

**HOLT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30 p.m. ON THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL.**

Present :- D. Pugh (Chairman), M. Taylor, S. Williams, C. Adams, J. Hill, C. Lightfoot (Clerk).

In Attendance:- District Councillor Mr D. Clarke.

Absent:- County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown, C. John, J. Harper.

1.	<u>Public Question Time.</u> There were no members of the public present and therefore no questions.	
2.	<u>To consider apologies and approve reasons for absence.</u> The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Mrs C. John and Mr J. Harper and County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown. Parish Council approved the reasons for absence.	
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest.</u> a) Register of Interests. The Clerk reported that all Councillors had completed their Register of Interests except for Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper. The Clerk agreed to chase this up. b) Registration of Personal Interests. There was no registration of Personal Interests. c) Registration of Prejudicial Interests. There was no registration of Prejudicial Interests. d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation. There had been no written requests for dispensation.	CL
4.	<u>Minutes.</u> The minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on 17 August 2023 were reviewed by Parish Council. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill proposed that the minutes were approved by Parish Council as a true record of the Meeting. This was seconded by Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams and unanimously agreed Parish Council. The Chairman signed the Minutes.	
5.	<u>Report from PSCO Deb Abbots.</u> PSCO Deb Abbots attended the Meeting. She explained the Parish is within an area is covered by 2 PCSOs and 1 police officer based at Tenbury Police Station. The Safer Neighbourhood Team focus on assurance within the community as opposed to criminal investigations. Recently there has been a reduction in thefts from sheds and trailers in the area. The issue of speeding within the Parish was discussed. It was felt that the installation of the VAS and the Safety Partnership Speed Enforcement was the most effective action which could be taken to reduce vehicle speeds in the Parish. PCSO Abbots offered to carry out some speed data collection in the Parish as a further deterrent to speeding motorists. The Clerk brought up the issue of 1 Worcester Road and the issue of vehicles parking at the front of the property and obstructing the pavement. PCSO Abbots agreed to visit the property in the next few weeks and talk to residents in an attempt to get them to deter the practice. Parish Councillor Mrs C. Adams suggested the installation of low-level fencing on the verge to prevent vehicles parking there. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams agreed to investigate the feasibility and costings in relation to this. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill informed PSCO Abbots that Worcester United Football Club now use the Millennium Green for training purposes and matches.	SW

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>County and District Councillor reports for information.</u></p> <p>In the absence of County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown there were no items to report.</p> <p>District Councillor Mr D. Clarke reported the following matters of note:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Absenteeism. MHDC have been investigating ways of reducing absenteeism caused by stress. b) Validation of planning applications. Procedures are being put in place to reduce the time taken to validate planning applications. c) Audit report. The audit report has confirmed that MHDC are solvent. d) Five-year plan. The 5-year plan has been submitted. However, it may take 6 months to be fully approved leaving the window open for speculative planning applications in the interim. e) Solar farm at Grimley. The Clerk asked whether the District Councillor had any further information on this application. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke reported that it had gone to appeal and they were awaiting the outcome. A number of reports had been submitted by Grimley Parish Council and Monkswood Nature Reserve detailing the negative ecological impact the application would have on the surrounding area if it were successful. 	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Progress reports for information.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New village VAS – progress report. Parish Councilor Mr S. Williams reported that he had met with Tanya Crake of County Highways in relation to potentially installing the spare VAS on the A4133. Tanya had determined that the most suitable site would be opposite in the Village Hall but the hedges need cutting back in this location. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams stated that it was necessary to find out who the hedges belonged to. The Clerk agreed to contact the homeowners. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams reported that he had accessed the data from the VAS by the Red Lion and 318 000 vehicles had passed through the village in 90 days. Although 25% of vehicles were recorded as doing in excess of 35mph as they approached the VAS it was having the affect a slowing vehicles down from this speed as they entered the village. The Clerk queried whether the VAS could be located in the vicinity of the Broomfields entrance and set to 40mph with the intention of slowing vehicles as they come up the hill before they enter the 30mph zone. Parish Council agreed that this would be a more effective use of the VAS than placing it by the Village Hall where the proximity of the 2 junctions has the impact of reducing vehicle speeds anyway. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams agreed to contact Tanya Crake to discuss the feasibility of this suggestion. b) Defibrillator training – progress report. In the absence of Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper arranging defibrillator training was deferred until the next meeting of Parish Council. c) Highways issues – mini roundabout signage, cleaning of village signs and cutting back overgrown hedging. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams reported that Tanya Crake had agreed that the mini roundabout signs were in the wrong location and this had been passed to Traffic Management to action. It was reported that the Lengthsman had cleaned the village signs and cut back overhanging vegetation. d) Village Hall refurbishment – update. Parish Councillor Mrs C. Adams reported from the meeting held to discuss the refurbishment of the Village Hall. Bats have been discovered in the roof and as a result of this a preliminary survey of the roof was undertaken. The results of this survey and the findings from the investigative holes dug to assess the foundations had determined that a full rebuild of the village hall was the only feasible option going forward. However, a full survey of the roof and bats will need to be 	<p>CL</p> <p>SW</p>

undertaken before works can be carried out.
 A presentation is due to be made to the Kildare Trust in an attempt to obtain some grant funding for the project on 3 October 2023.
 Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams reported that he had obtained details of the application process for crowd funding from the MHDC and this had been passed on to the Village Hall committee.

8. Discussion re grant funding for the Village Hall.

The Chairman expressed his concerns over a Lottery grant which had been obtained in March 2020 for refurbishment of the Village Hall roof. The Chairman was concerned that the money would no longer be used for the original purpose that it had been granted for now the Village Hall project had become a rebuild. The Clerk provided copies of the original application form and details of an email she had received from Nicky Dupays who had been involved in the original application. Nicky had suggested that if the money was spent within the spirit of the original application (to make the Village Hall fit for purpose) she did not consider there would be a problem as many projects had been delayed due to the Covid pandemic.
 Parish Council agreed there was no action to be taken at the present time. They agreed that the Lottery would be contacted if the Village Hall project did not go ahead to arrange the return of the grant funding. They further agreed to contact the Lottery for clarification if the Village Hall project parameters differed significantly from those on the original application form.

7. Finance.

a) To note the current bank balances.
 It was reported that the current account bank balance currently stood at £6,963.05 and the deposit account at £3,618.12. The Clerk reported that the second half of the precept was due to be received shortly.

b) To consider payments retrospectively.
 The following payments were approved by two members of Parish Council and made by bank transfer. These were agreed retrospectively by Parish Council.

28 August 2023	Bank transfer	21-9-2023 9b	Top Cut Ltd (grasss cutting July)	168.00
05 September 2023	Bank charges	21-9-2023 9b	Bank charges	8.00
20 September 2023	Bank transfer	21-9-2023 9b	Top Cut Ltd (grass cutting August)	168.00
20 September 2023	Bank transfer	21-9-2023 9b	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00

An invoice from MHDC for the uncontested election for £50.00 was approved by Parish Council and approved by 2 Councillors. The Clerk agreed to make the payment by bank transfer.

c) To review the payments against the budget.
 Parish Council reviewed the payments against the budget and no issues were raised. The Clerk reported that the bank mandate had now been updated.

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8. Planning.

a) **Applications Pending.**
 To review the recommendations of Parish Council on current applications.

Application No.	Location	Details	Decision status
<u>M/23/00341/FUL</u>	Red Lion Witley Road Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6LX	Erection of 2 dwellings	Pending Decision due to submission of amended plans (Recommend Approval)

<u>M/23/00654/HP</u>	4 Worcester Road Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NH	Partial two storey extension to the rear; removal of existing detached garage; new detached garage.	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<u>M/23/01169/HP</u>	Cherry Tree Barn 1 Naunton Farm Barns Holt Heath WR6 6NG	Erection of garden wall, part conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation, relocation of front door and erection of porch and detached garage.	Pending Decision
<u>M/23/00977/HP</u>	The Farmhouse Top Barn Farm Worcester Road WR6 6NH	Renovation of exiting 2 storey farmhouse including demolition and replacement of existing aide and rear extensions and demolition of existing outbuildings to be replaced with 2 storey annexe.	Pending Decision

Following a discussion by Parish Council it was agreed to recommend approval of applications M/23/01169/HP and M/23/0977/HP.

b) Approvals/Refusals.

There were no applications to note.

c) Other Planning Issues.

M/22/01773/FUL Ball Mill Bungalow, Main Road, Hallow, WR2 6LS
Proposal: New build dwelling to replace existing Ball Mill Bungalow.
Appeal to Planning Inspectorate 01/08/2023 (APP/J1860/W/23/3320554)

District Councillor Mr D. Clarke reported that MHDC had refused the application as they felt the replacement building was too large and modern in design. There has been no further news on the appeal to date.

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9. Correspondence for information.

The Clerk reported that there were no matters to note.

10. Clerk's report on urgent decisions since the last meeting.

The Clerk reported that there were no matters to note.

11. Councillor's reports and items for future agendas.

Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill reported that she would like to put a litter bin on the Millennium Green as there had been an increase in the amount of litter. It was discussed whether it could be placed on the outside of the barrier so it would be collected by MHDC refuse. A suggestion was made that a second bin could be placed by the entrance from Cherry Orchard.

The Clerk obtained the costings from the purchase and installation of the litter bin by the Post Office. It was agreed that Parish Council would fund one bin and the Millennium Green committee would be asked to fund the second one.

Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill agreed to raise the issue at the next Millennium Green committee meeting. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke agreed to investigate the possibility of including the bin in the MHDC refuse collection schedule.

JH
DC

12.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting.</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 19 October 2023. District Councillor Mr D. Clarke gave his apologies for this meeting as he will be away on holiday.</p>	