

Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council
9th April 2025 at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL

343	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts (Chair) Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Peter Finney Cllr Wrettham Ladbrooke-Chartres Cllr Geoff Pike Cllr Guy Reynolds (Vice-Chair) Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr Sarah Weaver Cllr Jane White</p> <p>Cllr Will Chakawhata (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward) Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) Guest, Heather Radice from The Dorset Heaths Partnership</p> <p>11 members of public present</p> <p>No apologies received.</p>
344	<p>Declaration of Interests & Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>None received.</p>
345	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 12th February 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>12th February 2025</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chair.</p>
346	<p>Dorset Heaths Partnership – Firewise Project</p> <p>Heather Radice, the Campaigns Officer for the Dorset Heaths Partnership introduced the Firewise Project. The Dorset Heaths Partnership is 10 organisations who protect and enhance Dorset Heathlands and who work closely with the Police and Fire Service. Firewise is a nationwide project designed to empower local residents to prepare themselves and their homes in the event of wildfire. Heathlands are prone to getting set on fire so the communities around them are the target areas to support and getting the Firewise advice directly to the most at-risk people is the aim by working with local groups and organisations already actively working to support their community.</p> <p>Heather invited the Clerk to the Parish Council to become a key contact and Cllr Guy Reynolds offered as a member of the Commoners Group for Holt.</p> <p>Heather provided leaflets to members and those present. More information can be found at Firewise Project online and on social media.</p>

347	<p>Dorset Councillors Report – Cllr Will Chakawhata</p> <p>Cllr Will Chakawhata reported Dr Catherine Howe has been unanimously recommended as Dorset Council's new Chief Executive. This appointment is subject to final approval by Full Council on 10th April. Cllr Chakawhata also mentioned residents continued concerns with speeding at Holtwood and unused Speed Indicator (SID) poles (due to be discussed under highways this evening).</p> <p>Also, action taken regarding a complaint from a resident about fly-tipping of garden waste on the highway verge in Lodge Road. A resident has also raised a query regarding access to the ponds on common land at Holtwood; it was confirmed the ponds are accessible from the woodland side whilst the field side has been in use for some 20 years for horses.</p>
348	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>Two residents asked the Parish Council to consider deploying a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Lodge Road as there is an existing post for this purpose. It is a straight section of road and vehicles regularly exceed 30mph limit.</p> <p>Applicant attended to provide information and answer any questions on Planning Application P/HOU/2025/00997 HEATHER LEA at Lower Rowe for a replacement garage.</p> <p>Five residents attended to express their objection to Planning Application P/FUL/2025/00596 AGRICULTURAL LAND AT FURZEHILL to install a new agricultural access. It was noted that a site notice has not yet been put up and documents from the previous invalidated application are unfortunately no longer available to refer to on the planning portal. Having lived in the location for 40 years, residents advised the field has an existing access from the safer location on Petersham Lane which has always been used by the farm vehicles. There is no good evidence in the planning statement for the proposed access onto Holt Lane and is not a safe proposal.</p> <p>A resident attended to provide information to members on their communications with the Diocese in respect of the future of Holt St James Church and their concerns with it no longer being in use. Access is the major problem for the site and restrictions due to the graveyard and listed status.</p>
349	<p>Matters Arising from the Annual Meeting held 13th March 2025</p> <p>The meeting was well attended by residents and the Chair thanked Cllr Will Chakawhata for attending and Cllr Janey White for the excellent catering. The presentation on the Wimborne Minster Chained Library was very interesting and overall it was a very enjoyable evening.</p> <p>The following items were raised for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor condition of road surface at Furzehill, particularly a dip which drivers are avoiding, close to the junction with B3078: Reported to Dorset Council Highways by Cllr Will Chakawhata. It is noted today that the road has been marked. • Use of Speed Indicator Device in Lodge Road 30mph: to be discussed under Highways.
350	<p>Planning Applications & Enforcement Matters</p> <p>P/HOU/2025/00997 HEATHER LEA, LOWER ROWE, BH21 7DZ Proposal: Demolish existing garage and erect new garage.</p> <p>It was resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p>

P/FUL/2025/01251 LAND TO EAST OF EMMERS FARM, HOLT ROAD, MANNINGTON, BH21 7JY Proposal: Block up existing vehicular access and create new vehicular access onto Holt Road. Woodland restoration and enhancement. Grassland enhancement.

Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to the proposal. There is a lack of clarity in the application in respect of access to both Emmers Farm and the BESS site. Notwithstanding this, members object to the location of the new access which has almost zero visibility, compared to the existing access, and is onto a 60mph, busy road through the parish of Holt. We therefore agree with the comments made by the highways officer and request further clarification.

P/VOC/2025/01264 WHINRIDGE, HOLT ROAD, MANNINGTON, BH21 7JZ Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings; re-development with a detached house and separate garage/outbuilding; installation of replacement septic tank (with variation of condition 2 of PA P/FUL/2021/05632 to retain the existing ground level of the site and the replacement dwelling be constructed from the same level as the existing property).

It was resolved unanimously to make NO COMMENT on the proposal.

P/HOU/2025/01710 RAINBOWS END, BAKERS LANE, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7DR Proposal: Proposed replacement porch to front elevation. Loft conversion above annexe (former garage) providing bedroom and en-suite. Insert 2no. rooflights to front elevation and a dormer window to rear elevation. Modify annexe ground floor windows and sliding patio door.

It was resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.

P/FUL/2025/00596 AGRICULTURAL LAND AT FURZEHILL Proposal: Install a new agricultural access.

Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to the proposal and request that Dorset Council Highways make a site visit to the amended location to assess the sightlines and suitability of this access for large agricultural vehicles onto a busy road. This route is regularly monitored by the Parish Council for speed and volume of traffic because it is much used by cyclists and there is a history of road traffic accidents in the area between Bothenwood and Petersham Lane.

Members also object to the loss of the established hedgerow and woodland.

Request this application is referred to the Planning committee if at variance to the Officers recommendation.

P/FUL/2025/01167 HOLT UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB, BH21 4JH Proposal: Installation of 8 floodlights.

Members made NO COMMENT on this proposal.

P/CLP/2025/01993 THE TUSCANS, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7DX Proposal: Swimming pool, gym, sauna, changing room incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house.

Members NOTED this proposal use application.

Members NOTED an Enforcement Notice has been served on Land at Bankside, Holtwood BH21 7DX for a breach of planning control for the erection of an outbuilding.

Members NOTED an Appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the refusal by Dorset Council at The Lodge, Redbridge Manor, Holt, BH21 7BH for the demolition of existing lodge and erection of a replacement lodge with detached garage and associated landscaping.

	<p>Members NOTED a Tree Preservation Order has been placed on an Oak Tree on land at Rosemond, Holt, BH21 7DL.</p> <p>Members NOTED a Tree Preservation Order has been placed on an Oak Tree on land to rear of School House/access to Copse Corner, Burts Lane, Mannington.</p>
<p>351</p>	<p>Highways</p> <p><u>Highway Working Group Report:</u></p> <p>The group recommended to members to incorporate the existing SID poles at Grange (approved location), Holt Lane (near Gods Blessing Lane junction) and Lodge Road into the SID programme. The Clerk will discuss with Dorset Council if it is necessary to complete speed surveys to show the Holt Lane and Lodge Road locations meet criteria. Should these be introduced to the Holt SID programme there would also be a cost to install solar panels and for deployment. <i>Clerk to include on next months agenda.</i> The Community Speed Watch group will also organise a session in Lodge Road.</p> <p><u>Other Highway matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members agreed to accept the 5% increase to Dorset Council’s SID Deployment Service from 1st April. • Whitesheet Cattle Grid very noising disturbing local residents, Cllr Will Chakawhata and the Clerk will follow up with appropriate team at Dorset Council for an update on repairs. • Proposal for a 20mph in Wimborne, incorporating Burts Hill will now be considered by the Cabinet Member for a final decision. Whilst there was a good level of support there was some resistance and a strong objection from Colehill PC to include 20mph in their administrative area. • The Parish Council is consulted on proposed roadworks in the parish involving temporary road closures. Once approved by Dorset Council, the Clerk will publish the public notice on HOLT Together. • Community Speedwatch Session scheduled 08:30, 10th April on Holt Heath. • Dorset Council has marked for repair the problem drain at ‘Wightwick’ Holtwood • The problem of large lorries turning on the corner of Holt Green will be discussed under highways next month.
<p>352</p>	<p>Holt Cemetery Matters</p> <p>Members completed the annual review of Burial Fees. It was resolved unanimously not to increase the fees this year. <i>Review April 2026.</i></p> <p>Members considered two quotations to address the problem of moles and resolved unanimously to accept the quotation from Mulliners Ltd.</p>

<p>353</p>	<p>Rights of Way Matters</p> <p>Cllr Sarah Weaver provided a round-up on Rights of Way Matters advising a number of new bridges have been installed on various paths by Dorset Council including E45/64 at Holtwood. The BT lines have been repaired on the bridleway behind Glen Farm and the National Trust are checking boundary fencing/gates in advance of the cattle arriving for the summer. A fallen tree has also been cleared on bridleway in Holt Forest.</p> <p>Members considered the quotation from Limecove Ltd for grass and hedge cutting for 2025 season at Holt Village Green and the Cemetery and it was resolved unanimously to accept.</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping updated members on the situation regarding his communications with Dorset Council in respect of the footpath at the former East Dorset District Council Offices.</p> <p>Members considered two quotations to build a new Millenium Sign on the Village Green and it was resolved unanimously to accept quotation from Croombs Welding.</p>
<p>354</p>	<p>Holt Parish Hall</p> <p>Members were provided with the Annual Maintenance Report for the Hall in advance of the meeting this evening. <i>Noted, no comments.</i></p> <p>Members discussed the forthcoming celebrations for both the Village Hall and Parish Hall on 28th June and agreed to share with parishioners the 2002 Portrait of Holt Film.</p>
<p>355</p>	<p>Holt St James' Church</p> <p>A resident is concerned with safeguarding the future of the church for the village and has suggested the Parish Community might take over ownership assuming responsibility for its maintenance and other associated costs. Members agreed to respond with thanks for the interesting idea and to advise there is a process for the Diocese to follow and submit to the Closed Churches Commissioners. The resident may wish to contact the Diocese direct to discuss the proposal for the Commissioners to consider.</p> <p>The Clerk has received confirmation that the contents of the church are still there, apart from the pulpit which has returned to Wimborne Minster.</p>
<p>356</p>	<p>VE Day Celebration 8th May 2025</p> <p>The Vice-Chair will lead the event to Light the Lamp on Holt Village Green at 9:30pm on 8th May (gathering at 9:15pm). <i>Clerk to invite residents via HOLT Together, Village Voices and website.</i></p>
<p>357</p>	<p>Filming & Recording Policy/Register of Data Processing</p> <p>Members completed the annual review of both documents; the Clerk updated the email address otherwise no amendments.</p>

358	<p>Correspondence – circulated to members in advance of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resident contacted the Clerk regarding fly-tipping in Lodge Road. The Clerk advised this should be reported to Dorset Council and Cllr Will Chakawhata has kindly followed this up. • Cllr Janet Wallace circulated a report to members on the recent DAPTC Eastern Area Meeting for their information. 								
359	<p>Financial Matters & Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members agreed the appointment of the Internal Auditor for financial accounts to 31 March 2025. • Members reviewed and approved the Financial Risk Assessment for the forthcoming year. • Members resolved unanimously to donate £250.00 toward the Wimborne Minster Chained Library following the excellent talk at the Annual Meeting on 13th March. • The Clerk provided members with current bank account balances. • Members approved the following items for payment and the Clerk’s salary: <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">ONLINE</td> <td style="width: 45%;">Holt Village Hall</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Hire of Hall for Annual Meeting 2026</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE</td> <td>Limecove Ltd</td> <td>Clean & Edge footpath at Holt Cemetery</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£384.00</td> </tr> </table>	ONLINE	Holt Village Hall	Hire of Hall for Annual Meeting 2026	£40.00	ONLINE	Limecove Ltd	Clean & Edge footpath at Holt Cemetery	£384.00
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<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the AGM in Holt Parish Hall, <u>7th May 2025 at 7pm</u></p>									

Meeting closed 21:22

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

Signed: **7th May 2025**