an email asking if the grass on Dee Park play area could be cut; the Clerk advised he would contact WCBC to find out their schedules.

Mr S Lewis said that he had been contacted by some residents about the recent CC Meeting Minutes not being on the CC website; the Clerk said he will get that updated.

Accounts: Approved for payments for March 2026

PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

3219 – Cheque Cancelled	£NIL
3220 – Avow, salary, Wage, Charge	£943.97
3221 – Mega Electrics, Fault Repairs, Street Lights	£322.50
3222 – Nhh Hafren Dyfrdwy Cyf, Water, Toilets, Cemetery, Allotments	£479.57
3223 – J&L Garden Servs, Hillfield POS Nov-Jan, Hedge Cuts	£758.80

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR MARCH 2026

3224 – Avow, Salary, Wage, Charge, Annual Fee, Backpay 25/26	£1202.47
3225 – J&L Garden Services, Replacement Cheque for 3223	£NIL
3226 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hall Hire, Jan/Feb	£60.80
3227 – J&L Garden Servs, Hillfield POS Feb, Renew Woodchip Bord	£812.60
3228 – G Mitchell, Clerks Expenses 2025-26	£188.41

NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT ON TUESDAY 21st April 2026 AT 7-00PM

