

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL – MINUTES OF BUDGET/PRECEPT MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2022 AT 7.00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Councillors – Mr. J. Cubitt, Mrs G. Jones, Mr. P. Hinchliffe, Mr. P. Gaade, Mr. S. Lewis, Mr. J. Pridding, Mr. J. Hughes, Ms. A. Shone, Mr. D. Powell, Councillor Morris.

CHAIR: Mr. J. Cubitt, the Chairperson took the Chair and welcomed everyone and wished all a Happy New Year for 2022. A silence was held in respect of the following – the late Mrs Patricia Tilston, Mrs Anne Jones, Carol Pratt and Norma Davies.

APOLOGIES: Mr. D. Munnerley.

MINUTES: Ms. Shone proposed, the minutes of the last meeting, be signed and approved as a true record. Mr. Lewis seconded, all agreed.

ITEM 1 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. COMMUNITY AGENT: The Community Agent, Lindsay Cross, who was covering Holt, has left the post. Holt is being covered and the Clerk is to attend a meeting of the Rainbow Foundation Consortium on the 27th January, 2022 and will report back to members.

2. WILDLIFE TRUST: COPSE: Henry from N.W. Wildlife Trust had contacted the Clerk to ask if it was possible to send a letter of support for their application for funding for ‘Living Landscape Project’. This was sent after the agreement from members. The Copse hedge had been cut by Wildlife team, as agreed, but by tractor, not hand cut. Clerk is to ask the reason for this? Henry suggested that the hedge could do with being laid in the traditional manner, in a future year, to prevent it becoming gaps, especially at the base. This could possibly become a Community based event. This was noted and to be discussed at another meeting.

3. HOLT COMMUNITY GARDENERS: The Holt Community Gardeners are busy still busy and have successfully secured a grant from postcode community trust. A tree was damaged, in the storm, where the project will take place and it was suggested that a stump be left to have a wood carving created. This tree was felled urgently for safety at a cost of £600. The members agreed to stump being left but are unable to help with funding. The Clerk is to request that if the Gardeners do not proceed with the carving idea, that they remove the tree stump. Agreed. Another tree by the toilets is dangerous and Mr. Gaade is waiting to hear if John Brewin thinks this needs to be completely felled or can be shaped and preserved. Three quotes had been sought by Mr. Gaade and Mr. Gaade proposed the one from J. Hughes for £600 be accepted, Mr. Cubitt seconded. All agreed. Mr. Gaade was thanked.

4. POLICE MATTERS: Councillor Morris is to meet with PCSO on 19th January, 2022 to carry out a speed check on Frog Lane. The PCSO reported that thankfully everything has been quiet over the festive season. Parking is still an issue on the pavement by the pull on Bridge Street, below Dee Villas. The PCSO is to be asked if a visit to the owners could be made.

5. HEDGE ALONG WREXHAM ROAD: A reply had been received from the overall manager at Bellis Brothers who had been absent from the business. The reply was noted.

6. ALLOTMENT: Work is to be carried out on the trees at the allotments, in the sum of £600. This was agreed. Mr. J. Hughes is to carry out the work.

7. BIER HOUSE: Mr. Gaade will contact Mr. Jones again regarding the cement that

needs replacing and also ask suggestions for some neater edging for the 'Children's Graves section of the Cemetery. The wood edging is not successful or attractive. All agreed.

8. ELECTRIC POWER POINT: Clerk will contact WCBC again to ask when the installation will be carried out?

9. DEE PARK PLAY AREA – EXTRA LIGHTING: The quote received from Mega was exceptionally high and this had been circulated to members before the meeting. Councillor Morris suggested Solar lights with a small wind turbine on the top. He will send information to the Clerk who will look into this option. A budget of £2500 is available.

10. DEE PARK & CHURCH GREEN PLAY AREAS: No reply has been received from the Holt Town Trust, regarding funding towards Rubber matting, on Church Green, to date, but the members were informed that a meeting had taken place. The Clerk is to contact the Holt T.T. secretary to ask for the outcome of their their meeting? Sincere thanks are expressed to Mr. Dennis Jones who has placed a Memorial seat on Dee Park but who also arranged for the seat which was provided by the Holt CC. He was helped with the installation of both seats by Mr. S. Gillard from Poplars Forge, in Hawarden. Neither gentlemen would accept payment. The seats are a great asset to the Play area and Mrs Jones reported they are already being well used and enjoyed by parents and children! The installation is exceptional. Thanks have been sent by the Clerk on behalf of Holt CC. Councillor Morris informed the committee of a Play development grant available from WCBC and he will send the information to the Clerk for her to apply for additional play equipment. The amount of the grant (if successful) is £2000 and the members agreed £2000 match funding.

11. A534 – JUNCTION WITH ENTRANCE TO HOLT VILLAGE: The reply from Highways asking for the number of incidents at this junction stated accidents were categorised depending on severity and there have only been two recorded collisions at this junction, in the last ten years, both were categorised as slight. Some minor accidents may not be reported! The request for improvement of the bollard here, which is very old and damaged, is to be passed to Area Supervisor.

12: S.106 WREXHAM ROAD DEVELOPMENT - MUGA – Mr. S. Andrews from Castle Green Homes UK had been in contact and before Christmas and is to get back in touch. Clerk has not heard anything to date so was instructed to contact him with concerns regarding the situation here as Clerk had visited the site and was very concerned at lack of progress and appearance of site. Mr. Lewis proposed this, Mrs Jones seconded. Agreed.

ITEM 2 – CORRESPONDENCE:

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2 The Gardens, Holt – construction of a new access off a classified highway. No objections. Bella Vista, Smithfield Green, Holt – work to trees (in Holt Conservation area). No objections. 1 Ashley Court, Holt – erection of garage and domestic storage room with new access gates and posts. No objections. Holt Hill, Green Street, Holt – 1. demolition of existing parapets, roof, gables, chimneys and internal first floor walls and floor with external walls to corbel course, reconfiguration of internal first floor layout and new floor construction, with internal and external alterations and two storey rear extension (in retrospect). No objections. 2. Listed building consent of the same.

14. VACANCY FOR POSITION OF CLERK/RFO – Mr. Hinchliffe was thanked for his work on the forms (job description etc) and a sub- committee has been formed to draw up necessary descriptions etc in order for this to be advertised as quickly as possible.

15. ACADEMY GARAGE – FENCE – planning are chasing this up and Councillor Morris has pointed out that the owners may be in breach of planning. Noted.

16. LOCAL GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS (WALES) ACT 2021 – Eligible Community Councils (general power of competence) (qualifications of Clerks) (Wales) Notification from Welsh government regarding CILCA training – noted.

17. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE: Armed Forces Day – noted. To be advertised. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – this was discussed but it was decided that no events would be planned by the Holt CC as there will be a new Community Council in May. It was agreed some funding would be available should groups existing in the village decide to get together to arrange any celebration. Agreed. Holt C.P. school – letter regarding delay in use of the Hall and meeting rooms because of Covid situation. Noted.

18. PLAY AREAS – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – WCBC – Mrs Jones proposed this be accepted for 2022/23. Mr. Hinchliffe seconded. All in agreement.

19. EXTERNALLY AUDITED ANNUAL RETURN 2020 TO 31ST MARCH, 2021.

This was formally received from Wales Audit, by the Holt Community Council.

In their opinion there were no matters giving cause of concern in any Financial aspects of the Holt CC. Recommendations pointed out that under the Employment Act 1996 the community council had not provided the Clerk with a contract. This issue will be addressed when a new Clerk is appointed! The Annual Return and necessary for are to be displayed on the Website and notice board for the required time. Mr. Cubitt proposed the above report be received and necessary actions taken, Mr. Hinchliffe sec

ITEM 3 – AGENDA:

20. BUDGET APPROVAL/PRECEPT SETTING 2022/23 -November & December accounts were discussed and accepted. Expenditure on the Bowling Green for next March at £250 plus unexpected tree surgery costs following recent storms were also approved. The draft budget for 22/23 with narrative, prepared by the Clerk/RFO and Mr. Hinchliffe, was circulated prior to the meeting. Discussions and input from Councillors led to minor changes which will be consolidated into the Final version. It was noted that over recent years the level of reserves have decreased as capital projects re: cemetery paths, street lighting, and play areas etc have been met. With the above changes to the budget for 22/23 acceptance was proposed by Mr. Cubitt and seconded by Ms. Shone. The precept for 22/23 was reviewed and agreed at £32,985 – a 3.8% increase. Proposed by Mr Hinchliffe and seconded by Mrs Jones. All in agreement.

21. REVIEW OF BURIAL CHARGES – HOLT CEMETERY: The last review was carried a few years ago and charges are very low compared to other Cemeteries. Figures were looked at and increases implemented. The Clerk is to send these to members and they are to be adopted from 1st April, 2022. Mr. Gaade proposed, Mr. Powell seconded. All in agreement.

ITEM 4 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

22. ADOPTION DATA POLICIES – Cyber Security, CCTV, revised Privacy, SAR Complaints to ICO, Council recording/photographing of meetings. Clerk had met with Mr. J. Henry Data auditor via Zoom to discuss the Autumn changes requirements) Mr. Cubitt proposed these be adopted, Mr. P. Gaade seconded. All in agreement.

23. Village Website : Concern expressed because updating of council’s minutes behind. The minutes are also in a form that is hard to access Clerk to contact.

24. GENERAL MATTERS: Clerk to contact Hafren Dyfrydwy to express concern over number of leaks and traffic lights to carry out repairs. A car has been parked for some time in Castle Gate. This is to be investigated to establish the reason.

ACCOUNTS – Mr. Hinchliffe proposed, Mr Lewis sec. these accounts be paid when they arose (at the November meeting as no December meeting!). Agreed.

2815 – AVOW	Wage, Salary & charge.	£715.81
2816 – JDH	Data Audit 2021/22	£180.00
2817 – D. Jones	Payment for Holt CC seat – Dee Park.	£304.99
2818 – S. Coupland	Cutting & Autumn maintenance	£165.00
2819 – Offa CC	S137 grant – RWF project	£250.00

The next meeting of the Holt Community Council, will be held on Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022 at 7p.m. at the Kenyon Hall.

A Zoom meeting will take place if the meeting at the Kenyon Hall not possible because of Covid situation!

