

**HOLT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD
IN HOLT VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 p.m.
ON THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2016.**

**Present :-
P. Winney (Chairman)
A. Blissett
M.Troman
P. Mobbs
G. Wotton
J. Harper
C. Lightfoot (Clerk)**

**In Attendance:-
District Councilor Mrs P. Cumming
County Councillor Mr P. Grove**

**Absent:-
J. Bowker (Vice Chairman)**

1.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME There were no members of the public present at the Meeting and therefore no questions.	
2.	TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES AND APPROVE REASONS FOR ABSENCE. The Chairman reported that apologies had been received from Parish Councillor Mr J. Bowker.	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST a) Register of Interests. There were no changes to the Register of Interests. b) Registration of Personal Interests. Parish Councillor Mr J. Harper declared an interest in planning applications Appeal No. (APP/E1855/W/15/3138986) Church Farm Quarry, Grimley, Worcestershire and Appeal No. (APP/J1860/W/15/3138717) Land adjacent to Millennium Green, Holt Heath. 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.	
4.	COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS.	

	<p>District Councillor Mrs P. Cumming reported the following matter of note:-</p> <p>a) South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). MHDC are in the process of finalising the 5 year land supply. Following this the Council will make a decision on the SWDP at a meeting to be held on 23 February 2016 and then there will be a consultation period prior to the Plan being adopted.</p> <p>b) 2016/17 Budget. Following an announcement by the Government that the level of Council Tax support is due to be decreased there will be an increase in Council Tax of 3.6%. In addition there may be further cuts to cover the shortfall and an increase in shared services with Wychaven.</p> <p>County Councillor Mr P. Grove had reported the following matters of note:-</p> <p>a) 2016/17 Budget. County Councillor Mr P. Grove provided the Clerk with a summary of the budget proposals for 2016/17. It is necessary for WCC to find a further £11 million savings. Part of this will be funded by an increase in Council Tax of 2%.</p> <p>b) Devolution of Worcestershire County Council. Talks with central government in relation to the devolution of the County Council and additional education funding have been postponed.</p> <p>c) Leader of the County Council. Simon Geraghty is the new leader of the County Council and the Deputy leader is Anthony Brigg.</p> <p>d) Highways. Since 2013 75,000 pot holes have been repaired. Gritting stocks are also good due to the mild winter.</p>	
5.	<p>TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOLT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2015 AND ADDITIONAL PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2015.</p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on 19 November 2015 were approved by Parish Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record. The minutes of the Additional Planning Meeting of Holt Parish Council held on 14 December 2015 were approved by Parish Council and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>	
6.	<p>PROGRESS REPORTS</p> <p>a) BT telephone kiosk – insurance requirements - status report. The Clerk reported that she had contacted the insurance with regards to the telephone kiosk but was still awaiting a response. Parish Councillor Mr M. Troman requested a meeting with Martley Parish Council in order to progress the defibrillator project.</p> <p>b) Wildflower scheme – update on project.</p>	CL

	<p>Parish Councillor Mrs G. Wotton reported she was still in the process of contacting County Highways to discuss the feasibility of the project.</p> <p>c) Parish Noticeboard – review of options for purchase of new noticeboard.</p> <p>Parish Council agreed to proceed with the purchase on the new Parish Noticeboard. The Clerk was asked to order the board and a cheque for £1200.00 (Cheque No. 1051) to The Church Noticeboard Company was raised and approved and signed by Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to chase WCC footpaths department in relation to the removal of the Parish Paths Noticeboard currently outside the Village Hall.</p> <p>d) Highways and tree cutting around the Parish – progress report. The Clerk reported she was continuing to report pot holes around the Parish and encouraged all members of Parish Council to do likewise using the online Worcestershire Hub reporting system. The Chairman and the Clerk reported that unfortunately they had been unsuccessful in getting County Highways to agree to lower the height of the pine trees on School Lane despite repeated requests from residents.</p> <p>e) Holt Parish Website – discussion on the future of Holt Parish Website.</p> <p>Parish Councillor Mr A. Blissett reported on Skype training he had received from Roger Withnall of Upper Bridge websites. Following the recommendation of Parish Councillor Mr A. Blissett Parish Council agreed to continue with Upper Bridge as the website provider. The new website should be in a position to go live at the end of February.</p>	<p>GW</p> <p>CL</p> <p>AB</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>a) Applications Pending.</p> <p><i>15/00811/OUT Outline application for 24 dwellings, Field off School Lane (Recommend Refusal)</i></p> <p>The Clerk reported that nothing further had been heard on this application. It was due to go before MHDC Area Planning Committee.</p> <p><i>Appeal No. APP/E1855/W/15/3138986 Church Farm Quarry, Grimley, Worcestershire (Recommend Refusal)</i></p> <p>Parish Council discussed the submission to the Appeal hearing recommending refusal of the Application. The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Grimley Parish Council informing Holt Parish Council that they had again employed the services of a Planning Consultant to construct a further submission recommending refusal of the application for the Planning Inspectorate. After careful consideration Parish Council agreed they were not in the position where they could make a financial contribution to the costs of preparing this report although they were fully supportive of Grimley Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to communicate this decision to Grimley Parish Council.</p> <p><i>Appeal No. APP/J1860/W/15/3138717 Land Adjacent to the Millennium Green, Holt Heath. (Recommend Refusal).</i></p> <p>The Clerk reported that Parish Council’s submission recommended refusal of the Application had been received by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p><i>16/00036/FUL 4 Red Lion Cottages, Holt Heath. (Recommend Refusal).</i></p>	<p>CL</p>

	<p>b) Approvals/Refusals. 14/01285/HOU Proposed 2 storey extension, 2 Woodbury Park, Holt Heath. (Refused)</p> <p>c) Other Planning issues. There were no issues to discuss.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) To note the current bank balances. It was confirmed that the Deposit Account stood at £6,013.26p and the Current Account stood at £2,018.22p. The Clerk confirmed that these balances were before the issuance of the cheques listed below.</p> <p>b) To consider payments made in accordance with the attached schedule. The following cheques were approved retrospectively by Parish Council:- Mr C Jones (Cheque No. 1043) £186.00 (Lengthsman – November 2015), Mrs C. Lightfoot (Cheque No. 1044) £308.33 (Clerk’s salary December 2015), Mrs C. Lightfoot (Cheque No. 1045) £8.92 (Clerk’s expenses December 2015). The following cheques were signed and the invoices initialled by two members of Parish Council:- Holt Heath Village Hall (Cheque No. 1046) £40.00 (Village Hall hire), Holt P.C.C (Cheque No. 1047) £200.00 (Holt Churchyard upkeep), Mr W.P. Winney (Cheque No. 1048) £367.59 (Christmas activities), Mr C. Jones (Cheque No. 1049) £198.00 (Lengthsman December 2015), Mrs C. Lightfoot (Cheque No. 1050) £308.33 (Clerks salary January 2016).</p> <p>c) To review the actual spend against budget. Parish Council noted the actual spend against budget.</p> <p>d) Approval of the precept for 2016/2017. The Chairman reported that further information had been received in relation to the cost of the tests which needed to be undertaken regarding the suitability of land in relation to the extension of the burial ground at Holt. In order for planning permission to be granted the conditions set by the Environment Agency must be met which involves digging a test pit and monitoring the water levels over a period of months. The Chairman reported that all avenues have been explored on this issue and it is likely the cost of the tests will be in the region of £2500.00. This was discussed by Parish Council and it was decided since the project was already underway it was appropriate for Parish Council to fund the tests that were required. The Chairman proposed that Parish Council increased the precept by £1250.00 to cover half of these costs with the remaining 50% being paid out of reserves and match funding. This would equate to a precept of £10,139.00 for 2016/17 an increase of 17% on the previous year. Parish Council agreed to the increase as it was felt that the spending was essential for the extension of the burial ground project to be successful. It was further felt that this issue was of significance to all members of the Parish. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would draft a letter for distribution to all Parishioners informing them of the increase in Precept and explaining the reasons for it. The Precept of £10,139.00 was agreed by Parish Council for 2016/17. The Clerk agreed to update the precept and provide a copy for the Chairman to sign. The Clerk further agreed to submit the Precept documentation to MHDC.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>PW CL</p> <p>CL</p>

	<p>e) Update of bank mandate. The new bank mandate was signed by Mr P. Mobbs and the Clerk agreed to pass the updated paperwork onto HSBC.</p>	CL
9.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>The Clerk reported that all correspondence of note had been circulated to Parish Council.</p>	
10.	<p>CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING</p> <p>There were no issues to report.</p>	
12.	<p>COUNCILLORS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grips on Shrawley Road. The Clerk was asked to contact the Lengthsman in relation to clearing the grips on the Shrawley Road. • Highways - drainage. The Clerk was asked to contact County Highways in relation to clearing the drains on the A443 outside the Red Lion and at the end of Cherry Orchard. • Litter bin – School Lane. Parish Councillor Mr A. Blissett reported that he still had to install the litter bin on School Lane but was waiting for an improvement in the weather. • Parish Footpaths Officer. Parish Councillor Mrs G. Wotton reported that Mr M. Tew the Parish Footpaths Officer had requested to step down from the role and pass it onto his neighbour Mr Humphrey Douglas. This was agreed by Parish Council. Parish Councillor Mrs G. Wotton agreed to inform Mr M. Tew. The Clerk agreed to inform WCC of the change of Parish Footpaths Officer. 	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>
13.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of the next Meeting of Parish Council was confirmed as 18 February 2016.</p>	