

# Holybourne Village Association

*Founded 1974*

11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Minutes

Committee Members	Stuart Hunt (In the Chair), Andy Muir, Pat Lerew, Celia Wood, Sam Dalton, Vanessa Gist, Megan-Beth Millar
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Don Hammond (ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC)
Holybourne Members	Chris Sawyer, Andy Hankin, Matt Julius.

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

No	Item	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Opening of Meeting and Apologies for Absence</b>	
1.1	Stuart Hunt (SH) opened the meeting and accepted apologies from Rob Law, Caroline Wallis, and Jerry Janes. He then stated that, due to the importance of the planning issues he would bring forward that item.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>	
2.1	The minutes of the January meeting were ratified and will be uploaded to the website.	
2.2	Matters Arising No specific items were brought up which would not be covered in later in the agenda.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Members Open Forum</b> No issues.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton</b>	
4.1	New Planning Applications There has been one new applications in Holybourne this month. Pruning a Yew Tree at the Lawns (within the conservation area). The EHDC planning portal is still having teething problems. Once fixed there will be a large influx of applications.	
4.2	Redbrown meetings in the village. Vanessa Gist (VG) gave an update on the residents' meeting and the Redbrown drop-in session held in the Village Hall. The residents' meeting, held in The Church was well attended and the speakers set out many of the issues that the current proposal from Redbrown would raise. They also encouraged the residents to attend the Redbrown drop in session which was planned for the following Wednesday. At this meeting the proposal was presented and its potential effects on the village were shown. It concluded with feedback from the village which was summarised in three points. 1) That Villages do not have 'Neighbourhoods'; this is a feature of a suburb and Holybourne is not a suburb of Alton but a village in its own right. 2) That Holybourne cannot cope with any significant development which has a sole exit onto London Road; the infrastructure cannot handle it. 3) That Holybourne will accept and support development in the village on condition that it is in the 'right place'.  Following this meeting the villagers were invited to a drop in session, hosted by Redbrown where their detailed plans were displayed and there were many experts on hand to answer villagers' questions. The subcommittee of the HVA did not interfere with any attendees but conducted an 'exit poll' when people left. This exit poll noted that there were in excess of 220 visitors and 94% were against the current proposal citing problems related to Traffic, Scale, Flooding and Safety. The play area raised particular concerns as the proposal moved the existing play area, with its current equipment to a smaller area, within the site of the historic	

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	monument where siting this equipment would not be possible. That, together with the extra demand from the new development was felt to be totally unrealistic. It was felt that we should raise this with the council as well.	
4.3	<p><b>Redbrown Development Issues</b></p> <p>Councillors Graham Hill (Cllr GH), Don Hammond (Cllr DH) and Andrew Joy (Cllr AJ) gave us feedback on this proposal with respect to the planning process. It was stated that at present Redbrown have not submitted any documents for outline planning permission (OPP). They have currently lodged a request to consider whether the development warrants an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This has gone to EHDC and an answer will be returned within 3 weeks. If the answer is 'no' then EHDC will expect imminently to receive an OPP which will be made public on the planning portal and people will have 3 weeks in which to make their official comments on it. Conversely Redbrown will need to undertake an EIA before submitting their OPP.</p> <p>The councillors were keen to point out that all planning submissions are looked at in detail with regard to the planning processes and the current planning policies within the ATC and EHDC. In order to obtain permission, all developments must adhere to the policies and thus any comments which could be related to policies will be considered carefully. It was also noted that, given the push from UK Central Government, EH has an onerous house building target to meet and this will play a part in any decision. Christopher Sawyer, Andy Hankin, Matt Julius together amplified their views and concerns about potential increased traffic in London Road</p>	
4.4	<p><b>The Emerging ANP</b></p> <p>Cllr DH stated that with regard to the ANP, all sites listed on the LAA last year will be looked at. These will be submitted in a report to the ATC in March and following that the ATC can then identify sites for development. It is not considered practical to recruit a new ANP Steering Group but it will set up a 'Task and Finish' Group to complete the ANP.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Current Issues Events and Projects</b>	
5.1	<p><b>Village Picnic</b></p> <p>HVA have earmarked a date of 12<sup>th</sup> July for the Village Picnic. However as a result of the issues the firework had with Historic England, we are investigating alternative venues as the movement of vehicles on the sports field is now seriously restricted. As will be the pitching of tents. Andrew's Endowed are being approached.</p>	MBM
5.2	<p><b>Fireworks</b></p> <p>We are beginning to get organised for this year's fireworks event. We believe that we will need to source different catering. As it is certain that no bonfire can take place, alternatives are needed. AM suggested maybe beacons, however these might not be practical. A lantern parade through the village gained a lot of support.</p>	MBM
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Village Communications</b></p> <p>Website no issues</p> <p>Magazine: SH reported that two volunteers had now left the distribution team, but SH would endeavour to find replacement volunteers from the community.</p> <p>Magazine Deadline for the next issue is 7th March.</p> <p>There is currently a concern regarding the relationship between the magazine and the village hall vis costs of hiring and cost of adverts. The magazine group will meet to discuss this point.</p> <p>Social Media – FB WhatsApp no issues.</p> <p>The Church most church details are available on the POTR website nothing specific the Holybourne was highlighted.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Committee Reports</b>	
7.1	<p><b>Chair</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p>However it was noted that the scanner offered for the archiving project can be obtained by contacting Stuart (It will scan from business cards to A2 so will be very useful.) at present it is being used elsewhere.</p>	

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7.2	<p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p>There has been a slight delay in progressing access full to the account. An ongoing issue. David Tomlinson (previous chair) is currently unavailable - but Sam will contact him asap.</p>	SD
7.3	<p><b>Friends of the Pond</b></p> <p>The assumed leak near the weir of the pond was disputed. Andy Hankin (AH) has done much sterling work in the area of the pond and has found that there is a spring in the churchyard (20 yards from the West door) which has been piped past the pond and is likely to be the source of the water which was assumed to be leaking. His finding show that the amount of water entering the pond through the known three inlets is less than the volume of water calculated downstream of the pond outlet. Thus there has to be another source adding to the pond outflow. AH is continuing his work and will bring his findings to the HVA at a later date.</p> <p>A team of 3 have helped our local white goose by driving off the pair of Canadian Geese that have tried to settle. They also keep the vegetation on the island in check. There was talk of getting the farm to remove the silt from the pond – it comes from farm run-off anyway. However Cllr GH reminded us that there are many legal hurdles to jump through before undertaking this work and it may prove difficult. Christopher Sawyer reported that six ducks were killed in road traffic accidents in 2024</p>	
7.4	<p><b>Flood Action Group.</b> Following a meeting (as minuted last month) with the farm manager, Andy Kirby, the farm will cut a new grip on Brockham Hill Lane to reduce the run-off and rainfall washing down to Howards Lane and the pond.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>	
8.1	<p>Pat Lerew brought up issues with the power supply in the Complins area. It was echoed by other members also from the area. It appears that the power supply company are working to rectify the issues but it is taking time.</p>	
8.2	<p>Cllr GH noted that there were still two cones seemingly abandoned from the work done on the footpath from the new retail park. He has reported this to ATC as fly tipping.</p>	
8.3	<p>Cllr GH said that in April he will be furnished with a budget for small grants and the HVA are encouraged to identify projects which can be completed by applying for these grants.</p> <p>Cllr AJ said that he also has some headroom in his present budget for community projects but the application needs to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Close – DONM</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:07 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025</p> <p>All are welcome to attend this.</p>	

### Action Items

Archives: scanning  
Village Picnic  
Fireworks  
Bank account

MBM/ SH  
MBM  
MBM  
SD