

Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council
15th October 2025 at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL

431	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Sue Barnes Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Peter Finney Cllr Geoff Pike Cllr Guy Reynolds (Chairman) Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr Sarah Weaver</p> <p>Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)</p> <p>7 members of public present</p> <p>Apologies received:</p> <p>Cllr Jonathan Cutts Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Jane White Cllr Will Chakawhata (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward)</p> <p><i>Cllr Peter Finney took the opportunity to thank Cllr Geoff Chopping and Cllr Sue Barnes for preparing the well thought out and excellent response to the Dorset Council Local Plan Site Options Consultation.</i></p>
432	<p>Declaration of Interests & Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>None received.</p>
433	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 17th September 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>17th September 2025</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
434	<p>Dorset Councillors Report</p> <p>No report this month.</p>
435	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>The Chair of the Holt Commoners Association provided an update for members regarding the forthcoming Holt Commoners Meeting scheduled for 20th November, as well as the ongoing discussions surrounding the Holt Heath Fire.</p> <p>Vikki Slade MP has expressed her interest in attending the Commoners Meeting. Her intention is to gain a deeper understanding of the Holt Commoners Association and to participate in discussions concerning the Heath Fire, particularly with the National Trust.</p>

	<p><i>The Parish Council Chairman responded that it was previously agreed that the Parish Council would organise a public meeting. This meeting would include invitations to Vikki Slade MP and representatives from other relevant organisations. The objective is to ensure a comprehensive discussion on the future management of the Heath, following the fire.</i></p> <p><i>A key consideration for the timing and content of the public meeting is the publication of the Fire Service Report. It is anticipated that this report will be available by the end of November. The findings will be crucial in informing subsequent discussions and decisions regarding the management of the Heath. The Clerk will contact the Fire Service to seek an update on when the report will be published and therefore when a meeting can be scheduled.</i></p> <p>A Furzehill resident raised a question regarding Dorset Council's decision to resurface Colehill Lane, despite Furzehill Road reportedly being in a poorer condition and would like clarification on the status of planned works for Furzehill Road as recorded in the minutes of last month's parish council meeting. The Resident also reported the dangerous condition of the road through Gaunts Common, which has been raised formally with Dorset Council by Vikki Slade MP. <i>The Clerk will contact Cllr Will Chakawhata regarding a site visit with Dorset Council. See Appendix A for information from Dorset Council.</i></p>
436	<p>Planning & Tree Applications/Planning Enforcement Matters</p> <p>See Appendix B.</p>
437	<p>Highway Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council has confirmed, following the successful public consultation, the three agreed new speed limits in the parish are scheduled for installation in January 2026. These will be 30mph at Horseshoe Crossroads connecting to the existing 30mph at Gaunts Common, Hinton Martell, Chalbury Common and through Holtwood to Queens Copse Lane. 40mph Holt Road at Bowers connecting the existing 30mph from Bussons Corner up to the 40mph at Row Hill. 40mph Holt Lane connecting the existing 30mph from Pig Oak to the existing 40mph at Bothenwood. See map at www.holt-dorset-pc.gov.uk Members resolved unanimously to purchase an additional Speed Indicator Device for new site at Lodge Road @ £2860.00 + VAT plus mounting kits and solar panels which will facilitate a 6-weekly rota on deployment by Dorset Council. Members considered a quotation of £500.00 to add an additional Plaswood finger blade to the Higher Row Fingerpost or alternatively completely refurbish the post in the traditional style with oak/cast lettering @ approximately £1800.00 which would attract a grant of £200.00 from the CPRE. <i>It was resolved unanimously to restore to the traditional style as this is in-keeping with other signs in the parish.</i> Following request to clear roadside ditches on Holt Heath, the National Trust has confirmed they are gathering all the locations where the ditches were crossed and changed as part of the Fire Service access points to the Heath fire and will create a list to action. Dorset Council notification of 24-hour road closure Holt Lane from 29th – 31st October 2025 for essential highway maintenance works. Cllr Will Chakawhata has obtained traffic data from the B3078 Cranborne Road by Dogdean as discussed last meeting. The data showed there has been a big increase since 1983 unsurprisingly, otherwise not much has changed in 10/20 years.

438	<p>Rights of Way Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members agreed the Clerk will report to Dorset Council, the overhanging branches on Paradise Lane (BW E45/72) which impede access for horse-riders and emergency vehicles. MNT70445 Furzehill Wood footpath: Having asked for an update, Dorset Council advised they need a resolution to the outstanding DMMO application on the site. <i>Members agreed this is for resolution by Dorset Council and have not further comment.</i> Cllr Sarah Weaver reported she has walked the whole of the north side of Holt Heath and there are no signs of wildlife following the fire. There is evidence of motorcycles bicycles possibly crossing the Heath. Cllr Sarah Weaver reported there has been considerable tree/vegetation clearance in Holt Forest carried out presumably by the National Trust. Footpaths from Long Lane to Stewarts and behind Deans Farm difficult to use due to ploughing/crops. <i>Cllr Sarah Weaver will monitor.</i> The open area in Holt Forest Wood (opposite Holt Chapel) does not appear to be National Trust owned but is Registered Common Land.
439	<p>Woodland at Queens Copse Lane Inspection Report</p> <p>Inspection of Woodland at Queens Copse Lane to be scheduled. (JC/GR/JW)</p>
440	<p>Parish Hall Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Jackie Egan (Chair of the Parish Hall Committee) reported the celebration event of the special anniversaries of both Holt Parish Hall and Holt Village Hall on October 5th was very successful and well supported. The 2002 Portrait of Holt Film will be shown in full on 21st November in the Parish Hall at 3pm and 7pm. Manhole covers in rear parking area to be replaced. Dorset Arts Week Exhibition will be held in the Hall next year. There are a good number of regular bookings. The committee urgently requires a Treasurer and Caretaker and are considering these should be paid roles if volunteers aren't forthcoming.
441	<p>Cemetery Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members approved the memorial application for Plot C121. Members discussed the extended cemetery area of land. <i>The Clerk will contact the Landowner regarding registering the land to the Parish Council so that it can be utilised for burials in the future.</i>

442	<p>Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (DAPTC) Smaller Parish Council Survey</p> <p>DAPTC has produced a survey to gather views and experiences of the smaller parish councils on their working relationship with Dorset Council and devolution. This follows the publication of the 'Fresh Start Report' which highlights the importance of partnerships between principal authorities and local councils.</p> <p>Members discussed the survey and resolved unanimously not to complete but to submit the following comment:</p> <p><i>Holt Parish Council acknowledges the ongoing discussions surrounding devolution and appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the process. However, we wish to formally express our concerns regarding the structure and content of the current survey.</i></p> <p><i>It is our view that the questions presented in the survey are inherently biased towards the experiences and operations of larger Parish or Town Councils. The survey fails to recognise the unique position of smaller and rural parish councils such as ours. As a result, it does not provide an opportunity for Holt Parish Council to offer a true and accurate representation of our circumstances and perspectives.</i></p> <p><i>Many of the questions, especially those in Section 4 (Services), presuppose the existence of a staffing structure, a broad range of responsibilities, and substantially larger budgets—features typical of larger councils but not of smaller, rural parishes. For example, the categories referenced in the survey do not adequately reflect rural parish issues. Matters such as highway verges and countryside rights of way are central to our remit, yet the survey only refers to 'streets', which is not relevant to our context.</i></p> <p><i>Sections 3 and 5 of the survey require respondents to select multiple answers, even when only one or two options are actually relevant to our parish. This approach does not capture the specific realities faced by smaller councils and risks distorting the data collected.</i></p> <p><i>Certain questions are marked as mandatory, necessitating a response in order to proceed. In cases where these questions have no relevance to our parish, we are compelled to provide answers purely to advance through the survey. This practice undermines the validity of the responses and, by extension, the reliability of the survey's findings.</i></p> <p><i>Holt Parish Council is proud of its ability to reach all corners of our community and to represent the views of our residents effectively. We are concerned that the distinct voices of smaller, rural parishes in Dorset would be diminished should amalgamation with neighbouring parishes—or, more significantly, integration into larger conurbations as proposed in the 'A Fresh Start' Report', as referenced in Question 7.6.</i></p> <p><i>In summary, Holt Parish Council questions the overall value of this survey as it relates to smaller parish councils. We urge those responsible for the devolution process to recognise the separate and significant role played by rural parishes, and to ensure that future consultations and surveys are designed to capture the full diversity of parish experiences and responsibilities across Dorset.</i></p>
443	<p>Complaints Procedure</p> <p>Members approved the minor updates to the Parish Council Complaints procedure.</p>

444	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A resident has a complaint with the Royal Mail Wimborne Delivery Office and asks the Parish Council to take up the matter. <i>Members sympathise with the resident's frustration but feels this is not for resolution by the parish council. Clerk to respond.</i>• The Parish Council has received several thankyou comments in relation to the official response to the Dorset Council Local Plan site options consultation (available to view at www.holt-dorset-pc.gov.uk)• Correspondence from the East Dorset Neighbourhood Policing Team regarding communication with parish councils. They also invited members to attend councillor briefings held every other month and an offer to provide a report/attend a Parish Council meeting.						
445	<p>Financial Matters & Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Clerk provided members with up-to-date bank account balances.• The Clerk reported the conclusion of the audit (Limited Assurance Review) for y/e 31 March 2025 (published at www.holt-dorset-pc.gov.uk) from which there were no matters arising for action.• Members reviewed half-year expenditure against budget for 2025-2026.• Members approved the following items for payment and the Clerk's salary: <table><tr><td>ONLINE BDO LLP</td><td>Limited Assurance Review to 31 March 2025</td><td>£252.00</td></tr><tr><td>ONLINE Clerk</td><td>Reimbursement of Expenses July-Sept 2025</td><td>£122.93</td></tr></table>	ONLINE BDO LLP	Limited Assurance Review to 31 March 2025	£252.00	ONLINE Clerk	Reimbursement of Expenses July-Sept 2025	£122.93
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	<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in Holt Parish Hall, <u>12th November 2025 at 7pm</u></p>						

Meeting closed 21:17

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

Signed: 12th November 2025

Appendix A

Structural Maintenance Review – Furzehill

Condition Review and Safety

Dorset Council undertakes regular inspections of all roads across the county, following a structured hierarchy to ensure safety and asset longevity. Roads are inspected at frequencies ranging from monthly to annually, depending on their classification. Immediate safety defects are addressed promptly as part of our ongoing maintenance commitment.

Current Status of Furzehill Road and Surrounding Routes

Several sections in the Holt and Furzehill area have been identified for inclusion in our proposed resurfacing programmes for either Q4 2025–26 or Q1 2026–27 (subject to approval).

Below is a summary of the relevant sites which includes their hierarchy, inspection frequencies and dates:

Location	Reference	Section ID	Timeline for works	Hierarchy	Inspection Route	Inspection Type	Last Surveyed	Next Inspection
Furzehill, Colehill	CD1362	I/C24/145	Q4 25–26 or Q1 26–27	C5	EQ2	Quarterly	20 Aug 2025	17 Nov 2025
Smugglers Lane, Furzehill	CD1364	I/D41559/105	Q4 25–26 or Q1 26–27	C5	EQ2	Quarterly	20 Aug 2025	17 Nov 2025
Long Lane, Colehill	CD1366	I/D41556/125	Q4 25–26 or Q1 26–27	C6	EA10	Annually	23 Oct 2024	24 Oct 2025
Harts Lane to C50, Broom Hill	CD1369	I/D40618/105	Q4 25–26 or Q1 26–27	C7	EA7	Annually	27 May 2025	24 May 2026
Holt Road (Lodge Rd to Broad Bridge)	CD1354	I/C95/115	Q4 25–26 or Q1 26–27	C5	EQ2	Quarterly	20 Aug 2025	17 Nov 2025

Inspection Hierarchy: Furzehill Road falls under the **C5 rural lane category**, inspected quarterly under route EQ2.

DCC Network Hierarchy	Inspection Frequency	Hierarchy Description	Road Type	Detailed Description
Carriageway	2	12	Strategic Route	National Primary, County Regional and freight routes
	3	12	Main Distributor	Heavily trafficked routes, freight and major bus routes
	4	12	Secondary Distributor	Other heavily trafficked routes
	5	4	Local Distributor	Roads connecting villages to the distributor road network
	6	1	Collector Road	Roads connecting villages to the distributor road network
	7	1	Minor Collector Road	Minor roads serving hamlets with more than 6 properties
	8	1	Minor Access Road	Minor roads serving 5 or fewer properties
	9	0	Unpaved	Highway adopted unpaved/non-metalled surface
Footway	1	12	Strategic Footways	Footways within urban areas that contain 10 or more shops or businesses in close proximity and footways that are contiguous with significant supportive community infrastructure, i.e hospitals, schools and major public transport terminals
	2	4	Distribution Footways	Footways linked to network sections which contain additional contiguous category 1 footways, or footways that are contiguous to areas of 5
	3	2	Secondary Distribution / Busy Local Access Footways	Local pedestrian routes within urban areas; and main pedestrian routes in rural and sub-urban areas with adjoining public amenity infrastructure e.g post office, village shop etc...
	4	1	Local Access Footways	Footways providing primary access to groups of 10 or more properties

Hierarchy Image from Dorset Highways: Code of Practice for the Classification of Highway Safety Hazards & Defect

Appendix B

Application Number	Location	Description	Parish Council Comment
P/FUL/2025/02998	THE BOTHEY, CLAYFORD, BH21 7BJ	Retain replacement dwelling.	Members have re-considered this application and OBJECT to the proposal. This is a new building in the Green Belt and therefore contrary to the Local Plan. The proposal is detrimental to the street scene in this rural location in close proximity to the SSSI/RAMSAR and is overdevelopment in the Green Belt. Evidence presented to the Parish Council clearly shows the building is not in its original location and is now 'out of line' with the adjoining building, has moved forward and is outside the boundary of ownership. The boundary wall encroaches onto the footpath. The location of the 'package treatment plant' is not in the applicant's ownership and we are concerned does not meet regulations for a new dwelling. We are also concerned with impact of flooding in this location. We are keen to view the comments of Forestry England for development in this location. <i>We request this application is considered by the Planning Committee if comments are at variance to the Planning Officers recommendation.</i>
P/CLE/2025/05351	GRANGE FARM COTTAGES, BH21 4HX	Certificate of Lawfulness for residential use of three cottages at Grange Farm, Holt.	NO EVIDENCE to submit.
P/FUL/2025/05349	OAK TREE PADDOCK, BATCHELORS LANE, HOLTWOOD, BH21 7DS	Convert existing building into dwelling house including part demolition and new build extensions.	It was resolved to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal by 7 councillors. 1 councillor wished to object.
P/FUL/2025/05331	VICARAGE FARM, HARTS LANE, HOLT, BH21 7DH	Temporary change of use of cottage and 2-bedroom annexe to holiday lets for a period of 5 years then revert to C3 use thereafter.	Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to the loss of a residential property in the centre of the village. If the application is granted, the condition should be limited to 3 years to prevent a future Certificate of Lawfulness application. <i>Members will request this application is considered by the Planning Committee if comments are at variance to the Planning Officers recommendation.</i>

P/HOU/2025/05355	FOREST LODGE, HOLT FOREST, BH21 7BT	Replace existing thatch roof with slate roof. Erect a balcony area with extension to the first-floor master bedroom and fenestration alterations, alterations and additions of dormers.	NO OBJECTION.
P/OUT/2025/05605	ALMA, HARTS LANE, HOLT, BH21 7AR	Erection of 1 self-build dwelling. Outline to deal with access (all other matters reserved).	NO COMMENT.
P/HOU/2025/00997	HEATHER LEA, LOWER ROWE, HOLT, BH21 7DZ	Demolish existing garage and erect new garage.	It was resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.

Other items for report:

P/PAAC/2025/06052	Barn on land at Bakers Lane, Holtwood, BH21 7BY	Change of use from agricultural barn to residential dwelling.