Holt Parish Council News

E Mail: clerk@holt-dorset-pc.gov.uk
www.holt-dorset-pc.gov.uk
Tel: 07887 932665

Parish Land and Wildlife

Members carry out annual inspections of the areas of the parish for which the Council is responsible, including Holt Village Green. A botanist recently visited the Green and identified several rare species, including the elusive Mat-grass, the pretty little Chamomile and Marsh Pennywort. These findings may lead us to adjust the grass-cutting schedule so that these plants can continue to thrive.

Highways and Road Safety

Our Highways Working Group held a positive and productive meeting with Dorset Council officers in August to clarify how best to progress several road-safety concerns raised by residents. These included a petition asking for a review of Broomhill Crossroads to improve safety, and discussion of a possible 20mph speed limit at Furzehill. We have now commissioned Dorset Council to carry out speed surveys at Colehill Lane, Burts Lane and the C50 Broomhill to Whitesheet following concerns raised by residents. You can help support any requests for road-safety improvements by reporting incidents and near-misses through the Dorset Council website. Alternatively, these can be reported to the Clerk, who can submit them on your behalf.

Holt Community Speedwatch

So far this year, our parish CSW team has run seven sessions. Using a basic speed-detection device, which is not calibrated and does not take photographs, when a vehicle is recorded travelling above the agreed threshold, team members enter its details on a spreadsheet for submission to Dorset Police.
Vetted police volunteers process the submitted results and add the registered keeper's details. An advisory letter is then sent to the registered keeper, explaining that their vehicle was monitored speeding and giving the time, date and location.

Dorset Police has approved 12 locations across the parish where the team can operate. This work complements our three Speed Indicator Devices at Broomhill, Holt

Lane and Lodge Road. Positioned on the highway, these devices help raise drivers' awareness of their speed and encourage safer driving.
Could You Join the Team? We would be delighted to welcome new members so that we can run more sessions across the parish. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch. We are grateful for the strong support Dorset Police provides for this initiative and for officers' regular participation in our sessions and for visiting the parish regularly with the Dorset Road Safe Camera Van.

Local Policing and Rural Crime

In July, Inspector Adam Gill attended our meeting to discuss rural crime and a range of local policing matters. He shared useful statistics and information specific to Holt Parish. His experience of effective engagement with the Traveller community was particularly helpful and reassuring, especially in relation to horse drives visiting Holt.

Furzehill Former Council Offices

We continue to liaise with Dorset Council about the future and security of the former Council Offices at Furzehill. Possible development will be considered once outstanding issues have been resolved in relation to a footpath and restrictive covenants affecting the site. Dorset Council is in discussions with developers and once a preferred developer has been selected and terms agreed, it is likely that they will require a period of approximately 18 months for the planning application process. Meanwhile Dorset Council continue to explore other options for security of the site including works to strengthen the physical barriers and to monitor both local resident reports and those provided by the security team to evaluate the effectiveness of the current arrangements of 5 patrols per day, 7 days per week at randomised times to maximise effectiveness.

Planning Applications

As always, the Parish Council considers a range of planning applications at each meeting. As statutory consultees, we are asked to comment on proposals and welcome comments from residents to assist providing an informed response. Details are published on our website and included with the meeting agenda.
In October we considered a response to the Local Plan Scoping Consultation, details of which are included in the minutes of the meeting.

Holt Parish Council next meets 18th November 2026 7pm in Holt Parish Hall.
Please contact the Clerk if you would like to attend.
The agenda will be published online at www.holt-dorset-pc.gov.uk where you can also read the minutes of our meetings and up to date news and information.
We also offer the HOLT Together E-news network and WhatsApp group.
for Parish Council information and local events.
If you would like to join, please email the Clerk.