

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 26th MAY 2026 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mr D Bithell, Mr A Jones,

ITEM 1: AGM

**As the May meeting of Holt Community Council was the AGM, it was opened
by the Clerk.**

**1a) Election of Chairperson for Holt Community Council 2026/27: the Clerk
asked for any Councillor wishing to be considered for the post of Chairperson
to make themselves known; Ms A Shone proposed that Mr J Cubitt continue in
the role, this was seconded by Mr S Lewis; Mr J Cubitt advised that he was
willing to continue as Chairperson for the forthcoming year, and it was agreed
unanimously by all.**

**1b) Election of Vice Chairperson for Holt Community Council 2026/27: Mr S
Lewis advised that he did not wish to carry on in the role as Vice Chairperson;
Mr J Pridding advised that he would be willing to be considered, proposed by
Mr J Hughes, seconded by Mrs G Jones, agreed by all that Mr J Pridding would
be the new Vice Chairperson.**

**The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman, Mr J Cubitt; there were
sadly 4 deaths of either Holt residents or persons with Holt Connections; a
silence was held in respect of the passing of Mr Frank Chadwick, Mr Dave
Huxley, Mrs Jean Williams and Mr J Hinds.**

**Mr Hinds was well known around the village and had worked for many
residents over the years, as well as for the Community Council.**

**POLICE REPORT: The Police report for April 2026 had been distributed and
happily, there had been no reported incidents in the village during the month.**

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

Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded Mr S Lewis, agreed by all.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

**1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND OTHER RELATED NEWS: The Clerk advised
that he had written to Holt Community Gardeners to advise that their
application for funding from the Pride in Place Impact Fund had not been
included in the formal application made by the Community Council to WCBC.
The Clerk to the Community Council had pointed out that while the idea of a
wooden statue on the Cross, highlighting Holt's history was well received, it
was felt that other applications better met the core criteria for inclusion.**

Councillor Bithell had met with Mr J Hughes to look at the condition of all of the trees at Holt Copse and it was agreed that a number had dead wood that was in need of removal; a quote was obtained of £350, which was proposed to be accepted by Mrs G Jones, seconded by Ms A Shone, agreed by all.

The Clerk had received a letter from Holt Community Gardeners requesting a S137 Grant of at least £750, citing increased routine expenditure on compost, fertiliser, plants etc as the reason for the request. In addition, the Gardeners had expanded their activities around the village, which had in turn increased their costs. A discussion was held regarding the request for a S137 Grant, and while the Community Council was grateful for the work carried out around the village by the gardening group, it was pointed out by the Chair that policy was now that S137 grants would only be considered at the October meeting, except under an emergency situation; this was to ensure that all applications could be considered at the same time and in order to ensure that the Community Council stayed within budget considerations for S137 Grants.

Proposed Mr D Munnerley, seconded Mr S Lewis, agreed by all that the S137 grant be pended. The Clerk was asked to write back to Gardening Group to explain that the application will be pended until the October meeting.

2. Finances: The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for April 2026, month 1. Income for April was £13,518.45 and Expenditure was £3427.89; Income comprised of WCBC Precept £13,123.33, Cemetery £150.00, Bowling £60.00 and Bank Interest of £185.12; Expenditure included salary and wages, General Admin £1588.67, WCBC Trade Waste £99.13, VAT £82.40, Bowling Green £597.50, Street Lights Maintenance £102.31.

As the finance figures were only for the first month of the financial year and contained no exceptional income or expenditure, it was proposed by Ms A Shone, seconded by Mr J Hughes, agreed by all, that the Finance Report for April 2026, month one, be accepted without discussion with regard to budgets. The Clerk reported that due to a staffing situation, J&L Garden Services would no longer be able to cut the grass at the Cemetery; the Clerk had been asking around and had contacted the Farndon PC Clerk to find out who they used; he would be contacting the company mentioned by the Farndon PC Clerk but if they were not able to quote for the work, it was agreed to put a notice on Facebook to see if that produced anyone interested in the work.

J&L Garden Services would still cut the grass at Dee Park and the Hillfield POS.

It was mentioned that the Leylandii hedge at the rear of the old Academy Garage had not been cut and neither had the private garden hedge, also Leylandii, adjoining and at right-angles to the garage hedge; the Clerk will contact Streetscene to discuss with them what to do.

The Clerk advised that he was looking at having an bespoke electronic cashbook set up; this was likely to be a form of Excel spreadsheet; he had spoken to Matt Rowlands about this and he was happy to discuss what would be involved and what the likely costs would be; the physical cashbook is getting near to the end of the available pages but the Clerk has concerns about how easy it would be to replicate electronically all the information contained in the physical cashbook. There are commercial programmes available to purchase, such as Scribe but because of the number of entries required, the ongoing costs would be over £1000 per year.

The Clerk had also asked regarding getting the CC Minutes updated on the website and updating the blocks on the front page with the correct dates for the recent minutes.

3. A534 Junction with Wrexham Road: There still seemed to be issues with the junction, with many posts on Facebook from people unhappy with the works carried out and stating that the alterations did not seem to be working; Councillor Morris said that the alterations made by WCBC were in agreement with the Coroner and NW Police and followed the recommendations after the “Notice of Prevention of Future Deaths” made by the Coroner. Although the speed restrictions on the Welsh side of the border were now 40mph, the English side had not yet been changed; the Clerk advised he would contact WCBC Councillor A Waddelove to find out if and when the speed limit would be changed down to 40mph; once this was done, the Clerk will contact GoSafe to try to get mobile speed cameras on the A534 between the Holt and Farndon junctions. Concern has also been raised regarding the “hatched lining” on the turn off into Holt, with reports that cars are still driving over the hatched lines rather than keeping on the A534 and then turning sharp left at the junction.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

4. The Clerk had received an email from the resident who lives on Ashley Court whose fence and pergola was damaged when the tree behind the toilets was blown down last year; at the time, the Community Council advised that it was happy to pay for repairs as necessary; the resident is now in a position to move ahead with the repairs and was asking if the CC could contribute towards the costs of the materials needed; he gave an estimate of approx. £300-£350. It was proposed by Ms A Shone, seconded by Mrs G Jones, agreed by all for the CC to contribute material costs for the repairs; it was suggested if possible, for the resident to order what was needed and for the Community Council to make the payment as the VAT could then be reclaimed. The Clerk will contact the resident.

The Clerk has received a reminder about the 2026 Deva Triathlon which is taking place on Sunday 7th June; when the Clerk receives information on the route, he will put details on Facebook.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a) Installation of Replacement Doors and Windows Within Holt Conservation Area, 2 Yew Tree Close, Wrexham Road, Holt, Wrexham
NO OBJECTIONS

ITEM 3: AGENDA

There were no formal items on the Agenda for this month; the Clerk however gave an update on the Pride in Place Impact Fund; he advised that the application had been submitted and he had received confirmation back from WCBC. He was now waiting to hear what further information WCBC needed to progress the application.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms A Shone mentioned an incident where a lot of litter had been left on the tables and on the floor outside of Maggies Café on the Cross; the rubbish had

been cleaned up but at the time, whoever had left the rubbish was unknown; Ms Shone thought that there may be CCTV in Maggies Cafe looking out at the tables and if it could be accessed, the people responsible could be identified. A discussion was then held regarding the feasibility of installing CCTV on the Cross; it had been discussed previously but it was recalled that there was some opposition from people living nearby. It has been mentioned a number of times by NW Police that having CCTV around the Cross may be advantageous. Mr J Cubitt advised the meeting that he, along with the Clerk and Mr Bob Campbell, had recently met with the WCBC Conservation Officer and a representative from CADW to discuss the access down to the castle along the footpath in front of the old Holt Endowed School buildings. The meeting had gone well and neither representative thought there would be any issues in improving the access; the Conservation Officer advised that he would check if any formal permissions were needed but if so, he did not think it would create problems.

Accounts: Approved for payments for May 2026

PAYMENTS FOR April 2026

3229 – Avow, Salary, Wage, Charge, Annual Fee, Backpay 25/26	£979.88
3230 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cuts Castle and Vill Entrance	£371.81
3231 – Mr S E Jones, Hedge Cuts, Cemetery Entrance Way	£560.00
3232 – J H Tree Surgery, Trees Cut, Copse and Cemetery	£650.00
3233 – Mega Electrics, Street Light Fault, Car Park	£122.77
3234 – Shane Coupland, Bowling Green Maintenance, March/April	£597.50

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR MAY 2026

3235 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge	£979.88
3236 – Zurich Municipal, Annual Insurance Premium 2026/27	£849.12
3237 – WCBC, Bowling Green Rates	£361.44
3238 – Monument Landscapes Ltd, Grass Cuts Castle/Vill Ent April	£483.96
3239 – J&L Garden Services, POS, Cemetery, Dee Park Grass Cuts	£1077.23
3240 – Kenyon Hall Committee, Hall Hire, March, April	£60.80
3241 – Mr I Pierce, Call Out Electrics, Toilets, Car Park	£35.00
3242 – EDF Customers Ltd, Energy Use Street Lights	£13.16

THE NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT ON TUESDAY 30th JUNE 2026 AT 7-00PM

