

Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council
17th September 2025 at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL

418	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Sue Barnes Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Geoff Pike Cllr Guy Reynolds (Chairman) Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr Sarah Weaver Cllr Jane White</p> <p>Cllr Will Chakawhata (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward) Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)</p> <p>7 members of public present</p> <p>Apologies received:</p> <p>Cllr Peter Finney</p>
419	<p>Declaration of Interests & Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>None received.</p>
420	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 20th August 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>20th August 2025</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping was unable to attend this meeting but wished to thank the Chairman for the statement regarding the Holt Heath Fire and suggested making our MP Vikki Slade aware of the need to change the law in respect of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and fire prevention measures. <i>The Chairman responded that our MP is already aware this Act needs reviewing for present day.</i></p>
421	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>The Chairman of the Commoners Association asked if there is any progress with organising the special meeting with the Fire Service and other organisations to discuss the Holt Heath Fire. <i>The Chairman advised we are awaiting the Fire Service report which is expected to be made public by the end of November.</i></p> <p>A resident of Smugglers Lane has suggested the proposed location of the Speed Indicator Device could be better placed to be more effective. <i>The Chairman advised that Dorset Council use their knowledge of driver behaviour and specific criteria to identify the most appropriate location for a SID to be most effective.</i></p>

	<p>The resident is also concerned with the number of HGV's using this route even though there is a 7.5t weight limit in force (but understands that school buses are exempt) and asked if there is an official way of dissuading HGV's from using Smugglers Lane. <i>Cllr Will Chakawhata offered to make inquiries with officers at Dorset Council.</i></p> <p>A neighbour attended to provide historical information to members on the Planning Application for Clayford Farm on the agenda this evening.</p>
422	<p>Planning & Tree Applications/Planning Enforcement Matters</p> <p>Please see Appendix A.</p>
423	<p>Highway Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Jonathan Cutts provided an update regarding the Highways Working Group plan to address the on-going highway concerns across the parish as a whole, with Dorset Council. • Structural Maintenance Review of road at Furzehill – Dorset Council advises several sections in the Holt and Furzehill area have been identified for inclusion in the proposed resurfacing programmes for either Q4 2025-26 or Q1 2026-27, subject to approval. <i>Dorset Council have offered to attend a site meeting with the Parish Council and Cllr Will Chakawhata to identify priorities.</i> • Members discussed the SID deployment schedule with the introduction of two new sites at Lodge Road (approved) and Smugglers Lane (subject to criteria). <i>It was agreed to consider purchasing an additional SID unit next meeting so that deployment remained on a 6 week rotation, there will otherwise be an increase in the deployment charge by Dorset Council to operate on a 4 week rotation if utilising the 3 existing units.</i> • Members noted that Vikki Slade MP has asked Dorset Council to assess the road at Gaunts Common at St James' School for traffic calming measures and to inspect the road surface through to Horton due to poor surfacing and subsidence. • Cllr Will Chakawhata will inquire with Dorset Council about obtaining historical and current data from the road sensor on the B3078 at Dogdean to evaluate changes in traffic volumes. • Members have noted the frequency of Wilkes Lorries using Holt roads. • Cllr Will Chakawhata has reported fly-tipping at Petersham Lane and Cranborne Road, Dorset Council normally remove promptly. • Dorset Council notification of proposed temporary closure of roads at Grange from 13th – 24th October 2025 to allow Wessex Water to carry out sewer lining works. (GC/SB/GR) • Dorset Council notification of proposed temporary closure of Holt Road between Three-Legged Cross and the Mannington Sub station to allow Scottish and Southern Power to carry out trial holes for electric cable works between 10th and 13th November with the closure in place 24/7.
424	<p>Rights of Way Matters</p> <p>Holt Heath Actions from last meeting update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To organise a meeting with the Fire Service, the National Trust and other organisations to discuss the way forward once they have their reports: <i>Awaiting the Fire Service Report who have indicated it will be published by the end of November.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a Parish Council WhatsApp Group to share information: <i>Action complete, currently 56 members.</i> To report overhanging branches at Paradise: <i>Draft letter to adjacent landowner prepared for approval by Chairman.</i> To establish locations of Fire Hydrants across the Parish: <i>DWF&R keep a hydrant database.</i> Ask Dorset Council to clear roadside ditches before winter rain as residents concerned with storm run-off and to ensure deep enough to prevent vehicles accessing the open heathland [1294299] This however is not Dorset Council's responsibility therefore the Clerk has asked the National Trust to action on 27/08/25, awaiting response. Dorset Council have cleared drainage grips. The Chairman is writing letters of thanks to all attending Fire Crews. <p>Furzehill Wood: Cllr Geoff Chopping reported there has been no progress with Dorset Council for the dedicated rights of way around the former council office site at Furzehill. <i>Members agreed the Clerk will write to Dorset Council for an update.</i></p>
425	<p>Village Green & Woodland at Queens Copse Lane Inspection Reports</p> <p>Members completed the annual inspection of Holt Village Green and noted for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dead Ash tree for removal. Lime needs pruning around base. Hawthorne overgrown with brambles. <i>Clerk to arrange contractor to attend to above.</i> Deer guards required for the 2 ornamental Cherry Trees. (Chairman to action) <p>Inspection of Woodland at Queens Copse Lane to be scheduled. (JC/GR/JW)</p>
425	<p>Cemetery Matters</p> <p>None to report.</p>
426	<p>Parish Hall Matters</p> <p>Cllr Jackie Egan provided members with a general update and reported the National Trust have approved the proposed improvements to the building and outside area. There may be a requirement to update the current Trust Document in accordance with the Charity Commission which will be investigated; the management committee are working closely with Holt Village Hall as both halls are lacking in committee members. A combined celebration to celebrate the special anniversaries of the Halls is now scheduled for 2-5pm on October 5th when both the 1978 and 2002 'Portrait of Holt' films will be shown in the Parish Hall.</p>

427	<p>Dorset Local Plan Options Consultation</p> <p>Members approved the draft response prepared by the working group (GC/SB/JW), subject to minor correction, for submission by the deadline of October 13th. Cllr Will Chakawhata encouraged members and residents to respond individually. <i>The Clerk will publish the finalised response online and circulate on HOLT Together.</i></p>									
428	<p>DAPTC Smaller Parish Council Survey</p> <p>Members have been invited to view the ‘A FRESH START’ Report which presents the policy-related results of an informal research project exploring the status and prospects of <u>towns and larger parishes</u> in Dorset since the 2019 reorganisation of local government. Its focus is the potential for towns and parishes to play an expanded role, and the urgent need for a more effective working relationship between them and Dorset Council.</p> <p>The research is being extended by inviting smaller Town and Parish Councils to complete a survey. <i>Members agreed the Clerk and Cllr Janet Wallace would complete the survey for approval next meeting.</i></p> <p>Members noted the DAPTC ‘Statement of Reasonable Expectations’ which sets out the reasonable expectations for collaboration between Parish and Town Councils and Dorset Council.</p>									
429	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invitation by East Dorset Neighbourhood Policing Team to attend bi-monthly briefing Tuesday 16th September 2025 held by Inspector Gill and offer for Sergeant Payne to attend a Parish Council Meeting on request.• Notification by Dorset Council for the formal designation of the Vale of Allen Neighbourhood Area. <i>Noted.</i>• Dorset Climate Action Network comments on the Dorset Council Local Plan Options Consultation. <i>Noted</i>									
430	<p>Financial Matters & Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Clerk provided members with up-to-date bank account balances.• Members approved the following items for payment and the Clerk’s salary: <table><tr><td>ONLINE VISION ICT</td><td>Amended invoice 20542 o/s balance</td><td>£9.00</td></tr><tr><td>ONLINE VISION ICT</td><td>Website hosting and email Nov 25 to October 26</td><td>£252.90</td></tr><tr><td>ONLINE DORSET COUNCIL</td><td>Speed Survey Lodge Road for SID</td><td>£354.00</td></tr></table>	ONLINE VISION ICT	Amended invoice 20542 o/s balance	£9.00	ONLINE VISION ICT	Website hosting and email Nov 25 to October 26	£252.90	ONLINE DORSET COUNCIL	Speed Survey Lodge Road for SID	£354.00
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	<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in Holt Parish Hall, <u>15th October 2025 at 7pm</u></p>									

Meeting closed 20:39

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

Signed: 15th October 2025

Appendix A

Application Number	Location	Description	Parish Council Comment
P/FUL/2025/05255	CLAYFORD FARM Uddens Drive BH21 7BJ	Retain demolition of workshop and creation of vehicle parking.	<p>Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to the proposal.</p> <p>The proposed development would significantly alter the current street scene in this rural location, resulting in an adverse visual impact and in our view is visually unacceptable.</p> <p>We question the necessity for an additional access point off the existing footpath, particularly as it appears to cross land that is not in the applicant's ownership. The current access has served its purpose adequately for a number of years without issue.</p> <p>We are also concerned about the proposed Change of Use from the original Certificate of Lawfulness for the caravan, as alluded to within the application documentation.</p> <p><i>Members will request this application is referred to the Planning Committee if the Officer's recommendation is at variance to the above.</i></p>

Other items for report:

P/FUL/2025/00596	Agricultural Land at Furzehill	Appeal Notification against the refusal by Dorset Council to install a new agricultural access.
TPO/2025/0039	Land to the east of Emmers Farm Holt Road Mannington BH21 7JY	Confirmation of Tree Preservation Order.