

Minutes of Holt Annual Parish Meeting
Held Friday 16th March 2018 at Holt Village Hall 7:30pm

| Item | 01 |
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| | <p>Attendance</p> <p> Cllr Mick Drew Cllr Pauline Ford Cllr Peter Finney (Chairman of the Parish Council) Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres (Vice Chairman of the Parish Council) Cllr Celia Moore Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr David Shortell (District Councillor for West Moors & Holt) Cllr Andy Skeats (District Councillor for West Moors & Holt) Cllr Steve Butler (County Councillor for Cranborne Chase) Cllr Derek Burt (Chairman East Dorset Council) Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 44 members of public. </p> |
| 01 | <p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present.</p> |
| 02 | <p>Apologies</p> <p> Cllr Susan Frost Cllr Dick Irish Cllr Norman Willis Cllr Alex Clarke (District Councillor for West Moors & Holt) </p> |
| 03 | <p>Confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 17th March 2017.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held 17th March 2017 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.</p> |
| 04 | <p>Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>None.</p> |
| 05 | <p>Annual Report of the Parish Council</p> <p><u>AGM</u></p> <p>The Parish Council held its AGM on 31st May 2017.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Finney was appointed Chairman and Cllr Norman Willis was appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2017/18 year. Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres was appointed by co-option. During the public open session a number of topics were discussed. Most prominent of these were the on-going situation at Broadbridge and the petition regarding the possible establishment of a separate or grouped parish of Furzehill.</p> <p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>There were 49 planning applications in the past year. Again, the applications that have raised the most concern have been in relation to the Broadbridge site. On 23rd January we heard that the appeal against the most recent planning application has been refused by East Dorset District Council. This however remains an ongoing matter.</p> <p><u>Donations</u></p> <p>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 and £200 to the Citizens Advice Bureau and £100 to First Gaunts Guides Group.</p> |

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| | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>02</u></p> <p><u>Cemetery</u> 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 nearly complete and we plan to use native plants for the hedging for the boundary of the land. These have been donated by the Woodland Trust and have been tended in the interim time by 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 Adrian and Inga Patterson who keep the moles under control.</p> <p><u>Village Green</u> The Parish Council continues to maintain the village green with grass cutting and tree pruning. This year the trees and the have been pruned area at the back of the green that had become overgrown has been cut back.</p> <p><u>Public Footpaths and other Rights of Way</u> Our footpath officer, Cllr. Susan Frost continues the good work she does monitoring the state of all local Rights of Way and works closely with the National Trust to ensure bridleways and paths on their land are maintained and kept clear.</p> <p><u>Highways</u> Highways is always an agenda item at our meetings and we monitor the state of local roads and report defects, blocked drains, flooding etc. to the county highways department.</p> <p><u>Fingerposts</u> The council has nearly completed its programme of replacing the wooden fingerposts with recycled plastic as this will be maintenance free. We received a generous donation toward this (£750) from Wimborne Athletic Club who hold an annual running event in the Parish.</p> <p><u>SID (Speed Indicator Device)</u> The new SID has been deployed throughout the parish, remaining at each site for approximately a month. This has provided us with much useful information about the regular traffic in the parish. There has been one incident where the SID was vandalised and the battery stolen. We would like to thank Rodford Engineering for their kind and generous help with fixing the device and making it harder to break in the future and to our team of volunteers who place the unit in various sites around the Parish.</p> <p><u>Holt Together</u> 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.</p> <p><u>Additional Thanks</u> 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. We would also like to thank Cllr Normal Willis for all his work as vice-chairman. Norman decided to step down from this role in December 2017. Further thanks to all our members who have attended meetings, training sessions and seminars to keep up to date with policies and changes in local government. 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>Cllr Wrettham Ladbrooke-Chartres</p> |
| 06 | <p>Matters arising from the Annual Report.</p> <p>Q: Continuing concern with the state of the roads, could the Parish Council explain the remit of Dorset County Council and the Parish Council?</p> <p>A: The Chairman responded that the surface of the highway is the responsibility of the County Council. Highway defects can be reported online at www.dorsetfoyou.gov.uk (report a road issue) The Parish Council now has the power to carry out some highway works such as clearing grips and road signs.</p> <p>Q: Is there a long term strategy to improve our roads?</p> <p>A: Cllr Steve Butler responded that due to diminishing resources form Central Government, our roads are unlikely to be maintained in perfect condition.</p> <p>Q: A water leak opposite the Barley Mow reported approximately 1 year ago is still not repaired.</p> <p>A: This is best reported online where the County Council will take the matter up with the appropriate water board.</p> <p>Q: A Finger blade from the Pamphill area was spotted for sale at the Beaulieu Auto-jumble.</p> <p>A: Noted.</p> |

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| 07 | <p>Report by County Councillor Steve Butler</p> <p>Unfortunately the condition of our roads are getting worse due to less and less funding available from Central Government. The Revenue Support Grant has been cut completely placing a heavy burden on the County Council to fund from existing resources. Dorset County Council Highways department are operating very efficiently considering the very limited resources.</p> <p>Rural Dorset has a population of 400,000 of which 28% are over the age of 65. Approximately 4200 elderly are being cared for at a cost of approximately £130m from a total budget of £280m. There are approximately 450 children in care costing approximately £80m. Both Adult and Children's care are a statutory duty of the Council and therefore funding is prioritised to these areas.</p> <p>With the intended Local Government Reform to form one unitary Authority 'Dorset Council' for rural Dorset, savings are anticipated in the region of £28m. Elections for the new Dorset Council will be held in May 2019, reducing the number of representatives to 82. Town and Parish Council's will infact be the only continuing authorities in the Reform and it is hoped will have a greater input to the possible formation of 'Area Boards' for the new Dorset Council.</p> <p>Q: The condition of the roads are poor and water leaks evident following installation of fibre connections. A: It is the duty of the contractor to restore the road to satisfactory condition. Q: What is the situation with the old Council Offices site at Furzehill? A: The site is in the process of being sold.</p> |
| 08 | <p>Report by District Councillors David Shortell & Cllr Andy Skeats</p> <p>Local Government Reorganisation The Secretary of State has now approved the formation of unitary authorities, firstly for Poole, Bournemouth & Christchurch, and secondly for the remainder of Dorset from 1 April, 2019. An Order will be laid before Parliament in June/July, following draft secondary legislation towards the end of March.</p> <p>Council Offices The sale of the Furzehill offices was agreed with a buyer last year. The site has been vacated and meetings of the council now take place in the Quarterjack Suite in the Allendale Centre for large meetings – the first being Annual Council on 15 May – and in a committee room on the ground floor of Allenvie House for smaller meetings. The council's local service staff are also based at Allenvie House where there is a reception desk for the public.</p> <p>Local Plan Review The East Dorset Local Plan Review is underway. A significant part of this process is need to address the latest estimate of housing requirements during the life of the Plan. This identifies the need for approximately 60 additional dwellings per year. This required the Council to invite proposals from anyone who wishes to put forward what they see as suitable sites for consideration. There are no restrictions on the locations whatsoever, however unsuitable they may appear. The council is compelled to consider them and then consult on a shortlist of those deemed to meet minimum requirements in terms of sustainability, location in terms of relationship to urban areas, transport, protected heathland, greenbelt, etc.</p> <p>The list of sites put forward was published last year and the next stage in the process is underway and involves the Council's consultants assessing them to draw up a list of those which meet minimum requirements, for consultation later this year.</p> <p>The Council will then determine the sites that will provide the required housing.</p> <p><u>At the current time, the sites listed have no status other than having been put forward by developers.</u> They may be suitable or totally unsuitable – and in any case, in total, they greatly exceed requirements.</p> <p>Review of Parish Boundaries. The Council has approved the following draft proposals for consultation with a deadline for comments of 31 May, 2018:</p> <p>11 properties currently in the parish of Horton to transfer to the parish ward of Verwood (Three Cross). These are by the village hall at the top of West Moors Road.</p> <p>A small change to the parish of Witchampton where it adjoins Chalbury to avoid the splitting of some gardens between parishes.</p> <p>No change to Holt and Colehill parishes regarding the forming of a new parish of Furzehill. 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, as requested in the petition, and this cannot be imposed.</p> <p>Car Parking Charges The Cabinet approved the first increases in car parking charges for several years in Wimborne and Ferndown, as proposed in the consultation, with two amendments. Overnight charges will not be introduced in Wimborne and residents' permits will limited to one per car owner in each residence. Also, the issuing of parking discs for disabled drivers will be free for those in eligible for Council Tax benefit. This issue arose due to the abolition of car tax discs and the refusal of DVLA to release details of exemptions on grounds of data protection. Thus every permit issued costs the Council £5, which will be the charge for those not qualifying for exemption.</p> |

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| | <p style="text-align: center;">04</p> <p>Council Tax and Budget, 2018/19 Council approved an increase of 2.99% which would mean that a Band D property would pay £218.66 to East Dorset as opposed to the £212.32, an increase of £6.34 for the year or 12p per week.</p> <p>Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Pre-Submission Draft Waste Plan. EDDC has responded to the draft proposals for a waste transfer facility (1ha) and treatment of bulky waste facility (1ha) at the Woolsbridge Industrial Estate. The Council has stated that the proposal is not deliverable. It is contrary to the Core Strategy which has designated the site for employment uses. The site is of strategic importance in the Eastern Dorset Housing Area for industrial development. There is also concern regarding the deliverability as a transport assessment has not been undertaken to identify the impact of the proposed waste uses.</p> <p>Fuel Switch 406 residents registered for and participated in the East Dorset Fuel Switch auction on 10 October, 2017. 108 registrants accepted the offers made to them, receiving on average £223 in savings over the year. A second auction took place in February.</p> <p>Ward Grants District Councillors have access to £2,000 each for grants to appropriate projects in their local community. £1,500 was granted to Holt Parish Council towards the project to renovate a pond linked with the installation of a raised footpath on Footpath 40 opposite the Old Inn and a grant of £700 was made to Holt Parish hall for the refurbishment of the floor.</p> <p>Appeal Decision: The Old Nursery, Broad Bridge. The Council has successfully defended an appeal against the its refusal of the Planning application for '<i>Material change of use of land involving an increase in the number of caravans used for residential purposes from one to three, storage of one touring caravan, and conversion of existing building to form day room</i>'. The Council is continuing its enforcement action against ongoing breaches taking place on the site. East Dorset Council and has made a commitment for significant resources for enforcement action. A slow, methodical process has been followed to ensure the situation is resolved successfully. It is understood the site is now for sale and it should be noted the appeal decision to refuse the siting of caravans is specific to the site and not the owners.</p> <p>Cllrs Alex Clarke, Andy Skeats, David Shortell, 16 March, 2018.</p> |
| 09 | <p>Audited Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2017.</p> <p>The audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 were displayed for members of the public to view and have been available to view on the parish council website www.holtparishcouncil.btck.co.uk</p> |
| 10 | <p>Open Forum</p> <p>Q: When does the Fibre Broadband connection at Rowe go live to homes? A: The Chairman responded that you should contact your service provider to make arrangements to connect.</p> <p>Q: How many redundancies are expected with the Local Government Reform? A: The District Councillors responded that 460 staff from a total of 12,000 is estimated to be made redundant with the implementation of the new Dorset Council in 2019. There is concern at the loss of valuable staff due to the uncertainty of future employment.</p> <p>Q: Where can the Local Plan Review be viewed? A: Cllr Derek Burt advised this can be viewed at https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning/christchurch-east-dorset-local-plan-review. This is easy to view providing an explanation of all the sites put forward for potential housing development. A number of sites will be automatically dismissed for planning reasons. Government Policy is likely to change with the number of houses that local authorities must provide. Fortunately East Dorset Council has a robust Local Plan to protect the area. We await the report from the Consultants who have been employed by East Dorset Council to review the sites. Cllr Derek Burt will clarify the name of the Consultants and the timescale set by East Dorset Council.</p> <p>Q: How will the site assessments be effected by Local Government Reform and the new Dorset Council? A: There is some concern how this will be managed by the new Dorset Council but at this stage we must wait for the Consultant's report.</p> <p>Q: How are communities made aware of the potential sites for development? A: At this stage, sites are merely being considered and a number will be eliminated. Then a public consultation will be held and Parish and Town Councils will be invited to comment. Note; residents can sign up at https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/e-news-sign-up/ for email updates on developments in your area.</p> <p>Q: Can we be confident our local representatives are interested in preserving our Green Belt land? A: The Green Belt is addressed in our Local Plan. There is pressure from Government to provide homes, particularly affordable homes and land must be found. It is far better that land for development is identified in the Local Plan with the control of our local authority than to be imposed upon us by Government if targets are not achieved.</p> |

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| 11 | <p>Good Citizen Award</p> <p>The Chairman announced this year's award is to be presented to Sharon Randall along with a National Garden Voucher for £50, in recognition for her contribution to local groups including First Guides, Holtwood Community Lunch and in past years, the Toddler Group.</p> <p>Sharon thanked everyone who is involved in the groups and for their generosity which is very much appreciated.</p> |

Meeting Closed at 9:06pm

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

Signed;..... 15th March 2019

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