

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

9th April 2024

Minutes

Committee Members	Jerry Janes, Jan Morgan, Vanessa Gist, Stuart Hunt, Megan-Beth Millar, Pat Lerew, Andy Muir, Sam Dalton, Rob Law.
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC); Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC)
Holybourne Members	Ian Robertson

No	Item	Action
1	Opening of Meeting and Apologies for Absence	
1.1	Apologies were received from Don Hammond (ATC).	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	The March Minutes were accepted.	
2.2	Matters Arising None not covered by agenda items. <i>Owing to the need for Graham Hill to leave the meeting by 8:00pm the agenda order was changed so that his input could be made timely.</i>	
3	Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton	
3.1	The planning application at 39 Howards Lane has been amended to cover previous comments and objections. The amendments were lodged on 8 th April and comments can be made up to the closing date of 26 th April. Pat is happy to receive and pass on any comments.	PL
3.2	The planning application for 2 houses on land next to The Priory, Howards Lane (28054/031) has been withdrawn but it is noted that it will be amended and re-submitted with an exit onto London Road from the land opposite Gardeners Cottage. The application has yet to be submitted.	
3.3	Cllr Hill gave an update on both The Alton Neighbourhood Plan (ANP) and the Local Plan (LP). EHDC are still going through the vast number of comments made on the LP. As yet there has been no feedback, but the publishing date has now been deferred likely to be June. The ANP steering group made a recommendation for ATC to support 'no allocation' of development sites thus any future development will require initiating by EHDC. The ATC did however put forward a resolution to "object to any development on greenfield sites in and around Alton Town" No decision has yet been made and it has been deferred to the general council meeting in May. The ANP steering group met on Wednesday 15 th and itself is now awaiting the ATC decision.	
3.4	A recent Council meeting raised the issue of sewage drainage citing that the present system is inadequate to meet the needs of future housing. Thames Water will be required to meet the Council to make a statement outlining how they could meet the needs of new development. They must also state the reasons for the current drainage issues in and around the River Wey catchment.	

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4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Fireworks: There is a catalogue available now. It was suggested that the new fireworks group meets soon to plan this year's event. The date is set to be Sat 2 nd Nov so it will not clash with the remembrance service.	MBM, RL
4.2	Village Picnic: a provisional date was proposed being 14 th July. Jerry still to contact the cricket club chair, to make sure this does not clash with a home match.	JJ
4.3	Big Help Out: Holybourne will be participating in this challenge happening from 7 th June to 9 th June. We are currently working out how best to publicise it. Mainly via electronic media.	
5	Members Open Forum No raised issues. Ian Robertson said he was only observing.	
6	Village Communications	
6.1	The website continues to be updated with information on a regular basis, but the main rapid communication tools are the WhatsApp social media groups.	
6.2	Magazine. For the spring 2024 edition, 921 magazines were printed by Imprint Colour in Aldershot, and after distribution, there were 12 surplus copies. This month there were 18 distributors, delivering a total of 818 copies to households covering the area from Mill Lane Close in the west to Bonhams Close at the eastern end of the village. Additional copies were delivered by John Bound to the editorial team, to those involved in planning issues and to potential advertisers. A map showing the village ward, the parish and the magazine distribution area was presented by Stuart at the meeting	
6.3	Social media is the major communication channel for the village.	
6.4	Church:- The Rev David Chattell has moved into the vicarage with his family. He starts work next week and his first service was Sunday, 14 th at 9.30am.	
7	Committee Reports	
7.1	<u>Chair Report</u> : - Planning: I have held 11 meetings in the last four weeks with a variety of people. The sub-group of this committee meets once or twice a week to monitor what is going on and I regularly meet with Graham Hill, Don Hammond, John Bound (who sits on the ANP steering group) and with Paul Fitzgibbon, a former member of that group. Additionally I meet with Cllr. Ginny Boxall who represents residents on Windmill Hill most weeks. She and I are in daily contact by email. I am hugely grateful to Helen Walters and Jackie Nelson who provide me with massive support and wisdom on the Planning sub-committee. I wrote several submissions to EHDC regarding the Local Plan including a lengthy email and members will be aware that because of the number of submissions, the Plan schedule has been put back six months. I have also written to Thames Water about the overflow of sewage into the River Wey and have yet to receive a response. I copy all such letters to the appropriate officers at EHDC. I am collating evidence about the inability of the local water treatment plant to deal with the current load on the system and will be using this to argue against any further large scale development in the town and village. Members will be aware that the ANP steering group submitted a proposal to Alton Town Council to report to EHDC that they would be unable to make any site allocations as they felt that the strength of feeling in the town would result in the Alton Neighbourhood Plan being rejected at the referendum. In consultation with those mentioned above I wrote to the ANP Chair suggesting that avenues for compromise had not been explored. This was following a straw poll held on the Planning WhatsApp group of about 80 respondents. The overwhelming majority view was that rather than let EHDC determine sites (who have already suggested that Holybourne would be an appropriate area for large scale development) we should explore whether compromise might be possible. I have copied members the letter I sent. You will see the very careful choice of language in which I commit us	

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	<p>to nothing other than considering whether we might think about allowing some development might be the best option for the village.</p> <p>Again in consultation with the Planning sub-committee, we have composed a note outlining red lines which would govern any consideration of development in the village. It is proposed to use this as a guide in any negotiations with the ANP steering group. I would point out however that I have written to that group many times and have only ever once received an acknowledgement. Clearly they are not too keen to engage with us and principally that seems to be because the Chair believes that I personally am responsible for the opposition that has arisen in the village to large scale development.</p> <p>Cllr Graham Hill continues to support the village with generous grants including the refurbishment of the Village Notice Board outside the shop. Rob Law and I are going to attempt to seek a large grant from the CIL to replace the Gentlemen's toilet at the Sports and Recreation ground. Anyone who would like to be involved in that submission would be welcomed with open arms.</p> <p>I am massively grateful to Megan-Beth Millar for the work she has done on the traffic count and for managing to involve so many people in the survey. We've yet to hear if the Lollypop man is to be retained by HCC.</p> <p>I have contacted the Cricket Club enquiring about the availability of the Sports and Recreation field for the village picnic but have yet to hear from them.</p> <p>7.2 <u>Treasurer's Report</u>: The treasurer was able to provide an overall account balance this month of £9209.66. However it was not possible at this stage to identify any details nor the sums which are known to be ring-fenced. It is currently not possible to pay invoices. It has become very urgent now to resolve the issues with this situation so that the Association can function in a dutiful manner. Following an in-depth discussion the committee has agreed to authorise appropriate step to be taken to do this. Pat Lerew said that she would also personally assist with matter and said she would contact the outgoing treasurer. Once resolved, detailed reports can be given.</p> <p>7.3 <u>Traffic</u>, Megan-Beth gave a brief report on the recent HVA traffic survey and thanked all the participants. A detailed report is underway and the results will be posted on the Holybourne Website. The survey took place 7am to 7pm at the entrance to the village and at the London Road, Church Lane junction. During the survey 5215 vehicle movements were recorded at the village entrance and 2720 at Church Lane. It was noted that at school drop-off and pick-up, parent parking in Complins and Cranford Drive causes considerable inconvenience to residents and it is reflected in these vehicle movements. A mention was made of the Redbrown survey that was carried out in February and that Paul Fitzgibbon is requesting further info. Another note was that the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness now holds 2 services on Sundays – this may have an added impact on Sunday traffic. PL said that as one who had helped with the survey she would like to say how well it was organised and how interesting it was to take part</p> <p>7.4 <u>Friends of the Pond</u> Remedial works, reported last month, have been done.</p> <p>7.5 <u>Flood Action Group/Emergency Planning</u>: Even though we have gone through a very wet winter, there has been little evidence of continued road flooding. There are certain spots which have suffered but most have subsided quite quickly.</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Cllr Hill said that Holybourne Theatre gained a grant of £1000 for lighting improvement.</p> <p>The Holybourne Village noticeboard outside the Shop will be repaired by Mens Shed Alton. Key will then be lodged with Sam at Mapleys to allow access, Hargreaves, the contractor for the Lidl development is in contact with Hampshire Highways to obtain a road closure so that the footpath to the village can be completed. Highways have indicated that as Montecchio Way is part of the diversion route for ongoing the electrical work, the earliest date they can give is in August. In the meantime Hargreaves will complete as much as they can that does not required the closure.</p> <p>Cllr Hill will investigate why the EV charging points at Lidl are not working.</p>	

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8.2	There is a new window for CIL grants 1 st April to 30 th April Jerry, Rob and Graham will get together to submit a proposal for a new toilet block for the Sports Field.	PL
8.3	The flint wall at the Church was also suggested as a candidate for the CIL To commemorate the coronation of the King and to celebrate the reign of the late queen, it was suggested that two plaques should be added to the wall in the village hall to complement the one for King George V It was agreed that the HVA will pay for one of the plaques and the Village Hall will pay for the other. Jerry to let the Village Hall Trustee chair know of our decision.	
8.4	Helen Waters asked (indirectly) about the 20's plenty scheme and whether it got anywhere. There was a brief discussion but no progress has been made. The erection of 20 mph signs (or indeed any road signs) is the responsibility of the highways dept. and should not be done by anyone else. The issue of ducks being killed by the pond was then brought up and whether there were any warning signs by the road. (Post meeting note – there are 'duck warning' signs on Church Lane.)	
8.5	The village archive used to have a display cabinets and inventory in the pub. Since lockdown and a change of landlord, its location is unknown: PL will investigate as they were her cabinets	
8.5	It had been suggested that we could run an 'open gardens' event as we had done so before. Pat approached a previous HVA chair about this but he was not personally involved though it was thought that it was 2012. We will progress this for a future year. PL reminded the committee that HVA had twice thought about becoming a Parish Council and if so, we might have been able to defend Holybourne from a stronger position	
9	Close – DONM Jerry thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:45 The next meeting is on 14th May at 7:30pm.	