

**HOLT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30 p.m. ON THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2023 IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL.**

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

In Attendance:- County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown, District Councillor Mrs P. Cumming, Mr B. Haynes (West Mercia Police).

Absent:- C. Adams.

1.	<p><u>Public Question Time.</u> There were no members of the public present and therefore no questions.</p>	
2.	<p><u>To consider apologies and approve reasons for absence.</u> The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Parish Councillor Mrs C. Adams. The Council approved the reasons for absence.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of Interest.</u> a) Register of Interests. There were no changes to the Register of Interests. 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.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Discussion with representative of West Mercia Police in relation to speeding within the Parish.</u> The Chairman welcomed Mr Bob Haynes to the Meeting. Mr Haynes explained he was representing the Chief Police and Crime Commissioner and holds the position of Senior Traffic Management Advisor for South Worcestershire. The Chairman invited Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams to explain the key issues in relation to speeding within the Parish. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams explained that data recorded by the VAS had recorded a third of vehicles passing through the village at speeds at between 35-70mph. The main time period where speeding was an issue was between 7.30pm-5.30am. Parish Council are concerned in relation to the safety of residents given that one of the village gates had been struck by a speeding vehicle and a fatality had occurred on the A443 within the Parish (although outside the 30mph zone). Mr Haynes sympathised with Parish Council and agreed with their concerns. He stated that there are currently several measures in place to reduce the speed of vehicles passing through the Parish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30mph roundels painted on the road by the Local Authority. • Speed awareness site on the A443. There have been 29 deployments in the last 12 months (January to January) and 300 offences recorded. The Parish is currently considered an amber location and the van is deployed there 2-3 times per month. There is currently a recruitment drive for Safety Camera Partnership and this will hopefully increase deployment to 3-4 times per month. Deployment does not take place at night but will take place in the evenings in summer months. <p>Mr Haynes reported he had reviewed the speed data for the Parish. The data between August and September 2022 showed that 85% of vehicles travelling through the Parish were travelling at the mean speed of 36mph or below. This was a slight reduction on similar data from 2020. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams explained that Parish Council are in the process of purchasing 2 new VAS to be located on the A443 and we are currently awaiting confirmation from County Highways of the agreed sites. The Clerk asked for details of funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for this project Mr Haynes agreed to send the details through to the Clerk.</p>	CL

	<p>Mr Haynes suggested that the only further course of action would be to contact Mr David Jew of County Highways to investigate whether there is any further street furniture which can be employed to dissuade motorists from speeding, If the mean speed within the Parish drops beneath 35mph the Parish can carry out community speed watch whereby residents are trained to operate mobile cameras. Currently this is not an option but may become one in the future. Mr Haynes also stated that if Parishioners are aware of regular offenders who persistently ignore the speed limits their registration numbers can be passed to the traffic police. The Chairman thanked Mr Haynes for his attendance at the meeting and for his assistance. Mr Haynes left the meeting.</p>	CL
5.	<p><u>Minutes.</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on 16 February 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.</p>	
6.	<p><u>County and District Councillor reports for information.</u></p> <p>County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown reported the following matters of note:-</p> <p>a) Highways issues. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson Brown is aware that speeding and the mini roundabout continue to be key issues within the Parish. Despite repeated requests there has been no action taken on the mini roundabout. In the budget £3.3 million was allocated to Highways to deal with potholes in the Parish.</p> <p>b) Coronation grant funding. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown will be making a donation of £1000 to the Parish to mark the coronation of King Charles. The Chairman thanked County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown for his generosity.</p> <p>District Councillor Mrs P. Cumming reported the following matters of note:-</p> <p>a) Planning. A Planning Improvement Working Party has been established to identify areas of weakness in the planning process. MHDC has received £1.1 million from the government to help with new developments within the District.</p> <p>b) Coronation Funding. There may be some funding available from the District Council for Parishes to celebrate the coronation.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Progress reports for information.</u></p> <p>a) New parish website advertising and search engine links – update. Parish Councillor Mrs M. Taylor reported that the new website was now linked to Google. The Clerk reported that posters had been placed around the village advertising the new website. The Clerk was asked to contact CALC to ensure they had details of the new Parish website.</p> <p>b) Traffic calming – discussion re the new VAS. Parish Councillor Mr S. Williams reported on the meeting that he and the Chairman had with Tanya Crake of County Highways to discuss the location of the new poles for the solar powered VAS on the A443 on 1 March 2023. Parish Council are still awaiting confirmation of the location by the Post Office as the current location was felt to be too close to the junction with School Lane. Once this has been clarified Tanya will issue the permits for the VAS and purchase can to ahead. It was also agreed that speed monitoring wires will be deployed on the A443 to obtain up to date data of vehicle speeds.</p> <p>c) Replacement defibrillator purchase - discussion. The Clerk presented several options for the purchase of a replacement defibrillator. Following a discussion Parish Council agreed that they would like to purchase the defibrillator through the London Hearts Defibrillator organisation. This is a charitable organisation who ask for a minimum donation to purchase a defibrillator. Parish Councillor Mrs C. John proposed that a donation of £1000.00 was made and this was seconded by Parish Councillor Mrs M. Taylor and agreed unanimously by Parish Council.</p>	CL

The Clerk agreed to contact Parish Councillor Mrs C. Adams to check the specification of the equipment that needs to be ordered and whether any additional items are required. It was agreed that once the new defibrillator was installed Parish Council would assess the options for providing a training session for parishioners.

- d) Dog poo signs – update.
Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill reported that dog poo signs had been obtained free of charge from MHDC and these had been placed around the village by herself and Parish Councillor Mrs M. Taylor.
- e) Wildflower area - update.
The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr Tim Brookes on this issue and the site was due to be rotavated and reseeded in the next couple of weeks. As the seed had already been paid for there was no cost for this work.
- f) King’s coronation – discussion re how the event should be marked in the Parish.
A discussion took place in relation to how this event should be celebrated within the Parish. It was felt that bunting should be put up around the Parish but an specific commemorative event would not be organised as a date had already been set for the Holt Summer Fete in July.
Instead it was felt that the grant funding should be spent on the purchase of a bench to be placed by the gate to churchyard for walkers. The bench should have a memorial plaque stating it had been installed to commemorate the coronation. The Chairman agreed to contact the PCC and Holt Castle Barns to obtain their permission for the installation. Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper agreed to research bench options provided by Home and Garden Ironwork who were previously based at Top Barn.

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8. Finance.

- a) To note the current bank balances.

It was reported that the current account bank balance currently stood at £5764.61 and the deposit account at £8,400.65 on 15 March 2023. The Clerk reported that a full bank reconciliation would be carried out at Year End on 31 March 2023.

- 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.

6-Mar-23	Direct transfer	Top Cut Mowing Ltd	336.00
8-Mar-23	Bank charges	Monthly account fee	8.00
13-Mar-23	Direct transfer	Mrs C Lightfoot (Clerks salary)	400.00

- c) To review the current spend against budget.

A record of Parish Council income and expenditure together with the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all members of Parish Council prior to the Meeting. This was reviewed by Parish Council.

9. Planning.

- a) **Applications Pending.**

To review the recommendations of Parish Council on current applications.

Application No.	Location	Details	Decision status
<u>M/22/01530/HP</u> <u>M/22/01531/LB</u>	Castle Cottage Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NJ	Single storey extension and new dormer window	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)
<u>M/22/01604/OUT</u>	Cherry Tree Cottage Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NB	Outline application for one dwelling with all matters reserved except for access	Pending Decision (Recommend Approval)

b) Approvals/Refusals

<u>M/22/01379/HP</u>	6 Abberley View Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6BB	Replacement of existing conservatory roof and side panels with construction to match the existing house.	Approved
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a) Any other planning issues.

- It was reported that the Red Lion was due to be sold at auction on 29 March 2023
- An appeal had been made on planning application M/22/01375/HP to the Planning Inspectorate. Parish Council recommended refusal of the original application and did not consider it was necessary to add anything further to their comments as these would form part of the submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

10. Correspondence for information.

All correspondence of note had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

The Clerk reported that there were no matters to note.

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

There were no further issues to report.

13. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 20 April 2023. This will be the Year End Meeting.