

**Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council 27th September at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL**

68	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Jonathan Cutts (Chairman) Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres Cllr Celia Moore Cllr Guy Reynolds (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr Sarah Weaver Cllr Robin Cook (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward)</p> <p>Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 6 members of public present</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <p>Cllr Peter Finney</p>
69	<p>Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p>
70	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 30th August 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>30th August 2023</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
71	<p>Matters Arising (not included on the agenda) from the meeting held 30th August 2023</p> <p>None.</p>
72	<p>Dorset Councillors Report – Please see Appendix A for Cllr Robin Cook’s report which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.</p>
73	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>A resident attended the meeting to follow up on the traffic surveys being carried out in Holt and to reiterate concerns with speeding at Holt Road, Bowers. The introduction of a speed limit here would be appropriate as there are a number of residential properties and school children catching the bus on this busy route used as a cut through for traffic avoiding the A31. The resident questioned that 40mph for cattle on the Heath is deemed appropriate but not here?</p> <p>The Chairman responded that members agree with the valid points made and this location is a ‘hot-spot’ for discussion with Dorset Council. Residents are encouraged to report ANY incidents or near-misses on this road to Dorset Council Road Safety online at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk to add weight to</p>

	<p>any requests for traffic management.</p> <p>The owner of Horseshoes Cottage, Chalbury attended to provide information on P/FUL/2023/04904 for change of use of a 51m x 5m strip of land from agricultural use to residential use, having taken planning advice to formalise the use. Three additional residents attended in support of this application which has no impact on the neighbours.</p>
74	<p>Planning Applications & Enforcement Matters</p> <p>P/HOU/2023/04790 JUBILEE FARM, BURTS LANE, BH21 7JX Proposal: Erect rear two storey extension with balcony, erect first floor side extension, replace lean-to with single storey side extension. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/PAAC/2023/04935 THE BARN, GODS BLESSING LANE, BH21 7DE Proposal: Application for prior approval for conversion of agricultural barn to a single dwelling with alterations to provide windows to all habitable rooms including 3 bedrooms and 2 reception rooms. Members resolved unanimously to COMMENT that they are still concerned with the flimsy nature of the barn and as a significant amount of time has elapsed since the original prior approval in 2019 (3/19/1590) a structural survey should now be considered.</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/04904 HORSESHOES COTTAGE, CHALBURY, BH21 7EU Proposal: Change of use of land from agricultural use to residential use forming part of the domestic curtilage associated with the existing dwellinghouse. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/HOU/2023/04567 LEONI, FURZEHILL, BH21 4HT Proposal: Erect single storey rear extension. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/VOC/2023/05176 VICARAGE FARM, HOLT, BH21 7DH Proposal: Minor material amendment to vary Condition of P/FUL/2023/03319 (Demolish existing asbestos barn and erect a new 1.5 storey dwelling house and attached 2 car garage barn. As amended by plans rec'd 31/7/23 to provide crop hip to roof on E elevation, brick bonding details and minor changes to window sizes and eaves detailing & plans rec'd 17/8/23 to fully hip roof of garage next to dairy building) to; 1) add two x dormer windows to front elevation (north) 2) add two black log burner flue's 3) increase one window in size on east elevation 4) remove references to implemented 2003 planning permission 5) vehicle gates added to site entrance. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/HOU/2023/03082 MAGNOLIA COTTAGE, GAUNTS COMMON, BH21 4JR Proposal: Single storey rear extension, first floor side and front extensions, reconfiguration of roof and internal alterations. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/PAED/2023/05365 CARTRIFFE, HARTS LANE, BH21 7DD Proposal: Enlargement of the dwelling house by raising the roof from 5.39m to 7.89m to allow for the construction of an additional storey under Schedule 2 Part 1 Class AA of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended). <i>Noted</i></p> <p>P/PAED/2023/05387 SEFA, HARTS LANE, BH21 7DD Proposal: Enlargement of the dwelling house by raising the roof from 5.08 to 7.55m to allow for the construction of an additional storey under Schedule 2 Part 1 Class AA of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended). <i>Noted</i></p> <p>P/TRT/2023/05381 WHITEMOOR FARM, HOLT, BH21 7DA Proposal: T1 Oak: Reduce crown by 3 metres to live growth points. T2 Oak: Reduce the lateral spread over the garden by 1.5 metres to suitable growth points.</p>

	<p>T3 Oak: Prune back the low lateral crown over the road by 2 metres to suitable growth points. T4 Oak: Reduce the lateral spread over the old tin barn by 3 metres to suitable growth points. T5 Oak: Reduce the lateral spread over the old tin barn by 3 metres to suitable growth points. T6 Oak: Fell. G1 Oak: Crown lift to provide a 2.5 metre clearance from ground level. G2 Oak: Crown lift to provide a 2.5 metre clearance from ground level. Members resolved unanimously to COMMENT that in view of Dorset Council's declared climate emergency and requirement to retain trees where possible, members feel there is insufficient justification for this substantial action and request a Tree Officer inspects.</p> <p>Advance notice of a proposal that will be submitted to Dorset Council by EDF for a 47.5MW Battery Energy Storage System between Mannington and Three Legged Cross at Barewood Copse. More information can be found at <u>Barewood Copse battery storage - EDF Renewables (edf-re.uk)</u> <i>Noted.</i></p> <p>Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order at land to the front of The Olde Oak, Gaunts Common, BH21 4JR.</p> <p>P/HOU/2023/00034 Notification of Appeal against the refusal by Dorset Council for the construction of a detached triple garage and demolition of 3 existing buildings at Brooklyn Lodge, Burts Lane, BH21 7JX. <i>Noted.</i></p>
75	<p>Highways</p> <p><u>Highways Working Group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman and Cllr Robin Cook have met on site with Dorset Council Highways Team Leader to discuss possible locations for 'village gateways' for Holtwood. Locations and quotation for these and additional road markings to be confirmed. Members are concerned that additional signage would clutter the road which is not specifically a village and will consider consulting residents on the proposals. • Traffic surveys currently installed in 3 locations around the parish, awaiting data results from Dorset Council, due to meet to discuss on 8th November. • Members discussed there are dirty road signs (speed signs and finger posts) and as this work is no longer provided by Dorset Council, to get out and clean as many as possible. • Members discussed that the drain at Bussons Corner does not connect to the stream and therefore causes flooding here during heavy downpours. • The Chairman is liaising with Dorset Council and The Old Inn to provide an EV Charging Point. • Proposed temporary closure of Gods Blessing Lane 23rd – 27th October to allow South West Water to provide a new water supply. <i>Noted.</i> • Dorset Council Road Safe Team have offered to operate a joint monitoring session with the Community Speedwatch Team on 30th October. <i>Clerk to ask for volunteers on Holt CSW Team.</i>
76	<p>Cemetery Matters</p> <p>No matters to report.</p>
77	<p>Rights of Way Matters</p> <p>Cllr Sarah Weaver updated members on several rights of way access problems and those that have been resolved. Meeting with the National Trust on Monday 2nd October to discuss bridleway obstructions in Holt Forest and dropped gates by cattle grids.</p>

	<p>Himalayan Balsam has been identified (an invasive and non-native plant) at a number of locations. Both the National Trust and Forestry England are now aware of locations in their ownership and will schedule in to remove however, the other locations will be the responsibility of landowners to remove. <i>Members agreed to place an article in Village Voices, on the Parish Council Website and HOLT Together to draw attention to the extent of the problem, how to identify the plant and how to remove it. (SW)</i></p> <p>Dorset Council Rights of Way Forum July 2024, Cllr Sarah Weaver hopes to attend.</p>
78	<p>Village Green & Queens Copse Woodland Inspection Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Green Inspection completed 27th September 2023, (JC/SW/GC) no actions required. Noted that one Cherry Tree has died, footpath sign reinstated. • Woodland Queens Copse Inspection – significant works undertaken in 2020 following advice from Dorset Council. Further maintenance works required e.g. removing bamboo. • Dorset Council Pilot Scheme Research in Tree Management – Members agreed to become a stakeholder in this research project as this may be beneficial to the management of the Woodland at Queens Copse and other trees that the Parish Council are responsible for.
79	<p>Parish Hall Matters</p> <p>The Clerk has asked the National Trust to clarify details of current lease, awaiting response.</p>
80	<p>St James' Church</p> <p>Clerk to inquire if an offer has been accepted for the Church which has been up for sale, particularly as there is local concern for the future of items in the church that are of local cultural significance.</p>
81	<p>Standing Orders</p> <p>Members considered the updated NALC Model Standing Orders which have been reviewed and amended as appropriate for Holt Parish Council by the Working Group (JC/JW/GC/LG) and it was resolved unanimously to adopt this document.</p>
82	<p>St Margarets & Stones Almshouses (Wimborne) Report</p> <p>The Chairman made a site visit on 6th September with the Managing Agents and attended Trustee Board meeting on 19th September and reported this is a very well run, worthy charity.</p>
83	<p>Correspondence – circulated to members in advance of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence from a resident of Grange who is concerned with unsightly activity at a neighbouring property and whether appropriate permissions have been given for use of the garage. <i>Cllr Robin Cook has taken up the matter with Dorset Council.</i> • Notification that Royal Mail are relocating the post box at Cross Keys across the road as current location is unsafe for pedestrians and collection driver. <i>Noted.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to members to consider joining the NALC Larger/Smaller Councils Committees. • Vale of Allen Parish Council are considering a Neighbourhood Plan for Hinton Martell and Uppington to Horseshoe Crossroads but excluding Gaunts Common as it is divided between Holt and Vale of Allen parishes. <i>Noted</i> 			
84	<p>Financial Matters & Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members reviewed half year spend against budget for 2023-2024. <i>No matters arising.</i> • Members resolved unanimously to purchase 3 nameplates for the HOLTWOOD BT Box @ £30.00 each + Delivery & VAT • Members approved the following items for payment including the Clerk's salary: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">ONLINE VISION ICT</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Website hosting & Email Nov 23 to Oct 24</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">£231.60</td> </tr> </table>	ONLINE VISION ICT	Website hosting & Email Nov 23 to Oct 24	£231.60
ONLINE VISION ICT	Website hosting & Email Nov 23 to Oct 24	£231.60		
85	<p>Information for Report only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in Holt Parish Hall, <u>1st November 2023 at 7pm</u> 			

Meeting closed 21:22

These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman after approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed: **1st November 2023**

Appendix A

Traffic issues in Holt

I recently visited highway 'hotspots' with your chairman and our Community Highway Officer. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

Pop up camping changes

Following on from my report last month, I can now confirm that permission has been refused for the proposal from Clayford Field Camping Rear of Clayford House for Regulation 77 application for camp site 2 July - 29 July 2024 and 1 August-2 September 2024 for 50 tents or campervans. Here is an extract from the refusal notice

The proposed use would not be 'permitted development' under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class BC 'Temporary Recreational Campsites' of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) as it is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. The Council has carried out an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with requirements under Regulation 63(5) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, concluding the proposal will result in an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area (SPA) and RAMSAR.

The council's enforcement team have been notified.

Financial update

Attached to this report is an appendix which gives a picture of how the Council has performed since the formation of the unitary status in 2019. It is a positive picture and I hope you will find it informative.

**CLlr Robin Cook
2023**

27th September

APPENDIX TO DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

We are now four and a half years into the new Unitary Authority known as Dorset Council. I often get people asking why it was done and what's the benefit, especially as so many rate the Councils achievements by the weeds outside their house. Perhaps on the face of things the old system of District and or Borough Councils and a County Council worked well and there is no doubt that it did for many years following a reorganisation in 1974, however, those involved could see the winds of change, the financial challenges on the horizon meant that the old system would fail and public services would suffer.

There has been a lot in the news lately about local councils' finances with the recent announcement that Birmingham City Council had declared bankruptcy.

The aim of the Dorset reorganisation was to save the public from service cuts and ensure the continuation of local government in Dorset. The budget that we tackle each year does its best to achieve that goal, but as I have said in many reports over the years government funding for this authority is considerably less than we require and so each year is a fight. Central government needs to change its funding formula and ensure that weighting is given to age of population and rurality and until that happens financial life in this council will always be a challenge.

This also means that so many of the things that we want to do and support in our communities are impossible to fund from our scant resources, this leads to the need to explore external funding sources and each year there are numerous grants and other funding that government releases, but only those who bid with the most ambitious targets and are able to demonstrate the ability to deliver are going to be successful and in Dorset we have been able to bring significant grant funding to this authority.

Based on the committed future funding we have been able to achieve £121.6m, including £19.5m for Weymouth Regeneration, £18.8m for public sector decarbonisation, £14.2m for the Dept for Transport transforming cities fund. This money enables us to do things that under normal annual funding would be impossible and we should thank all those involved in the grant applications that show the professionalism that lives within Dorset Council and the confidence it gives and because of those attributes the money flows to us.

You get nothing for poor grant applications, we are successful because this authority is recognised as excellent.

We have also been working to transform the 6 authorities into 1 and this has meant significant changes and savings and over the short life of this Council we have achieved savings of £96.4m, all of which has been reinvested in front line service. If I go back to where we started and think about the old regime, I cannot see that we would, as individual Councils, ever have been able to make these savings, but as I said at the beginning this was all about the financial crisis on the horizon. As a Unitary authority the future of local government in Dorset been secured and only as a Unitary authority we have been able to make these savings.

Dorset Council is an organisation with a complex structure, from Childrens and Adults Social Services to picking up the bins outside your house. This is an enormous undertaking that deals with everything you see from the moment you leave your house in the morning until you return in the evening.

It's so difficult to explain this, the majority of our budget goes on things that in your daily life don't touch you at all and yet there is so little money left to provide the things that affect you most, the litter, the weeds, the roads, your bins, I would say that this Council has continued to provide the services that matter most in difficult circumstances.

Cllr Robin Cook