

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

14th January 2025

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law(Chair), Andy Muir, Stuart Hunt, Pat Lerew, Celia Wood, Caroline Wallis, Jerry Janes, Sam Dalton, Vanessa Gist
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC)
Holybourne Members	John Bound, Andy Hankin, Matt Julius, Barry Lawrence, Paul Fitzgibbon.

ATC = Alton Town Council: EHDC = East Hampshire District Council: HCC = Hampshire County Council

No	Item	Action
1	Opening of Meeting and Apologies for Absence	
1.1	Rob Law (RL) opened the meeting and accepted apologies from Cllr Don Hammond (ATC), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM).	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	The minutes of the December meeting were ratified and will be uploaded to the website.	
2.2	Matters Arising Rob restated that he would be away for the February meeting and would it need to be chaired by someone else. Stuart Hunt (SH) agreed to chair for this one meeting.	SH
2.3	Action from 4.3 re scanning for archives is carried forward	MBM/ SH
2.4	Action 7.4 re Flooding near the Church (Covered under FAG below)	
2.5	Action 2.5 re public nuisance issues Treloars. (Covered under 4. Issues below)	
3	Members Open Forum No issues, other than those covered elsewhere were raised.	
4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Treloar's: Cllr Graham Hill (Cllr GH) has received a reply from Matthew Davies (Estates, facilities and transport) with answers to the issues passed to them last month. He has asked whether we have a universal means of contact to disseminate information. He also offered an email address that residents can use to raise concerns. This is facilities.offsite@treloar.org.uk . Regarding Tree works:- Pollarding of tree was an oversight, and moving forward we will ensure we notify residents of potential noisy works. Engines idling:-Treloar's have ordered signs concerning the idling of engines stating not only is it a noise nuisance but also environmentally detrimental. Lighting:- Treloars acknowledge the lighting concerns and will look into this as a matter of urgency. Fundraising Events:- The concerns around both the fundraising event, and the summer let's for disabled children, MD will discuss with the relevant teams to make sure further care and empathy is taken into account. He states that following the Govt tax changes on Schools VAT and Nat Insurance, Treloar's faces a considerable cost increase and fundraising events are essential. It is not intended to repeat the recent open air cinema event and will provide a list of up and coming events which will be posted on the HVA website (Under "schools Treloar's")	

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4.2	Fireworks. All invoices settled no actions to add at this time.	
4.3	Village Picnic deferred until next meeting	
4.4	Archives deferred until next meeting	
5	Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton	
5.1	There have been no new applications in Holybourne this month. The EHDC planning website has been updated as from 1 st January but is having teething problems. It should be up and running properly in February and applications will be visible then. It was agreed by EHDC that no applications up to 31/12/2024 will be ported to the new system but will remain on the old one.	
5.2	Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan (LP; NP) The position of ATC with regard to the LP and NP: Jerry Janes (JJ) has drafted a letter to send to the ATC concerned that there has been little visible progression with the formation of a new steering group to develop the NP and that the continued use of the original consultants who clearly failed to produce a viable plan was questionable. Cllr GH said that the ATC were having a meeting on the following evening and therefore it was essential that the letter be delivered by email on Wednesday morning if it were to be considered. With this in mind, and as this letter would be considered from the HVA, it was read out and the 3 clear points discussed. Point 1 was debated in depth and some alteration was made before submission. Points 2 and 3 were generally agreed as acceptable as they stand. JJ said he would make the amendments and then send it in. A copy is attached at the end of these minutes.	JJ
5.3	Local development by Redbrown The owners of the land surrounding Holybourne are proceeding with their plans to create a new housing development of 220 houses which will impact the village. They have arranged to hold a public consultation meeting on 29 th January between 4pm and 6:30pm in the Village Hall where they will answer questions with the help of their project experts. It was pointed out that "public consultation" was a requirement of any development and that this would qualify, even though the restricted timing was not ideal. JJ heads the HVA sub group responding to these issues and has drawn up a series of points which is proposed to be sent to Redbrown. This was circulated to the committee and discussions followed. It was agreed that the points could all be sent to Redbrown, but the specifics should remain confidential until we understand the exact development that they wish to do. It was also thought that we should defer sending the points until after the consultation on 29 th . The points are attached at the end of these minutes.	JJ
	It was suggested that we should have a single email repository for copies of all correspondence relating to these planning issue. AM to set this up. Access to it will be by invitation.	AM
	There was general concern raised over the outline criteria which has been used by Redbrown to develop their proposal. It was thought that many of the strategic points raised in the consultation of the ANP were virtually ignored and that the outcome presented gave an incorrect evaluation of the particular land which is at the centre of the Redbrown development. Of most serious concern to residents are potential for flooding and the impact of traffic on the already passed capacity London Road. With regard to flooding, JJ asked if people who have evidence of the state of flooding on the land please forward photos and video on which it will be beyond doubt as to the location and scale of the problems. (The land is aptly called Streamacres for very good reasons) which may not be wholly understood by Redbrown. It was also pointed out that the water on this land is not wholly related to rainfall but also to underground springs, again not seen as important in the present evaluation. However the consequences of building on such land will give rise to unpredictable flooding risks. It was pointed out that any proposal would be consulted on by Statutory bodies of HCC including the Flood and Water Management teams who will have to give approval for any development.	All

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	<p>With regard to traffic movement, this appears to be poorly understood by people not directly using London Road. The HVA carried out a traffic survey during school term time which gave a much more thorough picture than the developer short survey at a school half term. There are three schools directly affecting London Road especially at its pinch point leaving the village toward Alton. Hampshire Highways are the Statutory body which will need to give approval for any development here.</p> <p>Part of the land in question is recognised by English Heritage as an ancient monument, indeed the sports field itself has severe limitations put on it for activities which may impact the underground infrastructure. Again English Heritage is a Statutory body which will be consulted and will need to approve any development. After in depth discussion it was thought best that HVA should not elaborate the points to Redbrown at this stage but to await the deliberations of the Statutory consultations. The points however should be sent to Redbrown so that they at least have an understanding of the issues that Holybourne are raising.</p> <p>A point arose during the discussion over flooding that it has been noted that the pattern of rainfall has changed. Periods are becoming more intense and we were wondering how this has been addressed in present and future flood modelling. Cllr GH said that the EA is the body which looks at flooding and he would pose a general question to them on this.</p>	CllrGH
6	Village Communications	
6.1	The village website will show any future events from Treloars	
6.2	Village Magazine owing to a technical issue not all the advertisers in the village magazine received their invoices. This is currently being addressed by the team and should be resolved very soon. A further £1900 is expected to be brought in which will cover the cost of publishing. A plea was given to the HVA treasurer to have view of the HVA bank statement so that tardy payers can be chased. This was agreed and would be subject to mutual agreement between treasurer and advertising manager. (SD and BL). It was also pointed out that magazines are passed to the shop for sale, but no account is taken of how many are delivered and how many have been purchased. There were 10 copies of the Winter 2024/2025 edition passed to the shop for sale. In the interests of economics, the magazine team will review the size of the print run to be as fiscally efficient as possible.	
6.3	FB WhatsApp no issues.	
6.4	<p>The Church is starting a new service on 4th Sunday afternoons at 4pm called 'Lego Church'. The idea is to have a bible story and then children create with Lego something from the story and we talk about what it means for us. Then there are songs and food! Open to parents and grandparents and for I children.</p> <p>Andrew Micklefield has accepted, the post of Canon Treasurer at Winchester Cathedral and will leave PoTR in March.</p>	
7	Committee Reports	
7.1	Chair Nothing to report..	
7.2	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>We are at last making progress toward solving our current issues with the accounts. We should be fully up and running shortly. Meanwhile all outstanding bills have been paid.</p>	
7.3	<p>Friends of the Pond</p> <p>The pond's leaking weir wall was inspected and it was noted that there is a heavy deposit of silt in front of it and local vegetation causes difficulty in carrying out any work. It is noted (as before) that one quotation for the work has been received by ATC however, at present the pond is full and water is running over the weir, so the priority of work is lower than the highway flooding issues. It was proposed that some residents will look again at this when the weather conditions improve with a view to addressing the issue.</p> <p>PL also reminded us that we need to erect signs asking people not to feed the</p>	

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	<p>ducks. The ducks are fed food purchased by the HVA and in quantities which do not attract rats. The feeding of bread scraps, although seemingly harmless and friendly, certainly does encourage rats and other vermin.</p> <p>The presence of a white Koi carp in the pond was noted.</p>	
7.4	<p>Flood Action Group</p> <p>From last month there was concern over the flooding in Howards Lane next to the Church. This is chronic and is getting worse. It is not only excess water but as a consequence considerable amounts of silt are brought with it which blocks drainage systems. Cllr Graham Hill has arranged a meeting with Andrew Kirby (Farm Manager of the associated land) at 11:00 am Friday 17th Jan at the farm office Bonhams Barns. Andy Hankin also expressed an interest to attend this. With the advent of climate change, flooding events are becoming more prominent and many issues will need to be considered. This meeting will be the place where these can be raised with the farm practices to see if we can mitigate as many as possible in the most eco-stable ways.</p>	CllrGH/ RL
8	Any Other Business	
8.1	In December 2024, the Government published a White Paper titled The English Devolution, This requires all two-tier areas and neighbouring small unitaries to set out plans for a joint programme of devolution and local government reorganisation.	
8.2	As a consequence the local may elections may be postponed to allow time for the plans to be prepared. Cllr Andrew Joy was due to stand down at these elections and now potentially will still be in office for another year.	
8.3	Cllr GH reminded us that although the recent Neighbourhood Plan failed to be approved, there were some very good ideas within it unconnected to the reasons of failure. These should be considered by the incoming steering group and if our group can help, all the better.	
9	<p>Close – DONM</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 11th February 2025</p> <p>All are welcome to attend this.</p>	

Action Items

February meeting to be chaired by Stuart	SH
Archives: scanning	MBM/ SH
Letter to ATC re progress of ANPSG	JJ
Points to be made to Redbrown	JJ
Planning email	AM
Evidence of flooding	All
How does EA model flooding?	CllrGH
Meeting with Andrew Kirby	CllrGH/RL/(et.al.)

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Item 5.2 – Letter to ATC Council from HVA
Dear ATC Councillors

As the Holybourne Village Association (HVA) lead for planning and development issues I am contacting you to express the concern of the HVA over three issues:

1 The recent worldwide interest in preserving the Jane Austen landscape heritage demonstrates the value that is attached to historical character by society at large. We would ask how ATC is going to demonstrate a similar determination in preserving the village character of Holybourne in the face of large scale planning applications?

2 ATC continues to use the planning consultancy ONH in its thinking about the development of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). This consultancy was instrumental in the development of the failed draft NP which resulted in the resignation of the majority of the NP Steering Group and which has left ATC with a weakening NP at a time of unprecedented pressure for development. There are also questions, in the minds of the public, of a conflict of interest between the lead consultant and local planning decisions which calls ONH and ATC's use of them into disrepute and threatens the reputation of ATC.

- The HVA once again calls for ATC to change planning consultant as it proceeds with the NP process

3. ATC appears to have made no progress on the NP process since its Press Release of 24th September following the resignation of 7 members of the NP steering group. That press release ends with an assurance that "Details on how resident representatives can apply to become involved will be published in the coming weeks." This was 16 weeks ago.

- Can ATC explain to the HVA what they understand by the phrase "the coming weeks" and outline what progress has been made towards developing a functional NP?

With best wishes

Jerry Janes

Item 5.3 – Points to be forwarded to Redbrown at the appropriate time

Position of the Holybourne Village Association regarding building development in the village

1) The HVA welcomes sensitive, necessary development of housing in the village which meets the current housing needs of the village.

2) The HVA will oppose any significant development which impacts on traffic on London Road. Any development that is accessed by London Road will have a seriously detrimental effect on the entire village. This includes too, any significant development that takes place in the Church Lane, Howards Lane loop.

3) We recognise the national need for housing and believe that all parts of East Hampshire should take a fair share. Holybourne is not excluded from this but we believe that there are more appropriate areas in the village, available for development, that will have no impact on London Road and the villagers that use it.

4) The HVA rejects totally the imposition of a new "neighbourhood" in the village. "Neighbourhoods" are by definition, areas of communities within conurbations, not within villages.

5) We oppose anything that will have an adverse impact on the character of the village or on the safety of its residents.

6) We regret very much that the major landowner whose land surrounds the village, has so little understanding of the nature or character of Holybourne that they wish to destroy it by overdevelopment.