

**Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council 21st February 2024 at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL**

135	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts (Chair) Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Peter Finney Cllr Wrettham Ladbrooke-Chartres Cllr Guy Reynolds (Vice-Chair) Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr Sarah Weaver</p> <p>Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 3 members of public present</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <p>Cllr Robin Cook (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward)</p>
136	<p>Co-option to fill Casual Vacancy</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Peter Finney, seconded by Cllr Jackie Egan and resolved unanimously to appoint Mr Geoff Pike to fill the current vacancy. Cllr Geoff Pike duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p>
137	<p>Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p>
138	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 17th January 2024</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>17th January 2024</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
139	<p>Matters Arising (not included on the agenda) from the meeting held 17th January 2024</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping thanked the Clerk for circulating Planning Decisions by Dorset Council to members for their information.</p>
140	<p>Dorset Councillors Report</p> <p>Please see Appendix A for Cllr Robin Cook's report which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Members asked the Clerk to contact Dorset Council to request that the Parish Council is formally consulted on the development of the former East Dorset Council Offices at Furzehill which will become part of Holt Parish in April.</p>

<p>141</p>	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>The owner of Cutlers Farm attended to provide information on the proposal for change of use to domestic self-storage and to answer any questions.</p> <p>A resident attended to advise members that a new application will be submitted to address the reasons for refusal for a dwelling at Kingsettle Lodge, Bakers Lane, Holtwood. The resident requested members read the planning statement to understand the benefits of the proposed location which has been reduced in scale and is now more modest. <i>(This new application will be considered at the next Parish Council meeting on March 20th).</i></p> <p>A resident attended asking members for clearer understanding of the Certificate of Lawfulness Application for Walston Poultry Farm. <i>Members explained that evidence is invited by Dorset Council to establish whether the change of use from agricultural to self-storage has or has not existed for a period time and recommended neighbours respond with any relevant evidence.</i></p> <p>A resident attended regarding The Old Sawmills Planning Application but this has already been refused by Dorset Council. The resident also drew members attention to an application for a Solar Farm by Uddens Water, in Ferndown Parish but members may wish to comment.</p>
<p>142</p>	<p>Planning Applications & Enforcement Matters</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/07271 THE OLD SAWMILLS, CLAYFORD, BH21 7BJ Proposal: To erect building for the drying of logs. Members note this application has already been REFUSED and support the Officers decision.</p> <p>P/FUL/2024/00132 CUTLERS FARMHOUSE, GAUNTS COMMON, BH21 4JP Proposal: Change of use of existing Class B8 Storage for boats and caravans to an alternative Class B8 domestic self-storage. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal provided the access is off Lodge Road.</p> <p>P/FUL/2024/00328 THE LODGE, REDBRIDGE MANOR FARM, BH21 7BH Proposal: Demolition of existing lodge and erection of a replacement lodge with detached garage and associated landscaping. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/HOU/2024/00739 ANCHOR PADDOCK, BATCHELORS LANE, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7DS Proposal: Retention of first floor dormer extension; demolition of existing outbuilding. Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to the proposal which is a disproportionately large 2 storey development, more obtrusive than the original bungalow and not in keeping in this Green Belt location. We also note and support Officers recommendation for refusal of P/HOU/2023/02656 and can see no reason why this application differs. (Members request this application is referred to the Planning Committee if the Officers recommendation is at variance to the above).</p> <p>P/CLE/2024/00737 ANCHOR PADDOCK, BATCHELORS LANE, GAUNTS COMMON, BH21 7DS Proposal: Retention of single storey rear extension. Members have no evidence to submit to demonstrate the claimed use has or has not existed for a period of time.</p>

	<p>P/CLE/2024/00327 WALSTON POULTRY FARM, GAUNTS COMMON, BH21 4JR Proposal: Change of use from agricultural to 8 self-storage (B8 only) units. Members agreed to respond that according to local knowledge from residents, the proposed use has not existed continuously for a period of time and poultry were still in the buildings in 2023.</p> <p>P/CLE/2024/00780 LAND OFF HOLT ROAD, MANNINGTON, BH21 7JY Proposal: Confirmation that the development has lawfully commenced in accordance with the three-year time frame set out in Condition 1 of Approved Planning Permission 3/21/0137 FUL Members have no evidence to submit to demonstrate the claimed use has or has not existed for a period of time.</p> <p>P/CLE/2024/00914 ALMA, HARTS LANE, HOLT, BH21 7AR Proposal: Use of land as residential garden land associated with the property. Members have no evidence to submit to demonstrate the claimed use has or has not existed for a period of time.</p> <p>P/PAED/2024/00244 NIGHTINGALES, PILMOOR BOTTOM, HOLT, BH21 7EA Proposal: Create new first floor accommodation to raising roof by 2.63m and increasing overall building height from 4.85m to 7.4m Members NOTED this prior approval application without comment.</p> <p>P/CLP/2024/00256 THE COPSE, HOLT ROAD, MANNINGTON, BH21 7JY Proposal: Proposed new garage and new hardstanding area off main modern access to house. Members NOTED this proposed use application without comment.</p> <p>Members discussed the construction of a huge iron frame being constructed over an old shed at Bulbarrow, Burts Lane. Members agreed to notify Dorset Council to confirm if permission required for what appears to be a much larger structure.</p>
143	<p>Highways</p> <p><u>Highways Working Group Report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take forward the agreed new speed restrictions with Dorset Council, the next stage would be to make a Traffic Regulation Order. As Holt locations are considered low priority in relation to the whole of Dorset, Dorset Council requires a commitment from Holt Parish Council to make a significant contribution toward the costs. <i>Members agreed in principle, Clerk to respond confirming commitment subject to confirmation of costs.</i> • Members discussed placing 'SLOW DOWN' signs, as part of the Police & Crime Commissioner Pilot Scheme in areas that a Speed Indicator Device does not operate but agreed that this type of temporary signage would become unsightly in our rural location. • Dorset Council Local Transport Plan Survey to set out the long-term goals, strategy and policies for improving transport for everyone over the next 10-15 years. <i>Members agreed the Highway Working Group would make a response for the Parish Council to highlight the problems in Holt.</i> • Cllr Jonathan Cutts invited Cllr Geoff Pike to join the Highways Working Group who kindly agreed. • Members discussed the use of average speed cameras in Hampshire which were supplied by the Police and Crime Commissioner and would be of interest to Holt if available in Dorset and cost efficient. • A Community Speedwatch Session will be held on 13th March. Members agreed to invite the Police & Crime Commissioner to join the session if possible.

- Holtwood Chapel and Hall have enquired about incentives to install electric vehicle charge points. The Chairman will discuss and liaise with Dorset Council as part of their scheme.
- Cllr Peter Finney has kindly fixed the planters to the BT Box at Holtwood and will ask Holtwood Community Farm if they would like to plant them up with Spring flowers.

Highways Report from Cllr Sarah Weaver:

Meeting with Dorset Council Highways Dept

- The 4 Holt Heath 40 mph roundels and they are now back up on the Heath between Whitesheet and the crossroads. - A pair of roundels is still missing from the post above the cattle grid at Lower Row, and one is missing from the 'fence' on the brow of the road towards Mannington.
- The two drains south of the Bussons Corner T- junction, previously cleared and have been working well. - I was able to explain that the water flowing down the East side of Lodge Road could not escape into the ditch alongside farm hedge, and that this ditch was blocked by a (now-disused) gate access adjacent to the yew tree. – Dorset Council agreed to clear the ditch, flush the pipe running under the gate access, and reinstate the grips that run into the ditch. This has been done. - They also agreed to flush out all the drains and curb drains between Pond Head and Bussons Corner plus a totally overgrown drain on the North side of Holt Road. I have returned to look at drainage points and am not convinced that they were cleared.
- I informed them that various road signs between Whitesheet and Broomhill had been rotated. These have now been corrected, and two signs (“Try Your Brakes” and “Ford”) have been renewed.
- They request that future problems be reported separately, as single items, via the Dorset Council website.

144 Cemetery Matters

- The clerk confirmed the neighbour has kindly agreed to put out the rubbish and garden waste bins for collection and has also been very successful at catching moles.

145 Rights of Way Matters

Rights of Way Report from Cllr Sarah Weaver:

Dorset Council Rights of Way Matters:

- Small problems on 2 footpaths have been resolved.
- Still awaiting a reply from Dorset Council to clarify the routes of a couple of footpaths and am disappointed that there has been no progress with provision of a new bridge over the watercourse on FP E45/28 at Whitesheet.
- Will contact Dorset Council regarding what appears to be constant efforts to leave various objects on/across FP45/8 (Burts Lane - Crooked Withies)

National Trust Matters:

There is currently on-work in the area in the area, although the recent storms have created more!

	<p><u>Environment Agency Visit:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The orange/brown 'sludge' in the watercourse alongside BW45/15 to the rear of the large shed at Clayford proved to be iron oxide, common in this area because of our local acid soils. The Officer showed me how to identify an oil slick and sewage pollution. - He has sent me a leaflet detailing the identification and control of Himalayan balsam and a second article which explains (somewhere!) the phenomenon of iron oxide in watercourses. - He said that we can contact him direct any time we have concerns. • He was upset by the amount of fly tipping beside the gravel tracks to the S of Whitesheet (BW E45/15) and beside BW E45/17 past Redbridge House. <p><u>Other Matters:</u></p> <p>I have also had the opportunity to talk with the Landowner about Bussons Corner and the Himalayan Balsam both in the area and on his property. He said the Himalayan Balsam started in Gaunts Common. He controls it on his property where it is accessible but says that it is very difficult to deal with it in the woody/ scrubby areas along the watercourses.</p> <p>There is a pair of telephone wires hanging at less than 5 feet above the ground across a clear area in the angle between BWs E45/43 and 44. Although these do not affect the Rights of Way, I think they present a serious danger to a horse rider, especially in the event of a horse bolting. They have been reported in the past, to no avail, and the pole at The Lawns end of the line has a signed notice on it dated 4.6.23: "Low wires about 6 poles across in the wood".</p> <p>Councillors attended an informative and very interesting site visit on Monday 19th February to Holt Heath and Whitesheet to view the Peatland Restoration Projects being implemented by the National Trust and Forestry England.</p>
146	<p>Parish Hall Matters</p> <p>Cllr Jackie Egan attended the Parish Hall Committee Meeting on Monday 22nd January and the committee agreed to look at alternatives to the unsightly barriers and marking parking bays as disabled to deter casual parking.</p>
147	<p>St James First School & Nursery Consultation</p> <p>Members would like to thank the Trustees for their hard work in running the Nursery for many years and hope it will continue both in spirit and in its current form to provide affordable childcare for the community. <i>Clerk to respond.</i></p>
148	<p>80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings</p> <p>Members discussed they would like to take part in the 80th Anniversary Celebrations. It is believed soldiers camped at Holt Heath in preparation for the D-Day Landings. Members would like to light a lantern at 9:15pm on Friday 6th June 2024 on Holt Village Green coinciding with the lighting of Beacons throughout the UK.</p>

149	<p>Holt Annual Meeting 14th March 2024</p> <p>Members confirmed arrangements for the Holt Annual Meeting and agreed the recipient of the Holt Good Citizen Award. The Clerk will invite the winner to the meeting to accept Certificate and Voucher.</p>												
150	<p>Correspondence – circulated to members in advance of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset’s New Rural Housing Enabling Service – Clerk to respond with an expression of interest to understand more about the service. • Sale of Holt St James Church update; the Diocese is awaiting the Commissioners acceptance of the recommended bid and once approved a public consultation will be able to go ahead and provide a more detailed response on the future of the contents of local importance. It is hoped to have more information for report at the Annual Meeting. • Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Authority Public Consultation on the draft Community Safety Plan 2024-28. <i>Noted, no comments.</i> • DAPTC Councillor Networking Event 7 March 2024. Two delegates are invited to attend. • Nominations for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party 8 May 2024. Members agreed to nominate Celia Moore as last Chair of the Parish Council. 												
151	<p>Financial Matters & Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members reviewed the Internal Audit Procedure and were satisfied with the effectiveness of the system of internal control, no amendments required. • Members approved the following items for payment including the Clerk’s salary: <table border="0" data-bbox="252 1234 1505 1350"> <tr> <td>Clerk</td> <td>Reimbursement of Annual Garden Waste Collection Fee for Cemetery</td> <td>£69.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Source for Business</td> <td>Water Supply to Cemetery July 23 to Jan 24</td> <td>£21.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DAPTC</td> <td>E-Training Module Cllr Sarah Weaver</td> <td>£16.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LIMECOVE LTD</td> <td>Grass Maintenance Village Green and new Cemetery Area 2023 season</td> <td>£1254.00</td> </tr> </table>	Clerk	Reimbursement of Annual Garden Waste Collection Fee for Cemetery	£69.50	Source for Business	Water Supply to Cemetery July 23 to Jan 24	£21.43	DAPTC	E-Training Module Cllr Sarah Weaver	£16.00	LIMECOVE LTD	Grass Maintenance Village Green and new Cemetery Area 2023 season	£1254.00
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152	<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>20th March 2024 at 7pm</u> 												

Meeting closed 21:17

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

Signed: 20th March 2024

Appendix A

Council budget for 2024/25

Dorset Council budget of £377 million for 2024-25 was approved by councillors at the full council meeting on 13th February. This continues our commitment to maintain frontline services, without the need for cuts to balance the budget.

This year's budget setting exercise once again took place against a national background of extreme pressures for councils. These pressures include the high level of inflation which affects the cost of delivering council services, and also the continued growth in need for services that we provide to some of our most vulnerable residents.

Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents.

While Dorset Council is not in the same financial position as many other councils across the UK, council tax will increase next year by just under 3 per cent and the adult social care precept by 2 per cent. The increase is equivalent to £1.82 extra per week for a Band D property. Follow the link below for more detail.

[Council approves a balanced budget which continues to protect frontline services - Dorset Council](#)

Council tax premium

Dorset Councillors have approved proposals for a council tax premium on second homes and an amendment to agree an earlier start date for the existing Long-Term Empty Homes premium, under the new flexibilities for councils provided in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which received Royal Assent in October 2023.

For those properties classified as Long-Term Empty and Unoccupied a 100% premium will, from 1 April 2024, be applied after one year rather than the existing two years.

Local Transport Plan

People from all around Dorset have been busy sharing their views and thoughts on the future of travel and transport across the county, and there is still time to have your say.

Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council are running their survey until 11:59pm on 3rd March 2024, allowing residents, visitors, businesses and organisations to get involved. Many people have also been talking to the councils at roadshow events.

Topics raised so far include public transport, parking, cycle routes, rail services, rural isolation, safety and congestion, and lots of innovative ideas are also being shared.

Residents, businesses, and visitors are being invited to share their views on what they consider to be the big transport issues across the whole of Dorset. This work plays an essential role in helping the councils understand the different transport needs of our diverse communities.

We are encouraging people to fill in our online survey, or they can ask their local library for a paper copy of the questionnaire. More details on this link [Help shape travel and transport across Dorset - Dorset Council](#).

Dorset Council tops the national polls for recycling!

DEFRA have just published the annual recycling figures for 2022/23. We have just found out that we are the number one unitary and disposal authority in the Country for the first time ever!

Those ahead of us are collection only councils (i.e. the figures are on the kerbside service only and do not include Household Recycling Centres).

This is testament to the commitment of our residents; our waste strategy teams and our frontline waste operatives. This is a fantastic achievement for Dorset and one that we are hugely proud of.

Former East Dorset District Council office site and buildings in Wimborne

Dorset Council has instructed its agents to begin marketing the vacant buildings and site of the old East Dorset District Council (EDDC) offices in Furzehill, Wimborne.

Following Local Government Reorganisation in 2019, the unitary authorities of Dorset Council and BCP Council were created to replace the county's former district and borough councils. As Furzehill was declared surplus to requirements by EDDC, Dorset Council inherited the empty office buildings.

Following Cabinet's approval of the Council's capital programme in March 2023, Furzehill was identified as a priority to sell to generate capital receipts. Capital receipts are money that councils can spend on funding other capital expenditure – such as land, buildings, and equipment - or for paying off debt. They generally cannot be used to fund services.

The Furzehill site consists of 2.73 hectares (6.76 acres) which was allocated for residential development and other alternative uses in the Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan back in 2014.

Reusable nappy offer

Dorset Council offers parents a free reusable nappy starter pack or £30 off reusable nappies (minimum spend £45).

Apply before 31st March 2024 and you could also win one of two reusable nappy sets worth £80 each in our prize draw! So if you know anyone in the Dorset Council area who would be eligible to apply, please let them know. More information and how to apply can be found here [Reusable nappies - Dorset Council](#)

Cllr Robin Cook
2024

21st February