

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 30th JUNE 2026 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mr S Lewis, Mr D Powell

The meeting was formally opened by the Chairman, Mr J Cubitt; there were no reported deaths of either a Holt resident or a person with Holt Connections.

POLICE REPORT: The Police report for May 2026 had been distributed and there had been two reported incidents in the village during the month.

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

Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded Mr J Pridding, agreed by all.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND OTHER RELATED NEWS:

It was reported that Mr Joe Hughes had completed the work at Holt Copse, which had involved removing dead wood from a number of trees, both for safety reasons and to tidy up the Copse.

Because of the exceptionally warm weather, the Gardeners were heavily involved in watering around the village especially the tubs and planters which need watering on a regular basis.

2. Finances: The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Narrative for May 2026, month 2. Income for May was £294.51 and Expenditure was £3959.76; Income comprised of Cemetery £125.00 and Bank Interest of £169.51; Expenditure included salary and wages, General Admin £1509.35, WCBC Trade Waste £99.17, VAT £82.86, Bowling Green £361.44, Street Lights Power £10.96, Cemetery £768.50, Castle Green POS £169.60

It is as yet, early in the financial year for any discussions regarding the finance figures in comparison with the budget; however, the Clerk advised income from bank interest appears to be slightly over budget and if the bank rate is not decreased, should continue that way all year.

Proposed Ms A Shone, seconded Mr J Pridding that the Finance Report be accepted, agreed by all

The Clerk had spoken to Carla Hinde at WCBC and Streetscene and both had advised that they did not think that WCBC had planted the Leylandii trees that border the play area at Dee Park because WCBC do not plant conifers. A discussion was held and it was thought that they may have been planted by a previous owner of one of the houses on Castle Street, whose garden area backed onto the play area; it was agreed that the Community Council would need to take on the responsibility to tidy up this hedging and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Joe Hughes for an estimate of costs to cut the Leylandii back, while still keeping it as a functioning hedge. It was agreed not to touch the brambles further up the play area as this stopped anyone getting into the rear of the old Academy Garage.

3. A534 Junction with Wrexham Road: As was reported last month, there would still seem to be issues at the A534 junction; there was a recent accident when a car pulled out from Wrexham Road but the circumstances of the reasons for the accident were not known. There were still reports of cars driving over the hatched line on the turn off from the A534 to the Wrexham Road; both the Clerk and Councillor Morris had been in touch with WCBC with a suggestion that the “hatchings” were made thicker, as per “rumble strips” usually found on motorways, with the idea being that if the lining was thick enough, it would discourage drivers from driving over the hatching; it was also suggested that the white line hatching in the middle of the road could also be made the same to discourage drivers from overtaking cars turning into Holt by going over the middle of the road white lines. Another suggestion was to put collapsible plastic bollards along the road edge of the hatching to discourage drivers from driving over the hatching and undercutting drivers staying on the A534 and turning correctly into Holt.

It was mentioned that many of the problems were due to driver error and that it was difficult to put into place measures that made the junction safer if drivers ignored what was put in place.

The Clerk had contacted CWaC Councillor A Waddelove regarding when the speed limit restrictions of 40mph were going to be put in place on the England side of the border and had been advised it was “imminent” and that he was still pushing CWaC to get the work done. It was mentioned that it appeared many vehicles travelling on the A534 passing Holt were not keeping to the speed limits.

4. CCTV Cameras: At the previous meeting, the installation of CCTV Cameras overlooking the Cross had been discussed due to incidents with litter, especially around Maggies (which at the time had been closed); since the last meeting, there had been other incidents around the Cross and around the village in general; after a further discussion, the Clerk was asked to canvas the people and businesses overlooking the Cross for their opinions on installing CCTV and also to get quotes in order to get an idea of the costs involved. It should be noted that the cameras, if installed, would not be monitored 24/7, and would only be accessed in the event of criminality, vandalism, or accidents etc; this is exactly the same criteria used for the cameras around the toilets and car park.

ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:

5. The Clerk had received a number of emails from WCBC; the first was inviting comments from Councillors on the “Renewal of WCBC Dog Control and Dog Fouling Public Space Protection Order”; the second was regarding the number of Salt Bins in the village; WCBC are looking to get an idea of how many salt bins there are in the Wrexham Borough, initially to review, maintain and replenish the bins, while at the same time making sure any bins not supplied by WCBC are not removed. WCBC want to provide a more efficient service regarding the salt bins for residents; as far as the CC was aware, there are 3 salt bins in Holt, two around Dee Park and one at the junction of Church Street, Castle Street and Deeside; it was agreed that there was a need for more salt bins around the village and the Clerk was asked to write back to WCBC suggesting places where additional salt bins could be located.

Invitations had been received to join the Wrexham Mayor on his Civic Visit to St Giles Church and his Summer Reception and Celebration.

Councillor Morris had been in touch with WCBC regarding the works to the "Speed Bump" on Frog Lane; it would appear that when the Cross was tarmacked, the Speed Bump was made too high and needed reducing slightly to bring it back into specification.

The Clerk had also distributed an email from the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru regarding a consultation on the size and structure of Town and Community Councils; the Councillors were urged to complete the survey as there had been discussions previously regarding potentially merging smaller CC's, which may help National Government, but could have a devastating effect on local community representation.

The Chair had received a letter from Holt Town Trust regarding Ms A Shone's Community Council representative role on the Town Trust; Ms Shone's 5 year term has come to an end with the Trust but they would like her to stay on as a CC representative; Proposed by Mr D Bithell, seconded by Mr D Munnerley, agreed by all, that Ms A Shone continue as a CC representative on Holt Town Trust.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- a) Installation of Replacement Windows and Fascia Boards in Holt Conservation Area, Holt County Primary School, Chapel Street, Holt:
NO OBJECTIONS
- b) Installation of Raised Decking to Rear of Existing Building, Erlas Victorian Walled Garden, Bryn Estyn Lane, Wrexham: **NO OBJECTIONS**

ITEM 3: AGENDA

- a) Councillors Independent Annual Remuneration: as in previous years no Councillor would be making a claim for any ad hoc expense or remuneration.
- b) Internal Audit: the internal audit report had been received; the Internal Auditor had made a number of recommendations;
 - 1) The Council Minutes should record adoption of the risk assessment; the Clerk had reviewed the risk assessment and had recommended no changes; however, even though there were no changes, councillors must still adopt the risk assessment and adoption noted as agreed in the minutes.
 - 2) The annual budget to support the precept must take account of brought forward and carried forward reserves; this was done but needs to be shown itemised in the budget calculations
The Council should review reserves annually and ensure that it is aware of the balance of the Muga and POS; Councillors are aware of the balance and is shown each month in the finance report and is shown in the end of year report.
 - 3) Assets should be added to the asset register net of VAT, not inclusive; this was an oversight
 - 4) The bank reconciliation should be amended to show the correct balance for the Liquidity 35 Day bank account; a figure transposition

had occurred with a 5 noted instead of a 9, a difference of £4 in the balance.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Ms A Shone, seconded by Mr J Hughes, agreed by all that the Internal Audit Report be accepted.

- c) Grass Cutting: At the last meeting, the Clerk had reported that the contractors who cut the grass at the cemetery were no longer able to continue due to staffing issues; the Clerk had spoken to various companies asking if they would be interested in the work; he had been put in touch with P&J Hellmers who already cut the grass at Farndon, Tarporley and Malpas cemeteries and the feedback from the Clerk at Farndon PC was that they were very good. The Clerk had met with Mr Hellmers and received quotes of £300 per cut every 3 weeks, or £260 per cut every fortnight, which was how the other cemeteries were cut; although these costs were higher than had been previously paid, after a discussion, it was proposed by Mr J Pridding, seconded by Mr D Munnerley, agreed by all, that P&J Hellmers would be contracted to cut the cemetery grass every 2 weeks at a cost of £260/cut for the rest of this year.

The grass cutting at the Dee Park play area was discussed again, and because WCBC grass cuts may be affected by outside influences, it was agreed to allow the outside contractors to cut the grass every two weeks to keep the grass at an acceptable height

- d) Holt School: Mrs G Jones gave an update on the situation at Holt CP School due to changes being made to staffing; due to Local Authority budget cuts and falling pupil numbers, (a trend both locally and nationally) two longstanding members of staff had decided to take voluntary redundancy; Mrs Hancock had been a teacher at Holt CP School for 26 years and Alison Jones, a support member of staff for 19 years; both were well respected and valued members of staff. Due to the loss of the staff, and following a review, a new class and staffing arrangement has been implemented for the new pupil year starting in September; from September, there will be 3 classes in the morning and two in the afternoon due to nursery children going home. The pupil role in September will be 55 in total, with 33 in Nursery and Years one and two, and 24 in total, in years 3,4,5,6.

A letter had been sent to parents to explain the changes, and 2 meetings were held in school with parents; transition arrangements will be carefully managed, and the children will be well supported while they get used to the changes.

ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Clerk gave an update on the Pride in Place Impact Fund Application; he had submitted an application and had received a reply back with a number of questions regarding further information needed for the application to proceed; as well as wanting more details regarding the work proposed on each project, more quotes were needed for the cemetery paths and information regarding ownership of the Cemetery, Bowling Green, and Church Green was required; the Clerk advised that when he has all the information together he will submit it for consideration.

Mrs G Jones asked if the toilets could be free for the Holt Fete to be held on the Church Green; she also mentioned about some grids still being blocked (Clerk will speak to Streetscene again).

Mr D Bithell asked if Streetscene could be contacted about the hedge at the end of the Dee Park play area where it joins onto Fairview/footpath to the Castle, as it needs cutting. Also, the hedge and footpath on the A534 to Wrexham from the junction of Shepherds Road (opposite Hotel Wrexham), up to the Llan Y Pwll junction needs work as both the hedge and verge need cutting back. Mr Bithell also asked if anyone knew what had happened over the child who found a dead dog in a bag under the Bypass bridge; it had been reported to the Police but no further information was known.

Mr Andrew Jones asked if "Cows Crossing" signs could be requested from Streetscene and also asked about the Borrass sign which was still missing. Councillor Morris reported that there may be some possible movement on the phosphorus issue regarding planning permissions in the area; WCBC policy was based on findings from Natural Resources Wales on the level of phosphorus in the River Dee; it now appears that NWR had only carried out 1 reading which showed high levels of phosphorus; however, the Environment Agency in England have carried out numerous regular readings which have shown that the readings for phosphorus are within acceptable levels, and WCBC will now be taking this into account when deciding whether planning permissions are granted.

Accounts: Approved for payments for June 2026

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

PROPOSED PAYMENTS FOR JUNE

3243 – Mr S Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green, May	£267.50
3244 – AVOW, Salary, Wage, Charge	£979.88
3245 – WCBC, Half Year Play Instalment Areas, Grass Cuts etc	£2075.40
3246 – JDH Business Services, Internal Audit 2025-26	£446.40
3247 – S Coupland, Grass Cuts Bowling Green, June	£275.00
3248 – EDF Energy Ltd, Street Lights Power	£24.93
3249 – Monument Landscapes, Grass cuts Castle, Village Entrance	£488.65

THE NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT ON TUESDAY 28th JULY 2026 AT 7-00PM

