

**Minutes of Holt Annual Parish Meeting  
Held Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Holt Village Hall 7:30pm**

Item	01
	<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p>           Cllr Mick Drew            Cllr Peter Finney (Chairman of the Parish Council)            Cllr Wrettham Ladbrooke-Chartres (Vice Chairman of the Parish Council)            Cllr Celia Moore            Cllr Janet Wallace            Cllr Norman Willis            Cllr David Shortell (District Councillor for West Moors &amp; Holt)            Cllr Toni Coombs (Chairman East Dorset Council)            Mrs Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)            24 members of public.         </p>
01	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present including Cllr Toni Coombs who will be the last Chairman of East Dorset Council which will cease to exist from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 with the formation of a new unitary authority, Dorset Council.</p> <p>Cllr Toni Coombs took this opportunity to speak to those present and thank Holt Parish Council for whom she has special affection. A Thanksgiving Service was held in the Minster last week for the community of East Dorset.</p> <p>The new Dorset Council will not implement much change initially whilst legalities are prepared however services will undergo a full review over 2-3 years where they will be closely scrutinised and harmonised. The new unitary authority will work closely with the local parish and town councils and this is an opportunity for towns and parishes to enhance their roles if they wish.</p> <p>Toni has served East Dorset Council since 1999, it will be a sad day to hold the last council meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> when members will be able to wish the staff good luck in their new roles. Toni is proud of what East Dorset Council has achieved, for example the hugely popular Moors Valley. There is a lot for the new unitary authority to protect over future years.</p>
	<p><b>Presentation by PCSO Tom Balchin</b></p> <p>PCSO Tom Balchin gave a presentation on how the Dorset Police Team operates to target rural crime in Dorset, rural crime statistics, crime prevention techniques and answered questions.</p>
02	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>           Cllr Susan Frost            Cllr Alex Clarke (District Councillor for West Moors &amp; Holt)            Cllr Andy Skeats (District Councillor for West Moors &amp; Holt)            Cllr Steve Butler (County Councillor for Cranborne Chase)         </p>
03	<p><b>Confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held <b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b> were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.</p>
04	<p><b>Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>None.</p>

05

**Annual Report of the Parish Council (which will be published on the website and Village Voices magazine)**Annual Parish Meeting of Electors

The Parish Council hosted the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

During the public open session a number of topics were discussed, including the state of the roads, the effects of the upcoming local government reform and the effects of the local plan for housing development.

Annual General Meeting

The Parish Council held its AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

Cllr Peter Finney was appointed Chairman and Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres as Vice-chairman. During the year Cllrs Tim Box and Jonathan Cutts were appointed by co-option. It is with great sadness we lost Cllr Dick Irish last year after a short illness having been a parish councillor for 17 years.

Planning

There were 26 planning applications in the past year. This is a substantial part of the work of the parish council and it can be difficult to find the right balance between development and conservation when submitting our view to the planners at the district council. The most contentious planning enforcement matter in the parish for some time, the application relating to the Broad Bridge site, has now come to a satisfactory conclusion.

Donations

Every year the council is asked by charities and community organisations for donations and this year members were pleased to make a donation of £500 to St James School. The second of three agreed annual donations. A further £100 has been offered toward the renovation of the Furzehill BT Kiosk which will be carried out by local residents. The kiosk was adopted by Parish Council. The kiosks at Holtwood & Broomhill have also been adopted and we welcome ideas and volunteers to put them to good use.

Cemetery

The Parish Council has the responsibility for the management and maintenance of the cemetery. This includes regular grass cutting and maintenance of the boundaries and memorials. There were 8 burials in the past year. The purchase of land for the cemetery extension is not yet complete. We now in the process of managing the land that is now part of the cemetery, including the hedge of native trees donated by the Woodland Trust and maintained with such hard work Cllr Norman Willis, for which we are most grateful.

We would also like to thank Charlie Hiscock who keeps the cemetery in excellent condition with occasional help from Mike Clifford and to Adrian and Inga Patterson who keep the moles under control.

Village Green

The Parish Council continues to maintain the village green with grass cutting and tree pruning. We continue to work with the National Trust to keep this as a useful and enjoyable communal space for everyone in the parish to use. This has been made difficult at times by its use for grazing by people who are not entitled to so do.

Public Footpaths and other Rights of Way

Our footpath officer, Cllr. Susan Frost assisted by Cllr Mick Drew continues the good work she does monitoring the state of all local Rights of Way and works closely with the National Trust and local landowners to ensure bridleways and paths on their land are maintained and kept clear. We hope to continue to work with the new Dorset Council, even though there is currently some uncertainty as the future resourcing for these important community resources.

Highways

Highways is always an agenda item at our meetings and we monitor the state of local roads and report defects, blocked drains, flooding and of course fly tipping to the county highways department. Thank you too to those committed residents who regularly collect roadside litter. Holt is one of the tidiest parishes thanks to their efforts all year round.

SID (Speed Indicator Device)

The use of the SID is currently under review. The highways department has a new policy on the use of such devices and we are in the process of reviewing the exact locations and directions in which it will be most helpful to have the SID. The SID provides invaluable information about the traffic flows through the parish, particular as there has been recent increase related to the nearby developments. Thanks to Ralph Moore who assists a great deal with the deployment of the unit and retrieving the data.

Community Asset Transfers

It was resolved in June that Holt Parish Council would acquire both the Holt Village Hall Car Park and Woodland at Queens Copse from East Dorset Council prior to the new Dorset Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

HOLT Together

If your email address has not been added to our database and you would like the latest information from the Parish Council please ask Lisa to add your email address to the list which is strictly confidential. There are a number of local activities with which you may wish to consider getting involved for example, the Dorset Council Green Spaces Team who co-ordinate volunteers to help them clear footpaths and bridleways. This is an enjoyable day/half day out with refreshments. Please speak to a parish councillor or Lisa if you would like to know more about how to get involved.

Additional Thanks

We would like to extend our thanks to our three District Councillors – Andy Skeats, Alex Clarke and David Shortell as well as our County Councillor Steve Butler. They have been dedicated and hardworking, particularly in this time of local government reform. We look forward to continuing to work with newly elected members in May. We send our best wishes to Steve Butler who will no longer have responsibility for our parish.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>03</b></p> <p>We would also like to thank all our members who have attended meetings, training sessions and seminars to keep up to date with policies and changes in local government and acted as representatives of the Parish Council on other organisations. Thank you to the Parish Hall Committee who work hard to ensure the Hall is maintained and successful and to Ann Korta who continues to run the successful Neighbourcare Scheme offering door to door transport for our residents. Finally, we would like to thank our diligent and hardworking Clerk Lisa. Without her tireless efforts Parish council business would not run as smoothly as it does.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres</p>
<b>06</b>	<p><b>Matters arising from the Annual Report.</b></p> <p>Q: Some of the Rights of Way are very overgrown in Holt Forest, who has responsibility for keeping them clear?</p> <p>A: In general, Landowners are responsible for cutting back hedges, trees or shrubs overhanging a public right of way. Surface vegetation or undergrowth on rights of way, such as nettles or brambles, are the responsibility of Dorset County Council. The National Trust is the Landowner of Holt Forest. Rights of Way can be viewed at the Dorset Explore web page and problems reported on line at <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk">www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Q: Can horses be prevented from using footpaths?</p> <p>A: This is difficult to monitor.</p>
<b>07</b>	<p><b>Report by County Councillor Steve Butler</b></p> <p>No report this year.</p>
<b>08</b>	<p><b>Report by District Councillor David Shortell</b></p> <p><b>Local Government Reorganisation</b></p> <p>The District Council ceases to exist at the end of this month when the new unitary authority comes into being. The 'Shadow' Dorset Council consisting of all the councillors from the Districts/Boroughs and Dorset County council have met a number of times to approve appointments, constitution and budget., etc., which have been recommended by the Shadow Executive made up of councillors from all the authorities.</p> <p>As far as the budget and the Council Tax in particular are concerned, the financial position has been significantly helped by the Government's decision to withdraw proposals for a negative Revenue Support Grant in this area. This would have imposed a levy of some £11 million on Dorset in contrast to actually awarding a grant to support services. Whilst the County Council's portion (the large majority) of the Council Tax has been the same across Dorset, the District/Borough elements have varied. The new, single council, has to set a common amount and must do so within 6 years. The decision was taken to do this in year one, which avoids the ongoing loss of £6 million annually. In East Dorset, this means only a small increase whilst some other areas have a larger increase in the coming year. Here the increase will only be 0.29% on a Band D property (£4.75).</p> <p>The sale of the former council site at Furzehill will not be completed before 1 April due to a number of complications that have delayed the process. The new authority will take this over.</p> <p>As far as East Dorset District Council is concerned, business has gradually reduced as the focus has moved to ensuring a smooth start for the new authority on 1 April.</p> <p><b>Transfer of Assets to Parish/Town Councils.</b></p> <p>A Cabinet Committee was set up a year ago at EDDC to oversee the programme for its final year. A major focus has been on possible transfer of assets to local Parish/Town councils. In response to an invitation to these councils to express an interest, some 40 assets are currently in the process of being transferred to local ownership. This will not only ensure local jurisdiction in the running and maintenance of these but also relieve the new unitary authority of a number of minor responsibilities. In the case of Holt, the village car park and land at Queens Copse are being transferred.</p> <p><b>Community Governance Review</b></p> <p>Following the submission of a petition to Full Council regarding the formation of a new parish of Furzehill, a review of the local parish boundaries was carried out, including public consultation. In September, the decision was made that there should be no change to Holt and Colehill parishes. It was not considered that this would bring about improved and stronger community engagement, better local democracy and delivery of local services. Also there was a fundamental barrier in that neither Holt nor Colehill were prepared to administer the new parish on a 'grouped' basis, neither did they support the loss of part of their parish.</p> <p><b>Local Plan Review</b></p> <p>Additional housing requirements have been placed on East Dorset and the Local Plan is currently under review. The first consultation included little change in Holt other than the rationalisation of the village 'envelope'. This would allow some small scale development to take place. The final submission to the Secretary of State is likely to take place in the second half of this year. Failure to submit an appropriate plan would result in difficulties in preventing haphazard and possibly damaging development.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>04</b></p> <p><b>Somerley Household Recycling Centre</b>          Whilst residents of Holt may tend to use the EDDC facilities in Wimborne, some may prefer the larger, more easily accessible site at Somerley, just into Hampshire to the east of Verwood. The Dorset Waste Partnership has had an arrangement with Hampshire for the use of this site by Dorset residents. Hampshire CC is now proposing to charge £5 per visit from 2020 as part of its general policy. The situation has been made more complicated by the fact that it has emerged that Hampshire have never billed the Waste Partnership for the agreed direct annual payment Of £60 - £70,000. Discussions are ongoing as to how a charge at the gate can be averted.</p> <p><b>Senior Bus Passes</b>          Whilst services in Holt may be very limited, residents can, of course, use their passes anywhere in England. We have been informed that the new Dorset Council will continue pre-9.30 free travel for the next year. All such local grants will be reviewed over the next 12 months.</p> <p><b>Broadbridge</b>          District councillors pursued with officers local concerns regarding the number of caravans on this site. The matter currently appears to have been addressed.</p> <p>This is our last report to Holt Parish and we wish to express our thanks to the Parish Council for the way they have received us into their meetings. It has been very interesting to get to know the local issues and the work being done to make the parish a pleasant and safe place to live.</p> <p>Q: What are the plans for the Furzehill Council Offices Site?          A: Cllr Toni Coombs responded that it was hoped to sell the site prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, however there have been various land issues and legal complications stalling the process.</p>
<b>09</b>	<p><b>Audited Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2018.</b></p> <p>The audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2018 were displayed for members of the public to view and have been available to view on the parish council website <a href="http://www.holtparishcouncil.btck.co.uk">www.holtparishcouncil.btck.co.uk</a></p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <p>Q: It is understood Holt St James' Church will be closing, is there a timeframe?          A: The Parish Council has already been discussing this and will be writing to the Salisbury Diocese for clarification and to ask to be kept informed particularly for the future safekeeping of church furnishings and graves.          Q: Can the Parish Council provide greater monitoring of speed along Holt Lane?          A: The Chairman confirmed the Parish Council recognises there is an issue across the Parish with regard to the speed of traffic. A new agreement is being agreed with Dorset County Council on how the Speed Indicator Device can be deployed to be most effective. The data from the unit is kept and can be passed to the Police so drivers can be targeted at appropriate times. Parishioners might like to consider setting up a 'Community Speedwatch' Team who will be trained by the Police. The Parish Council can arrange to set this up and advertise for volunteers. Data already taken from the SID unit is available to residents if of interest.          Unfortunately there is strict legislation from Government of where new speed limits can be introduced.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Good Citizen Award</b></p> <p>Members received one nomination for the Good Citizen Award 2019 however this was for a member of the Parish Council to recognise the enormous amount of work they do on behalf of the parishioners over and above that required as a parish councillor. It was agreed however that as the person nominated is a parish councillor it would not be appropriate to grant this award and members resolved unanimously to make the usual gift of £50 to St James School instead this year.</p>

Meeting Closed at 8:46pm

**These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman after approval at the next Annual Parish Meeting.**

**Signed;..... 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**