

Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council
14th January 2026 at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL

472	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Sue Barnes Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Peter Finney Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Geoff Pike Cllr Guy Reynolds (Chairman) Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr Sarah Weaver Cllr Jane White Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) Cllr Will Chakawhata (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward)</p> <p>5 members of public present</p> <p>Apologies received:</p> <p>None.</p>
473	<p>Declaration of Interests & Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>None received.</p>
474	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 10th December 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>10th December 2025</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
475	<p>Dorset Councillors Report</p> <p>Cllr Will Chakawhata reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council is £6m in the red, facing a severe budget shortfall with significant pressures in SEND and children's services. The budget will be considered by members shortly. • Dorset Council asset rationalisation is underway, with town and parish councils being asked to take on local assets. The council is considering which assets to sell or pass on to parishes and town councils, many are taking these on, but cost pressures on precepts are expected. • Clarification from Dorset Council anticipated soon regarding issuing the new lease for the Holtwood Community Farm.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council continues to use Allendale House for Eastern Planning despite access concerns and high cost therefore alternatives may be considered, e.g. Dorchester. • The Appeal against the refusal by Dorset Council for an agricultural access at Furzehill was dismissed. • The Shady Glades Dog Park Application was refused at the Planning Committee on 17 December. This may of course go to Appeal. • A Dorset Council boundary review including Furzehill is expected to go out to consultation soon. • Furzehill Road is currently undergoing re-surfacing as requested.
476	<p>Public Open Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two residents who are immediate neighbours to the former Council Officers at Furzehill reported continuing trespassing of the building and premises. The residents feel that Dorset Council is not taking security seriously with a brief inspection once daily by a security officer. • A resident raised concern with development on a small piece of land in Grange. It is understood not to be owned by anyone but in recent months it has been developed with the installation of a vehicle access and a summer house. A resident has now reported to Planning Enforcement. <i>The Clerk will check ownership with Land Registry.</i> • Two residents attended to complain about the installation of the SID pole and solar panels to the front of their property in Lodge Road as it unsightly from their property. <i>The Chairman apologised and explained the SID was installed at the request of other residents in Lodge Road. The exact location of the SID is decided by Dorset Council, following a speed survey and placed in the most effective location. It was agreed the Clerk will contact Dorset Council to discuss options.</i>
477	<p>Security at the former East Dorset Council Offices, Furzehill</p> <p>Members agreed to write to Dorset Council to reiterate concerns with security of the building and impact on neighbours and continued degradation of the property.</p>
478	<p>Planning & Tree Applications/Planning Enforcement Matters</p> <p>See Appendix A.</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping raised an issue with an unsafe Oak tree at Furzehill on a small area of land with no registered title. Members suggested that the last owner of the area may have been the Kingston Lacy Estate and therefore manorial waste. It would now be the responsibility of the National Trust. Cllr Geoff Chopping will advise the 5 effected neighbours and the Woodland Trust who own the adjacent woodland.</p>

479	<p>Highway Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furzehill nameplate sign: Dorset Council have quoted £138.00 to repair the channels on the damaged sign and re-install. Members approved this expenditure. • Two letters of thanks received from residents in Lodge Road for the installation of the SID which has already proved effective. • Proposed temporary closure of Grange to allow Wessex Water to carry out works from 5th – 6th February 2026. <i>Noted</i>. • The Highways Working Group update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up a meeting with the DC Road Safety Team to discuss items including pedestrian road safety measures at Furzehill; potential 30mph extension on Colehill Lane, Broomhill. - The Clerk will ask for an update on the speed limit installations. • Clerk to report deep flooding by Lower Mannington Farm to South-West Water. There is clear water rising from the drain cover. • The water erosion and undermining of the road edge at ditch in Holt Forest has been reported by Cllr Sarah Weaver to Dorset Council. • Clerk to report the access gate at the lower Holt Heath cattle grid has dropped and needs re-aligning. 1305669
480	<p>Rights of Way Matters</p> <p>Cllr Sarah Weaver updated members on various issues on local rights of way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E45/38 at Holt, spoken with Landowner who intends to install metal gates. - E45/1 From Paradise Farmhouse end to corner of Crooked Withies is now sway-marked. - E45/70 this has been reinstated from the road at Mannington to the junction with Newmans Lane bridleway. Concern with safety of pedestrians walking on the road from this path to Mannington Farm. <i>Noted for Highways Working Group</i>. - E45/9 rubbish reported and is for investigation by Dorset Council. Stepping stones over stream on Mannington Farm now have a handrail. - E45/62 Gorse has been cleared on this bridleway at Higher Row. - E45/51 & E45/63 fallen trees have been cleared. - Metal plaque has been re-positioned on memorial seat in Holt Wood. - Garden waste dumped on Heath has been reported to the National Trust.
481	<p>Parish Hall Matters</p> <p>Cllr Jackie Egan reported a new Treasurer has been appointed and a volunteer willing to take over role of Chair.</p> <p>The committee is working well alongside the Holt Village Hall Committee with lots of events happening.</p> <p>The drain covers have been repaired to the rear of the hall.</p> <p>The Chairman has offered to remove the redundant barrier.</p>

482	<p>Cemetery Matters</p> <p>Working Party organised for 1:30pm Saturday 17th January to plant the hedgerow to screen the waste area and to carry out a general clean-up.</p>												
483	<p>Correspondence for action – circulated to members in advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAPTC have invited nominations to attend the Royal Garden Party 2026. <i>Members resolved unanimously to nominate the Chairman.</i> • Information on refurbishment works due to take place on the Mannington to Nursling overhead line. <i>Noted, Clerk to publish on website.</i> • Holt Neighbourcare Scheme is urgently in need of volunteer drivers – Agreed the <i>Clerk to circulate item on HOLT Together and website.</i> • Invitation for members to attend Town & Parish Council Forums on Planning & Building Control. <i>Clerk to forward details to Cllr J. Wallace who is able to attend.</i> • Invitation from MP Vikki Slade via Cllr Will Chakawhata to visit the Houses of Parliament in 2026. • Essential sewer repairs in Gaunts Common scheduled for 5th – 9th January 2026. <i>Clerk to inquire if works are on schedule.</i> 												
484	<p>Financial Matters & Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk provided members with up-to-date bank account balances. • Members resolved unanimously to make a grant of £500.00 to support the East Dorset & Purbeck Citizens Advice Service. • Members resolved unanimously to make a grant of £500.00 to support the Peace Garden and outdoor seating at St James' School. • The following items were approved for payment including the Clerk's salary. <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>ONLINE Clerk</td> <td>Reimbursement of Expenses</td> <td>£127.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Normtec</td> <td>Refurbishment of Row Hill Fingerpost</td> <td>£1879.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Holt Parish Hall</td> <td>Hire of hall 2026 meetings</td> <td>£216.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Mr R Lonsdale</td> <td>Materials for Furzehill BT Box</td> <td>£175.52</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ONLINE Clerk	Reimbursement of Expenses	£127.84	ONLINE Normtec	Refurbishment of Row Hill Fingerpost	£1879.40	ONLINE Holt Parish Hall	Hire of hall 2026 meetings	£216.00	ONLINE Mr R Lonsdale	Materials for Furzehill BT Box	£175.52
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	<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in Holt Parish Hall, <u>11th February 2026 at 7pm</u></p>												

Meeting closed 20:40

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

Signed: 11th February 2026

Appendix A

Application Number	Location	Description	Parish Council Comment
P/HOU/2025/07401	12 Queens Copse Lane, Holtwood, BH21 7EF	Erect single storey side and rear extensions, partial garage conversion with rooms in a new roof.	NO COMMENT
P/HOU/2025/07476	Hillcrest, Holtwood, BH21 7DR	Erect two single storey rear extensions and the addition of a ground floor window to the ground floor north elevation.	NO OBJECTION
P/HOU/2025/07596	Post Cottage, Holt Lane, Holt, BH21 7DH	Construct chimneys to terminate a minimum of 1.8m above the highest point of the thatched roof (higher than pre-fire height).	We SUPPORT this application and restoration of this property which is in a prominent location in the village and look forward to it being occupied again.
TPO/2025/0095	Land to the front of Castle View, Holtwood, BH21 7DR	Provisional Tree Preservation Order has been made by Dorset Council to protect an Oak Tree.	SUPPORT
For information:			
P/HOU/2025/02570	Anchor Paddock, Batchelors Lane, Holtwood, BH21 7DS	Retain first floor dormer and ground floor additions, demolish outbuildings known as AP1 & 2	To be considered by the Eastern Planning Committee on 14/01/26. NOTED
P/FUL/2024/04777	Brooklands Farm, Burts Lane, Horton, BH21 7JU	Change of use of land from agricultural to dwelling and retention of 1 residential dwellinghouse (C3), demolition of two outbuildings and installation of a bat box.	Appeal Hearing to be held on 27 th January 2026. NOTED