

**HOLT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30 p.m. ON THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2022 IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL.**

Present :- P. Mobbs (Chairman), J. Harper (Vice Chairman), D. Pugh, C. Adams, C. John, C. Lightfoot (Clerk).

In Attendance:- District Councillor Mrs P. Cumming, County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown, Mrs J. Hill, Michelle

Absent:- J. Bowker.

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 Mr J. Bowker.</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. Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper expressed an interest in the following planning applications;</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">21/01936/CLE</td> <td style="width: 35%;">Top Barn Farm Worcester Road Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NH</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Certificate of lawfulness for the existing Mixed Use for Agriculture, Education and Therapeutic Care</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">Pending Decision</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">21/01863/FUL</td> <td>Woodside Farm Top Barn, The Pack House At Worcester Road Holt Heath WR6 6NH</td> <td>Extension to existing agricultural packhouse facility and farm office</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pending Decision</td> </tr> </table> <p>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>	21/01936/CLE	Top Barn Farm Worcester Road Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NH	Certificate of lawfulness for the existing Mixed Use for Agriculture, Education and Therapeutic Care	Pending Decision	21/01863/FUL	Woodside Farm Top Barn, The Pack House At Worcester Road Holt Heath WR6 6NH	Extension to existing agricultural packhouse facility and farm office	Pending Decision	
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4.	<p><u>Co-option of New Parish Councillor.</u> The co-option of Mrs J. Hill took place to fill the current vacancy on Parish Council. Mrs Hill confirmed that she had received and read the statutory paperwork including the Code of Conduct. Mrs Hill signed the Declaration of Office in the presence of the Clerk in her capacity as a Proper Officer of the Council. The Clerk provided Mrs Hill with a copy of the Register of Interests and associated guidance notes to complete and return. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Hill to Parish Council.</p>	JH CL								
5.	<p><u>Minutes.</u> The minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on Thursday 20 January 2022 were approved by Parish Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>									

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>County and District Councillor reports for information.</u></p> <p><u>County Councillor report.</u> County Councillor Mr Scott Richardson-Brown reported the following matters of note:-</p> <p>a) Budget. The County Council budget for 2022-23 has been set and Council Tax is due to increase by 4%.</p> <p>b) Divisional funding. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown highlighted that he had Divisional funding available for projects (approx. £1000) and for highways (approx. £22 000). Parish Council were welcome to apply for this funding if they had suitable projects within the Parish.</p> <p>c) Platinum Jubilee. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown expressed his support for any events the Parish were doing to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in May.</p> <p>d) Traffic calming. The issue of traffic calming in the Parish was discussed at length. Of particular concern was the mini roundabout. This was felt to be a particular hazard as it is often not treated as a roundabout with motorists driving straight across it at speed. Suggestions for solving the problem included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rumble strips (concerns were expressed about the noise impact) - Raising the hump in the centre of the roundabout so that vehicles could not drive directly across it (concerns were raised in relation to HGVs navigating the roundabout) - Making the roundabout larger and in a similar style to the roundabout in Ombersley (this would require consent from landowners in the vicinity of the mini roundabout) <p>Parish Council highlighted that this has long been an issue in the Parish and to date County Highways have not been very supportive of any improvements. County Councillor Mr S. Richardson-Brown said he would continue to make enquiries on behalf of Parish Council but this was likely to be a long term project.</p> <p><u>District Councillor report.</u></p> <p>District Councillor Mrs P. Cumming reported on the following issues.</p> <p>a) Council Tax increase. The Council Tax increase has remained the same as the previous year which equates to a £5 increase for a Band D property.</p> <p>b) Review of Planning processes. A review of planning processes has identified that decisions made by the department are taking longer than the 8-12 weeks specified. There are no details available yet of the action which will be taken to address this.</p> <p>c) Environmental initiatives. District Councillor Mrs P. Cumming questioned what had happened with the land purchased in Hallow which was due to be turned into an environmental site for benefit of the local community. Parish Council had heard nothing further in relation to this project.</p>	<p>SRB</p>
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<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Progress reports.</u></p> <p>a) Parking on the verge by the Heath – update. It was reported that this was still a problem. The Clerk agreed to chase up the issue with the Community Support Officer as the previous course of action had been to visit the occupant and request that they parked their vehicle elsewhere.</p> <p>b) Repair to wildflower area – progress report. The Clerk agreed to contact the previous Chairman to clarify what was happening in relation to the repair by Severn Trent.</p> <p>c) Installation of new defibrillator by Village Hall – update. The Chairman confirmed that the new defibrillator was now installed at the Village Hall complete with additional security measures to the cabinet. He further reported that he had to purchase new pads for the telephone box defibrillator. It was highlighted that there are now 5 defibrillators located in the Parish.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>
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- Village Hall
- Bus Stop Telephone Box (A443)
- Holt Castle Barns
- Top Barn
- Worcester University Activity Centre at Top Barn

The possibility of organising further defibrillator training now the Covid restrictions are being lifted was discussed. The Chairman further requested volunteers to be included on the rota of weekly defibrillator checks.

d) Ward boundary review.

This was discussed in detail by Parish Council. Concerns were expressed that being part of a ward with Hallow and Grimley would lead to a more urban focus than currently. It was felt that Holt remained a rural Parish and as such would have different issues to those experienced in more urban areas. The Clerk was asked to respond the consultation document expressing the concerns of Parish Council about the changes to the ward boundaries.

e) Platinum Jubilee event – discussion.

A discussion took place in relation to holding a Parish event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. It was agreed that this should take place on the Millennium Green on Sunday 5 June 2022. A number of suggestions were discussed. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill and Michelle said a meeting of the Millennium Green committee had been planned for March and all members of Parish Council were invited to attend. The Chairman pledged financial support from Parish Council and help with sourcing funding.

The Clerk was asked to enquire whether gazebos could be borrowed from Droitwich Town Council for the event.

Following further discussions, it was agreed that the Clerk would enquire whether Mr S. Richardson-Brown would be willing to fund the cost of a gas fuelled beacon and gazebo(s) for the event from his Divisional Fund.

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7. Finance.

a) To note the current bank balances.
It was reported that the current account bank balance currently stood at £8,581.45 and the deposit account at £8,400.00.

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

30.1.2022	Bank transfer	17.2.2022 8b	Mrs Caroline Lightfoot (Clerks expenses)	128.28
5.2.2022		17.2.2022 8b	Bank charges	9.00
13.2.2022	Bank transfer	17.2.2022 8b	Top Cut Ltd	160.00

c) To monitor payments against the budget.
There were no matters of concern to note.

8. Planning.

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

<u>20/015616/CLE</u>	Ball Mill Bungalow	An operational base for forestry and other arboricultural activities including processing of wood for firewood, biomass/ woodshavings and other wood products, marketing and delivery of material thereby produced.	Pending decision (Recommend refusal)
<u>21/01936/CLE</u>	Top Barn Farm Worcester Road Holt Heath Worcester WR6 6NH	Certificate of lawfulness for the existing Mixed Use for Agriculture, Education and Therapeutic Care	Pending Decision (Recommend approval)

<u>21/01863/FUL</u>	Woodside Farm Top Barn, The Pack House At Worcester Road Holt Heath WR6 6NH	Extension to existing agricultural packhouse facility and farm office	Pending Decision (Recommend approval)
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b) Approvals/Refusals.

<u>21/02250/GPDQ</u>	Bentley Farm Holt Heath	Notification of prior approval for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building into a dwelling house.	Refused
<u>21/02261/FUL</u>	Ball Mill Bungalow Main Road Hallow Worcester WR2 6LS	The demolition of the existing bungalow and erection of a replacement dwelling	Refused

c) Any other planning issues.

<u>21/01286/TC</u>	Grass Verge At (Os 8177 6304) School Lane Holt Heath	Phase 8 street pole C/W wraparound cabinet at base and associated ancillary works.
<u>21/00765/CU</u>	Northington Farm, Farm Lane, Holt Heath, WR6 6NQ	Change of use of ground of one unit to B8

There was no further progress to report on either of these appeals.

9. Correspondence for information.

All relevant correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

There were no issues to report.

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

a) Parish Website.

Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill asked whether Parish Council had ever considered setting up a Facebook page as this had been very successful in gaining support for the Millennium Green. The Chairman said that it had been considered but there had been no one on Parish Council with the expertise to take on the role. Parish Councillor Mrs J. Hill suggested Michelle could possibly take on the responsibility. It was agreed to timetable this for discussion at the next meeting of Parish Council.

b) Chairman.

The Chairman shared that, due to personal reasons, he would not be re standing for the position of Chairman at the Annual General Meeting in May. All members of Parish Council were asked to consider whether they would be interested in the role.

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10. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 17 March 2022 in Holt Village Hall.

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