

Minutes of the Meeting of Holt Parish Council
26th August 2026 at 7pm
HOLT PARISH HALL

071	Attendance & Apologies Cllr Sue Barnes Cllr Jackie Egan Cllr Geoff Pike Cllr Guy Reynolds (Chairman) Cllr Janet Wallace Cllr Sarah Weaver Cllr Jane White Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 4 members of public present Apologies received: Cllr Geoff Chopping Cllr Jonathan Cutts Cllr Wrettham Ladbroke-Chartres (Vice-Chairman) Cllr Peter Finney Cllr Will Chakawhata (Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward)
072	Declaration of Interests & Requests for Dispensation None.
073	Confirm the Minutes of the meeting held 8th July 2026 The minutes of the meeting held <u>8th July 2026</u> were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
074	Public Open Session A representative from Holtwood Community Hall raised they would like to apply for 'community signs' from Dorset Council to assist people trying to locate the hall. These would ideally be placed at Horseshoe Crossroads and Pond Head. <i>Members indicated they would support an application.</i> Two residents attended, interested in the agenda item to discuss access at Holt Forest in the event of fire. A resident attended regarding the submission of the petition to Dorset Council for road safety improvements at Broomhill Crossroads.
075	Dorset Councillors Report <i>See Appendix A</i>

076	Planning & Tree Applications/Planning Enforcement Matters <i>See Appendix B</i> Dorset Council Planning & Building Control Forum for Town & Parish Councils will be taking place on Tuesday 8 September – <i>Cllr Janet Wallace and Cllr Sue Barnes will attend the virtual event.</i> Cllr Janey White will inquire with the owner about the siting of a mobile home off Paradise Lane.
077	Security at former Council Offices, Furzehill Unfortunately, due to the significant cost Dorset Council has had to end the 24-hour on-site security as the cost was unsustainable. They are in the process of installing an increased number of random patrols including the welfare unit being on site as a visual deterrent. They will keep the matter closely monitored and can continually assess the situation should local residents face any issues. Members are extremely disappointed the security was withdrawn without prior notice and it has been evident that once again youths have been witnessed attempting to gain access to the site and building which is now in a shocking state of repair. Cllr Sue Barnes has asked Dorset Council for reassurance on the new security arrangements and has yet to receive a response so will discuss with Cllr Will Chakawhata as soon as possible. <i>Members agreed that Cllr Sue Barnes will write to Dorset Council if a satisfactory response is not received copying in the Leader of Dorset Council and the Chief Executive.</i>
078	Highway Matters Highways Working Group Report following recent meeting, members agreed recommended actions: <i>See Appendix C</i> • Site meeting arranged at Burts Lane with Cllr Will Chakawhata and resident to address speed issues on 17th September at 5pm. • The Dorset Police Road Safety Camera Van was in operation on Monday 20th July in Holt Lane (9 offences recorded) and Holt Heath (18 offences recorded). • A resident reported overgrown verges and vegetation through Holtwood. <i>The Clerk has reported to both Dorset Council and the National Trust who have agreed to action.</i> • Outstanding item for attention: Speed sign in ditch at Mannington awaiting action by Dorset Council. • Outstanding item for attention: ditch/road erosion in Holt Forest dating back to 2024 - ongoing for over a year. <i>Cllr Sarah Weaver will follow this up.</i> • Cllr Sarah Weaver has mentioned the problem of non-closure of the bottom Heath grid to 'the community' who will circulate the need to close it. The Chairman reported it had been closed following the recent pony drive. • The damaged road surface at Broomhill has been reported to Dorset Council who advise no action required at this time.

079	Rights of Way Matters & Access Holt Forest in the event of fire Cllr Sarah Weaver will be meeting with the Dorset Fire Service to assess Holt Forest for flammability, fire brigade access and water points in the event of a wildfire. Cllr Weaver suggested the need to develop a comprehensive fire plan for the Parish and raised the following points: - the prevalence of wildfires this year and their likely future occurrence due to the change in the UK climate - the rural Parish of Holt consists of arable crops, heathland putting many residences potentially at risk. (The Batemans of East Acre, Holt Forest, were present and voiced their concerns). - Members discussed raising awareness and to help identify the most 'at risk' areas and evacuation routes. Cllr Weaver pointed out that there are many finer details to consider and was prepared to take the development of a plan forward if agreed. Also reported: - FP E45/68 boardwalk on the Heath at Newmans Lane has been repaired. - BW E45/74 Holtwood has been partially cut back. Further work is needed. - FP E45/32 behind Stewarts has been cut back. - Work is to be commenced on BWs E45/14 and 14 at SE corner of the Heath.
080	Parish Hall Matters The new garden opening event was very successful and well attended. The new French Doors will be installed shortly to improve access to the garden including new steps and ramp. Improvements will also be made to the side path. There is a quiz organised in the Village Hall on 25th September 7pm to raise funds for both halls.
081	Cemetery Matters The new bench and repaired bench have been reinstated by the Chairman. The new hedge has suffered in the heat. Whips in lower area appear dead and in upper area the 24 whips under the beech are dead or struggling. Members agreed to consider replanting in the Autumn. Members agreed to visit and have a general tidy-up once it has rained. The Chairman will inspect the noticeboard for repair and fix the raised footpath. Members agreed to instruct Mr Mike Clifford to carry-out grounds maintenance to level 3 graves and fill ground holes adding top-soil and grass seed where necessary.
082	St Margarets & Stones Charity Members considered the proposed change in constitution to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and in addition, the proposed merger with the smaller neighbouring Galpins Almshouse Trust in Tarrant Keynston so to protect its properties and support its beneficiaries.

	It is not expected that either proposal will have a significant impact on the occupiers. <i>Members have no comment on the proposals but are happy for Cllr Jonathan Cutts to advise (parish council representative on the trust).</i>									
083	Holtwood Community Farm Members approved the Heads of Terms provided by Dorset Council to acquire the Holtwood Community Farm as a community asset to the parish. <i>The Clerk will confirm Solicitors details to proceed.</i>									
084	Inspections Village Green inspection scheduled 6:15pm Wednesday 23 rd September. Village Pound – Chairman will inspect. Woodland at Queens Copse – Cllr Geoff Pike, Cllr Sarah Weaver and Cllr Jonathan Cutts to inspect. Gaunts Common Noticeboard – Clerk to provide photos of condition.									
085	Correspondence for action Dorset Council has rejected the application to register Holt Football Ground as a Community Asset, the principal issue being that the title deeds covering the site are linked to the main residential property. There are reforms to the Assets of Community Value regime expected and this may be an opportunity to revisit the application under a different legal framework.									
086	Financial Matters & Expenditure - The Clerk provided members with up-to-date bank account balances. - Members authorised the Clerk to pay the following items utilising online banking including Clerk’s Salary: <table><tr><td>ONLINE Source for Business</td><td>Cemetery Water Supply Feb – July 2026</td><td>£36.18</td></tr><tr><td>ONLINE Vision ICT</td><td>Website Hosting Annual Fee</td><td>£263.23</td></tr><tr><td>ONLINE Dorset Council</td><td>Speed Limit Reductions in Holt Parish</td><td>£4197.11</td></tr></table>	ONLINE Source for Business	Cemetery Water Supply Feb – July 2026	£36.18	ONLINE Vision ICT	Website Hosting Annual Fee	£263.23	ONLINE Dorset Council	Speed Limit Reductions in Holt Parish	£4197.11
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ONLINE Dorset Council	Speed Limit Reductions in Holt Parish	£4197.11								
	The next meeting of the Parish Council will be <u>Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at 7pm</u>									

Meeting closed 20:50

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

Signed: 23rd September 2026

Appendix A – Dorset Councillors Report

1. Former East Dorset District Council offices

Security concerns at the former East Dorset offices remain a priority. I have spoken with Jay, who is responsible for asset disposal, and James, who oversees maintenance and site security. An ecological assessment has now been commissioned following concerns raised regarding badger activity on the site. Dorset Council and a previously interested developer have mutually agreed to end discussions, and alternative development proposals are now being explored. I reiterated the need for transparency with decision-making and involving the parish and councillors.

2. Shady Glades appeal dismissed with costs

The Planning Inspector has dismissed the appeal relating to Shady Glades, which is a significant outcome for local residents who worked tirelessly to protect the area. Thank you to everyone in the parish who contributed, attended meetings, submitted comments, and supported the campaign. The appellant's application for costs was also dismissed. According to recent social media posts, the owner is considering alternative future uses for the site, which may include housing the homeless.

3. The Barn, God's Blessing Lane

An alleged planning contravention at The Barn, God's Blessing Lane, has been reported to Dorset Council's Planning Enforcement Team. Officers have confirmed that they will investigate the matter and determine whether any breach of planning control has occurred.

4. Clayford enforcement concerns

Concerns continue regarding ongoing enforcement issues at Clayford. Residents remain frustrated by the apparent lack of timely action. I have reiterated concerns that prolonged delays risk allowing unauthorised activities to continue unchecked and will continue pressing the council for a more robust response.

5. Road safety at Burts Lane, Mannington

Several residents have raised concerns regarding road safety along Burts Lane. I will be meeting with affected residents to better understand the issues on the ground. While I cannot promise specific outcomes, I am committed to listening, gathering evidence, and ensuring concerns are appropriately raised with the relevant authorities.

6. Dorset Council Local Plan

The Dorset Local Plan has been delayed as a result of changes to national planning legislation and the Government's new plan making framework. Dorset Council formally announced on 31 July 2026 that it is restarting preparation of the Local Plan under the new system, with a public scoping consultation expected between 21 September and 25 October 2026. This process will shape future housing, employment, infrastructure, and environmental policies across Dorset. The Parish Chair has received briefing notes.

[\[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\]](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

7. Stone Lane Closure

Stone Lane remains closed until September 2026 as part of measures designed to improve safety for pupils travelling to and from school. While some disruption is expected when schools return, the scheme aims to create a safer environment around peak school times and should become more manageable as drivers adapt to the arrangements.

8. Traveller Activity

Dorset Police circulated information regarding traveller movements on 23 August 2026. At the time of writing, no additional concerns or reports have been received locally.

9. Vehicles in Mannington lay-by

Dorset Police continue to monitor vehicles parked in the Mannington lay-by. Current checks indicate that the vehicles are taxed, insured, and hold valid MOT certificates, limiting the formal enforcement options available. Officers will nevertheless continue to keep the situation under review.

10. Cranborne Road Safety Petition

The campaign to improve road safety on the B3078 Cranborne Road continues to gather momentum, with more than **700 signatures** collected to date. The petition has attracted support from local residents and our local Member of Parliament. If you have not already done so, please consider signing and sharing the petition: <https://www.change.org/p/slow-the-b3078-down> Every signature helps strengthen the case for meaningful action to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety for residents, pedestrians, cyclists, and road users.

11. Community Farm update

Progress is continuing regarding the proposed Community Farm. A formal legal letter has now been sent to Dorset Council setting out the relevant concerns and seeking clarification on outstanding matters. This represents an important step in ensuring the issues raised by residents and stakeholders receive proper consideration.

Appendix B – Planning Applications

Application Number	Location	Description	Parish Council Comment
P/HOU/2026/03755	The Gardens, Uddens Drive, BH21 7BN	Ground and first floor extensions.	No objection.
P/LBC/2026/03806	The Cottage, Holt Heath, BH21 7JZ	Removal of existing cementitious render to all cob sections of the property externally. Removal of existing gypsum plaster to internal walls on external elevations. Replace the cementitious render and gypsum plaster with lime-based mortar appropriate for the preservation of cob walls.	Members support the recommended remedial work to the property.
P/HOU/2026/03773	Trefellen Lodge, Whitemoor, BH21 7DA	Two-storey front and side extension with loft conversion and addition of dormers.	Members have no objection to the proposed extension however we draw attention to the newly installed fence which is out of character with the street scene.
P/CLE/2026/03997	Emmers Farm, Holt Road, Mannington, BH21 7JY	Use of building and associated yard/apron area as a vehicle and plant repair workshop (Sui Generis/Commercial Use). Please note this is not a planning application and determining it, Dorset Council can only consider evidence that the claimed use or development is lawful or is not lawful. Normally, that is whether the claimed use has existed or not existed for a period of time.	As stated in our comments on the previous application, P/CLE/2025/06814, we have no evidence to confirm whether the claimed use has existed for any period of time. We are concerned by the ill-defined addition of 'sui generis' included in this application.

Appendix C – Highways Working Group Report
Summary Notes from Highways Working Group Meeting 18th August 2026

Attendees:

Cllr Jonathan Cutts	HPC
Cllr Peter Finney	HPC
Cllr Sue Barnes	HPC
Mark Adams	DC Community Highways team
Harry Bessant	DC Community Highways Team

- A meeting with Mark Adams and Harry Bessant from the Dorset Council Community Highways team was held on the 18th August. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the positive steps taken in the past with Dorset Council and also to clarify the best ways to progress areas of concern which have been raised with the Parish Council.
- Mark and Harry advised on the very limited budget they have to work within annually to make improvements within the Community Highways team remit, such as signage, line strips, roundels etc. The team are currently operating with one less Community Highways Officer but recruitment was underway and they will advise of the new Officer who will work alongside Harry once appointed. We noted that on occasions the Parish Council have supported with funding, such as when introducing the recent speed reductions.
- We discussed some options / ideas for what is possible, such as for marker strips, to at least provide some indication of carriageway boundary and areas for pedestrian / cyclist which will be considered further and options put forward to the Community Highways team. We confirmed that we are actively working through the process to gain residents views on a 20mph limit through Furzehill and they confirmed that any submission with the required evidence in line with their policy needs to go through to Tony Burden, Roads Safety team.
- More significant traffic calming / chicanes / solid 'build ups' / mini roundabout requests, need to go through the Local Transport Planning team who have a separate budget. It was noted that where these have been instigated in other areas, views on effectiveness and community support are often very mixed. Mark also noted that DFT road safety guidance is due to be updated during 2026 which may provide additional clarity on approach to safety improvements.
- We advised of the receipt of the recent petition from residents of Broomhill and their significant concerns over the safety of the crossroads. Mark confirmed that the matter is now with Tony Burden, Road Safety team and we advised that the Parish Council would follow up on this with Tony to support action being taken.
- The importance of residents reporting all incidents even near misses was reinforced by Mark, as evidence will help the council support progression of future changes and safety initiatives. We noted this and will ask all issues reported into the Clerk are then logged onto the Councils system.
- Where requests are received for further speed reductions, these need to be supported by evidence of incidents. We noted that requests had been received for the length of Colehill Lane, Petersham Lane to Gaunts and God's Blessing Lane. We will review incidents from the Council site and then consider whether the parish council feel it appropriate to fund speed surveys.
- We confirmed the continuation of active CSW sessions with 4 more dates during the autumn.
- A positive and helpful meeting which should allow us to build up a plan of action and we will send a separate follow up note to Mark, Harry and Tony Burden.

**Summary of Proposed Actions from Highways Working Group Meeting 18/08/2026
For Consideration and Approval at Holt Parish Council Meeting 26/08/2026**

- i) As they fall within the DC Road safety team remit, contact Tony Burden to:
- follow up the process for a 20mph limit in Furzehill and measures to improve safety at Broomhill crossroads.
 - enquire about new DFT speed limit guidelines expected to be announced in 2026.
- ii) Seek PC approval / comments for speed surveys covering Petersham Lane, God's Blessing Lane and Colehill Lane.
- iii) PC members to clean / cut back any over-growth on signs (care re landowners and any "forward view" issues). If in doubt contact Harry.
- iv) Mark and Harry to arrange a visit to Holt Lane and Broomhill to review possibility of "visual narrowing" road painting. Highways working group to join them. Date to be agreed.
- v) To improve reporting of incidents / near misses, seek PC approval for Lisa to input data once reported onto DC site.
- vi) Confirm with Tony Burden if any sites within the parish are covered by the DC 'incident cluster site visit' initiative.
- vii) Circulate next CSW dates for attendees.
- viii) draft email to stakeholders summarising meeting and actions (cc Cllr Will Chakawhata and Vikki Slade MP)