

**Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm  
HOLT PARISH HALL**

<b>119</b>	<p><b>Attendance &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts (Chair) Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Wrettham Ladbrooke-Chartres Cllr Guy Reynolds (Vice-Chair) Cllr Sarah Weaver Cllr Robin Cook (Dorset Councillor Stour &amp; Allen Vale Ward)</p> <p>Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 4 members of public present</p> <p><b>Apologies received from:</b></p> <p>Cllr Peter Finney Cllr Janet Wallace</p>
<b>120</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest &amp; Requests for Dispensation</b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>121</b>	<p><b>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>6<sup>th</sup> December 2023</u> were amended on page 328, item 103; Page 329, item 109; Page 330, item 113; Page 331, item 118 then confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
<b>122</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising (not included on the agenda) from the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>123</b>	<p><b>Dorset Councillors Report</b></p> <p>Please see <b>Appendix A</b> for Cllr Robin Cook's report which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.</p>
<b>124</b>	<p><b>Public Open Session</b></p> <p>Two residents attended to express their disappointment to Cllr Robin Cook following the news that the QELC will cease operating as it does now from 31 March 2024. More pressure will be placed on the NHS by transferring patients who benefit from the facilities located there and dispute Dorset Council's justification to withdraw funding. Cllr Cook responded this decision has not been taken lightly and understands the strength of feeling but it does not make business sense to spend so much of the Dorset Council budget on QELC when there are seven alternative public leisure facilities nearby. (More detail in Appendix A).</p>

	<p>The owner of Little Orchard attended to provide information on an application to fell a T1 Cedar on the property which has suffered storm damage. A local tree surgeon has recommended it is felled. A replacement tree will be planted.</p> <p>A resident attended to ask how best to approach Dorset Council in respect of concerns with Planning Enforcement. Cllr Robin Cook suggested a letter and detailed brief is submitted to the next Full Dorset Council Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February which the resident can attend.</p> <p>A resident expressed their objection to the Planning Application for 'Dun Romin' which is being considered this evening. The measurements on the application are inaccurate, there will be a 300% increase on the original dwelling which is in an area which constantly floods.</p>
125	<p><b>Planning Applications &amp; Enforcement Matters</b></p> <p>Members discussed how to improve communication with residents on new Planning Applications. The Clerk advised and Cllr Robin Cook confirmed that Dorset Council will be launching a much-improved website to view Planning Applications. A direct link to this can be included on the Parish Council website.</p> <p><b>P/PAED/2023/07426 BANKSIDE, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7DX</b> Proposal: Additional storey to existing dwelling. Members have NO COMMENT on this prior approval application.</p> <p><b>P/PAAC/2023/07148 LAND AT OAK TREE PADDOCK, BATCHELORS LANE, HOLTWOOD</b> Proposal: Change of use and conversion agricultural building to form 1 dwelling (Class C3) Members note some factual inaccuracies in the application related to the previous agricultural use of this building.</p> <p><b>P/HOU/2023/07090 THE OLD HOUSE, HOLT LANE, HOLT, BH21 7DH</b> Proposal: Single storey side extension (replacing existing attached garage), refurbish/upgrade existing flat roof and dormer construction. Garage/Pool room (replacing existing detached garage). Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p><b>P/HOU/2023/06948 DUN ROMIN, UDDENS DRIVE, HOLT, BH21 7BJ</b> Proposal: Proposed alterations and extensions to existing dwelling and extension to domestic outbuilding. Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to this proposal. Members note the number of comments of residents who have concerns with the proposed development. The property is located well within 400m of SSSI NNR and will have an adverse impact on the natural environment. We know ourselves the area is proven to flooding and resident's comments are incompatible with information stated in the application. There is no mains sewerage in the area and therefore high likelihood of foul water contamination. We are also concerned with the disproportionately large number of properties in the hamlet and this development will be further urbanisation of this rural setting.</p> <p><b>P/VOC/2023/07226 MAGNOLIA COTTAGE, GAUNTS COMMON, BH21 4JR</b> Proposal: Single storey rear extension, first floor side and front extensions, reconfiguration of roof and internal alterations (with variation of condition 2 of P/HOU/2023/03082) to add additional windows into sunroom and study and change utility window to an external door. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p><b>P/HOU/2023/07324 No.4 QUEENS COPSE LANE, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7EF</b> Proposal: Erect single storey extension to front of bungalow. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p>

	<p><b>P/VOC/2023/07382 THE BARN, GODS BLESSING LANE, HOLT, BH21 7DE</b> Proposal: Variation of Condition 4 to application P/PAAC/2023/04935 (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 respond with OBJECTION. Members note with concern the proposal contravenes some of the 6 additional conditions as specified on the Decision Notice for P/NMA/2023/06875 dated 15 December 2023.</p> <p><b>P/TRT/2024/00127 LITTLE ORCHARD, GAUNTS COMMON, BH21 4JR</b> Proposal: To fell T1 Cedar. Members have NO COMMENT to make on this application but are pleased to note that a replacement tree will be planted.</p> <p><b>P/PAPA/2023/06923 GRANGE FARM, GRANGE, BH21 4HX</b> Proposal: Alteration of existing highway to be 374m in length and 3.7m in width. Members NOTED this Prior Approval application without comment.</p> <p><b>P/PAED/2023/07323 LORMAH, HARTS LANE, BH21 7DD</b> Proposal: Enlargement of the dwelling house raising the roof from 4.75m to 7.25m (and 6.05m in part) to allow construction of an additional storey under Schedule 2, Part 1, Class AA, of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended). Members NOTED this Prior Approval application without comment.</p> <p><b>P/CLP/2023/07451 THE TUSCANS, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7DX</b> Proposal: Erect a detached building consisting of a personal swimming pool and sauna. Members NOTED this Proposed Use application without comment.</p> <p><b>P/CLP/2023/07452 THE TUSCANS, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7DX</b> Proposal: Erect a detached building consisting of a personal gym and office/study. Members NOTED this Proposed Use application without comment.</p> <p><b>P/CLP/2023/07413 BANKSIDE, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7DX</b> Proposal: Construction of a single storey side and rear extensions with provision of a porch, together with two outbuildings. Members NOTED this Proposed Use application without comment.</p>
126	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p><b><u>Highways Working Group –</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following meeting with Dorset Council, members are pleased that Dorset Council supports requests for the extension of speed restrictions in 3 areas of Holt Parish. This is a positive outcome for the residents of Holt. Members agreed to announce at the Holt Annual Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (7:30pm Holt Village Hall).</li> <li>• Members discussed placing ‘SLOW DOWN’ signs, as part of the PCC Pilot Scheme, in areas that a Speed Indicator Device does not operate. Members to consider further next meeting.</li> <li>• Members agreed not to pursue village gateways at Holtwood as Dorset Council has agreed to extending the 30mph zone from Horseshoes Crossroads.</li> <li>• Dorset Council is preparing a new Local Transport Plan to set out the long-term goals, strategy and policies for improving transport for everyone over the next 10-15 years. Dorset Council will be engaging with residents and stakeholders from 24<sup>th</sup> January until end of Feb 2024. Findings will be reported Summer 2024. Cllr Robin Cook encourages the Parish Council to comment as an opportunity to stress the traffic issues in Holt.</li> <li>• Members agreed to defer expenditure of Solar panels for the Speed Indicator posts until after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dorset Council have notified members of a proposed temporary closure of Gods Blessing Lane, from 4<sup>th</sup> March until 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to allow a new connection to the foul sewer in the highway. <i>Noted, no comments.</i></li> <li>Cllr Sarah Weaver reported on a number of sign defects on Holt Heath which have been reported to Dorset Council. 1240968</li> <li>Clerk to report to Dorset Council the white lines need replacing at Horseshoe Crossroads. 1241267</li> <li>Members noted report of huge lorries with containers travelling through Gaunts Common recently presumably following SATNAV.</li> <li>Clerk to report to Dorset Council, the gravel ramps to the footbridge crossing Mannington Ford at the end of Burts Lane have been washed away, a large step now has now formed. 1241269</li> </ul>
<b>127</b>	<p><b>Cemetery Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Clerk will contact neighbour to ask if they might assist with putting out the rubbish bin/garden waste on collection days.</li> </ul>
<b>128</b>	<p><b>Rights of Way Matters</b></p> <p>Cllr Sarah Weaver monitors Rights of Way in the Parish and works alongside Dorset Council to rectify any access problems. The Chairman thanked Cllr Sarah Weaver for her hard work.</p> <p>Clerk to submit photos of a contaminated watercourse at Newmans Lane, Bridleway E45/15 to the Environment Agency for investigation.</p>
<b>129</b>	<p><b>Parish Hall Matters</b></p> <p>Cllr Jackie Egan will be attending the next Parish Hall Committee Meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January and will raise the possibility of removing the unsightly barriers and marking parking bays as disabled to deter casual parking.</p>
<b>130</b>	<p><b>Parish Council Elections 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024</b></p> <p>Members discussed the forthcoming elections and encouraging new candidates to stand, Holt Parish will include Furzehill from May with two additional councillors required. The Clerk will advertise via HOLT Together, the Furzehill Residents Association, Website and Noticeboards.</p>
<b>131</b>	<p><b>Holt Annual Meeting Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b></p> <p>Members approved the agenda for the meeting which was signed by the Chairman. The Clerk confirmed Guest Speaker, Charlie North-Lewis Theatre Director from the Tivoli, Wimborne. The Clerk will put up posters locally and invite residents of Furzehill to attend.</p>

132	<p><b>Correspondence – circulated to members in advance of the meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members noted a resident’s concerns with fireworks on Holt Village Green, this has been forwarded to the National Trust for their consideration as Landowner.</li> <li>Dorset Council Community Tree Fund is now open for applications to support tree related activities and to gather a list of people interested in taking on the role of volunteer tree warden.</li> </ul>																				
133	<p><b>Financial Matters &amp; Expenditure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members approved the budget for 2024/25 and it was proposed by Cllr Wrettham-Ladbrooke Chartres and seconded by Cllr Guy Reynolds to maintain the precept demand for 2024/1025 @ £27.00 per Band D household. RESOLVED.</li> <li>Members approved the following items for payment including the Clerk’s salary:</li> </ul> <table border="0" data-bbox="252 786 1316 931"> <tr> <td>ONLINE</td> <td>NORMTEC</td> <td>Refurbishment of Gods Blessing Green Fingerpost</td> <td>£994.65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE</td> <td>HOLT PARISH HALL</td> <td>Hire of Hall for meetings in 2024</td> <td>£198.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE</td> <td>C. HISCOCK</td> <td>Maintenance of Holt Cemetery grass 2022-2023</td> <td>£1800.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE</td> <td>C. HISCOCK</td> <td>Hedge Cutting Holt Cemetery 2023</td> <td>£480.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE</td> <td>CLERK</td> <td>Reimbursement of Expenses Oct-Dec 2023</td> <td>£67.31</td> </tr> </table>	ONLINE	NORMTEC	Refurbishment of Gods Blessing Green Fingerpost	£994.65	ONLINE	HOLT PARISH HALL	Hire of Hall for meetings in 2024	£198.00	ONLINE	C. HISCOCK	Maintenance of Holt Cemetery grass 2022-2023	£1800.00	ONLINE	C. HISCOCK	Hedge Cutting Holt Cemetery 2023	£480.00	ONLINE	CLERK	Reimbursement of Expenses Oct-Dec 2023	£67.31
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134	<p><b>Information for Report only</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in Holt Parish Hall, <u>21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at 7pm</u></li> </ul>																				

Meeting closed 21:41

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

**Signed: .....** 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

## Appendix A

A very Happy New Year to everyone

### **Council budget for 2024/25**

Dorset Council has published its initial proposals to deliver a balanced budget next financial year, 2024-25. The proposals will see essential frontline council services continuing to be provided to residents and businesses and protected from cuts.

In total, Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents, including adults and children's social care, road maintenance, waste collection, housing support and libraries. Around 60 per cent of the budget will support vulnerable children, families, older people and those with disabilities.

The proposals would see an increase in council tax next year by just under 3% and to levy the adult social care precept of 2%, and they will be considered by two scrutiny committees, then reviewed and submitted to Cabinet, and then to Full Council in February for final approval.

### **QE Leisure Centre**

Dorset Council is preparing to hand over the running of Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre (QELC) to its owners, Queen Elizabeth's School Trust, who also own the adjacent school at Wimborne Minster.

Following the decision by elected members back in early 2022, the trustees were given two years' notice by Dorset Council confirming that they would withdraw from the current management arrangements at QELC at the end of March 2024. At this point, the day-to-day operation of the facility becomes the responsibility of the Trust.

This decision was made as the Council subsidises QELC by around £500,000 each year, which is around a third of their overall leisure centres budget. In an area where seven public leisure facilities are within a 20 min drive of QELC - three of which are owned by Dorset Council – it was considered that the Council could not justify the continued public-funding of the centre.

As the Trust has been unable to reach an agreement with a new partner to manage the facility, they have now confirmed that QELC will cease operating as it does now on 31 March 2024.

The facilities will still be utilised for the school curriculum and made available for community clubs and groups during non-school use times. Future bookings and administration will be managed through the school's staff.

Dorset Council will work with Initio Learning Trust (who operate Queen Elizabeth's School) over the coming months to inform current QELC customers, user groups, and clubs about what is happening with services and scheduled activities in the future.

If anyone has any questions about services and activities at QELC from 1 April 2024 onwards, please contact [office@queenelizabeths.com](mailto:office@queenelizabeths.com) or call 01202 885233.

To discuss existing services and activities at QELC up to 31 March 2024, please contact the centre via [Queenelizabeth@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Queenelizabeth@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) or by calling 01202 888208.

### **New funding opportunities**

Following Cabinet endorsement at its December meeting, the Dorset Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund grants for both community groups and organisations, together with local business grants, launched on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

Community groups and organisations can apply for grants between £1,000 and £15,000 while local business grant awards are from £2,000 to £20,000 per business.

Dorset Council has been allocated just over £6 million via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for use within the county, with funds available until completion in March 2025. The scheme is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025.

The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK by investing in communities and places, supporting local businesses, people and skills.

There are three fundamental elements to the Fund: People's pride in the place they love; Empowered local leaders and communities; and stronger social fabric with better life chances.

- **Community groups and organisations grants**

Dorset Council is keen to provide support for grassroots community-led development, supporting local groups to lead on what their community needs and wants. For example, community infrastructure; the facilities, structures and environment of a neighbourhood which contributes to the quality of life and overall safety and health of a community.

Groups or organisations are required to provide at least 10% match funding (cash or in-kind match funding is acceptable).

- **Local business grants**

Businesses can apply for grants towards digital technology and innovation, research and development, business growth and exports. Such as: Purchase of new equipment; software development and implementation; adaptations; automation and robotics.

Support with Intellectual Property (IP); patents; trademarks; designs; copyrights; or other options for protecting IP; capital funding for new machinery for new products; and development of new services or products.

Grants to facilitate growth, promote innovation and increase productivity.

Grants to facilitate and support businesses that are either wish to start exporting or are already doing so. Businesses must provide 100% match funding in cash and are required to undertake a diagnostic support with our lead business partner, WSX Enterprise.

For full details about the grant schemes, including terms and conditions, can be found on the Dorset Council website. **The closing date for this first round is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.**

### **AONB name change**

From November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 all designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales become known as National Landscapes, which in Dorset includes both the Dorset National Landscape and the Cranborne Chase National Landscape. The new name reflects their national importance, and the contribution they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that they do.

Because of their size and scope, National Landscapes are ideally positioned to address the environmental issues the UK is facing. There are 46 National Landscapes in the UK, covering 14% of England, Wales and Northern Ireland including moorland, farmland, coast, forests, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, a Geopark and International Dark Sky Reserves. They are the UK's nearby countryside – 66% of people in England (44 million) live within 30 minutes of a National Landscape and at least 170 million people visit them every year. More detail in this link [Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Renamed National Landscapes - Dorset Council news](#)

### **EV charging points update**

More than 60 town and parish councils have now contacted our Charging Ahead programme to request an electric vehicle charge point for their community at zero cost to themselves. It's a race now to see which locality will be the first to get one in the ground. In my ward currently two parishes, Holt and Sturminster Marshall, have applications awaiting decisions.

Chargepoints are installed by Joju who, for a third time, have won the prestigious EVIE (Electric Vehicle Innovation and Excellence) Contractor of the Year award. Once installed, your chargepoints will be operated by Mer who were recently voted Best On-street and Destination Chargepoint Operator of the Year by over 4,000 EV drivers.

### **Dorset Community Tree Project**

December saw the launch of the Dorset Community Tree Project, funded by Dorset Council and managed by the Dorset National Landscape team (formerly Dorset AONB).

Through this initiative, town and parish councils, schools and legally constituted community groups will be able to apply for grants to plan, design and carry out tree planting projects.

There's also an opportunity for parish and town councils to appoint and access training for volunteer tree wardens. You can hear more about the Dorset Community Tree Project and how town and parish councils can get involved in its delivery, in DAPTC's recent [Working Together Webinar](#).

Full details of the project and the support on offer can be found on the Dorset National Landscape website.

### **Dog PSPO**

A dog related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) across the Dorset Council area came into force on 1st January and will remain in place for three years.

The order replaces the previous dog related PSPO. The reason for implementing a dog related PSPO on specific beaches and open spaces is to keep them free from dog fouling and safe to use by all.

Insisting that dogs are on leads in particular areas means that the owner has adequate control over the dog which means that they can see if the dog fouls and doesn't cause issues with other people or dogs.

**CLlr Robin Cook**

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**