

Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council
11th March 2026 at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL

499	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Sue Barnes Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Peter Finney Cllr Wrettham Ladbrooke-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>4 members of public present</p> <p>Apologies received:</p> <p>Cllr Will Chakawhata (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward)</p>
500	<p>Declaration of Interests & Requests for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p>
501	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 11th February 2026</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held <u>11th February 2026</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.</p>
502	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>4 members of public in attendance two of whom were interested to hear the discussion on the footpath at Woodleaze Copse, Furzehill. No representations.</p>
503	<p>Dorset Councillors Report</p> <p>Cllr Will Chakawhata provided a brief report to members in advance of the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The booking system for recycling centres starts on 23 March 2026 and there will be communications to that effect. <i>The Chairman added that batteries are no longer collected with kerbside recycling. These need to be taken to an HRC and it is understood Stewarts Garden Centre have a collection point.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emerging potholes on the new road (Furzehill) were resurfaced and will keep an eye on further damage. • We visited the old council offices with several councillors a few weeks ago. We are waiting for feedback from the officer's and you will have seen Sue's emails chasing for updates. • Geoff continues emailing Dorset Council regarding the footpath.
504	<p>Planning & Tree Applications/Planning Enforcement Matters</p> <p>See Appendix A.</p>
505	<p>Highway Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Highways Working Group update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting held with DC Community Highways Officer and Cllr Will Chakawhata on 17th February to discuss highway safety measures at Furzehill and potential 30mph extension on Colehill Lane, Broomhill. This was a constructive meeting and we now await a written response from Dorset Council on options. - CSW scheduled for 08:30 Monday 9th March at Smugglers Lane was unable to go ahead due to poor weather conditions however roadside training was completed for new volunteer. The location may be moved to improve volunteer safety; traffic was very busy at this time. It was suggested to schedule 4 future CSW dates with locations to be agreed nearer the time. - There is a tree leaning on the overhead wires in Holt Forest. <i>Cllr Sarah Weaver will report to the National Trust for action.</i> - It was reported that increasing number of cars parked for events at Holtwood Community Hall are spilling over onto the soft verges and blocking the highway. <i>Cllr Sarah Weaver has raised this with members of Holtwood Chapel.</i> - Clerk to report overgrown hedgerow effecting visibility at Horseshoe Crossroads to Dorset Council online. [1315103] - Overgrown hedgerow at the property Emohym at Queens Copse Lane has been noted and is hoped the resident will cut back. - Large building up of litter along the A31 from Canford Bottom. <i>Clerk will report to Dorset Council online [SR00855658]</i> - The temporary toilets have yet to be removed opposite the Barley Mow following highway works. - An incident at Furzehill Road occurred 4th March when a driver left the highway and the car overturned in a property's garden; ambulance attended. This incident has been reported online to Dorset Council by a neighbouring resident.
506	<p>Rights of Way Matters</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Chopping reported that discussions with Dorset Council on rerouting the Woodleaze Copse footpath—needed for the sale of the former Council Offices and to address residents' concerns—remain unresolved. The building has fallen into serious disrepair and is being regularly vandalised, prompting repeated Police callouts and raising safety concerns among neighbours.</p>

	<p>Members agreed the Clerk will write to Dorset Council again following the site visit with an officer on 17th February for an update on actions pressing for a response before the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th March. If a satisfactory response is not forthcoming, members agreed to put forward a question to the next full Dorset Council meeting in April.</p> <p>The National Trust has advised they will be burning the cut gorse on Friday 13th March and possibly Monday/Tuesday following week. They will be moving the material to a burn site on the northern side of the heath where there is little vegetation and a water bowser will be on site during the burning. The Fire Brigade are aware of a controlled burn. <i>Clerk to share on HOLT Together/website.</i></p>
507	<p>Parish Hall Matters</p> <p>Members were provided with the Annual Maintenance Schedule for the Parish Hall to March 2026 and accompanying report. See Appendix B</p> <p>Cllr Jackie Egan added that the gravel for the outside area is kindly being donated by a local supplier. Finances and bookings are currently good.</p>
508	<p>Cemetery Matters</p> <p>The Clerk provided members with a review of the past year and it was resolved unanimously not to increase the fees from April 2026. It was also agreed to add to the Cemetery Regulations that Christmas Wreaths will be cleared from the Cemetery at the end of January.</p>
509	<p>Good Citizen Awards 2026</p> <p>Members reviewed several worthy nominations for this year's award, reflecting the strong community spirit in Holt. After careful deliberation, a decision was made, and the selected recipient will be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to receive the award.</p> <p>Cllr Geoff Pike reported he has been in discussion with the Head Teacher at St James School regarding the Youth Award that the Parish Council offers and how pupils might get involved.</p>
510	<p>BT Boxes Inspection for maintenance</p> <p>Cllr Peter Finney will inspect Holtwood Box and fit the replacement troughs for spring planting and inspect the Broomhill Box. Cllr Sue Barnes will inspect the Furzehill Box.</p> <p>Cllr Sarah Weaver reported that the local post boxes have recently been repainted.</p>
511	<p>IT Policy</p> <p>Members reviewed and approved the updated IT Policy.</p>
512	<p>Data Register (Map)</p> <p>Members reviewed and made minor amendments to the updated Data Register (Map). Approved.</p>

<p>513</p>	<p>Internal Controls Policy</p> <p>Members resolved unanimously to adopt the Internal Controls Policy to ensure its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control.</p>									
<p>514</p>	<p>Correspondence for action – circulated to members in advance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HM Land Registry advise that Holt Village Hall has in fact not been included in the title register to the National Trust. As owners of the car park area which adjoins the hall, the Parish Council is being notified and has an opportunity to oppose the alteration to the register to correct the error. Members resolved unanimously they have no objection to the alteration. • The Clerk asked the Diocese of Salisbury for an update on the future of Holt St James in readiness for the Annual Parish Meeting. At present, they are in discussions with local persons about acquiring the church as a cultural/community venue and awaiting a business plan. The Church itself is inspected weekly in accordance with its insurance policy and advise the building and its contents have not markedly deteriorated. 									
<p>515</p>	<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 accept the quotation to maintain the grass on Holt Village Green for the 2026 season from Limecove Ltd. • Members considered a request for a grant toward re-roofing the Holtwood Methodist Church and resolved unanimously to donate £500.00 to preserve this landmark building of architectural and historic importance in the parish. • Members reviewed and updated the Asset Register prior to year end. Members discussed two benches at Furzehill that may need some attention, Cllr Sue Barnes will ask locally if anyone owns them. • The Clerk provided members with a financial report prior to year end and members reviewed and updated the ear-marked reserves. • The following items were approved for payment including the Clerk’s salary. <table border="0" data-bbox="256 1532 1310 1626"> <tr> <td>ONLINE Source for Business</td> <td>Cemetery water Supply July 25 to Feb 26</td> <td>£35.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Clerk</td> <td>Reimbursement of Expenses for Cemetery</td> <td>£74.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Mulliners</td> <td>Mole catching service Holt Cemetery 2025-2026</td> <td>£600.00</td> </tr> </table>	ONLINE Source for Business	Cemetery water Supply July 25 to Feb 26	£35.33	ONLINE Clerk	Reimbursement of Expenses for Cemetery	£74.00	ONLINE Mulliners	Mole catching service Holt Cemetery 2025-2026	£600.00
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ONLINE Clerk	Reimbursement of Expenses for Cemetery	£74.00								
ONLINE Mulliners	Mole catching service Holt Cemetery 2025-2026	£600.00								
	<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in Holt Parish Hall; <u>15th April 2026 at 7pm</u></p>									

Meeting closed 20:50

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

Signed: 15th April 2026

Appendix A

Application Number	Location	Description	Parish Council Comment
P/MPO/2026/01038	Longhow Dogdean BH21 4HA	Removal of Section 106 legal agreement dated 20 September 1996 (P/A 03/95/0976)	No comment, we defer to the Planning Officer.
P/HOU/2026/00803	2 Crofton Furzehill BH21 4HD	Convert the integral double garage into habitable accommodation.	No objection.
P/HOU/2026/00482	Homeland Holt BH21 7DX	Erect single storey side extension	No objection.
P/HOU/2026/00634	School House Burts Lane BH21 7JX	Erect a two-storey extension, replacement porch and alterations to windows. Install solar panels and 1 air source heat pump.	No objection.
P/HOU/2026/01272	4 Clayford Cottages, Clayford, BH21 7BJ	Proposed two storey side and rear extensions and new garage.	No comment.

Appendix B**Report on the maintenance of the Parish Hall****March 2026**

Please find attached a maintenance schedule showing the works carried out/to be carried out on the Parish Hall.

This shows the maintenance checks as required by the National Trust and listed in the Lease Agreement (02/11/1993) and referenced in the first column of the maintenance schedule.

We now have a new Chairman (Andy McGowan) and Treasure (Val Hunt) so this will be my last report. I will continue to be the Parish Council representative on the Parish Hall committee.

The PAT and fire extinguisher testing is due; the insurance policy will need renewing and the rent paid to the National Trust– this will be done by Andy and the committee in March/April.

The major work carried out last year was the renewal and repair of the two manhole covers for the septic tank to the rear of the Hall. This was carried out to a high standard and with great efficiency by Dorset Drainage Services at a cost of £630. Our thanks go to them.

Work to set up a garden/seating area at the rear of the Hall is under way with various quotes etc being collected and we hope to have the preliminary work -fencing, new surface and benches/tables in place – by the end of March.

Parking continues to be a problem for groups who use the Hall at weekends and evenings. We have tried having a moveable sign which can be put out informing people that the Hall is in use but that hasn't been successful. We do not want to erect a barrier of any sort but are looking at having the car park markings re-done as they are very worn.

The report to the Charity Commission is overdue – I am currently in the process of submitting the report.

Cllr Jackie Egan – Chair and Parish Council Representative