

# Holybourne Village Association

*Founded 1974*

11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (In the Chair), Andy Muir, Pat Lerew, Celia Wood, Pat Lerew, Jerry Janes, Caroline Wallis, Megan-Beth Millar
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC)
Holybourne Members	Chris Sawyer, Andy Hankin, John Bound, Matt Julius, Juliette Lowes, Sarah Steel

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	Rob Law (RL) opened the meeting and accepted apologies from Stuart Hunt, Sam Dalton, Vanessa Gist, Don Hammond (ATC). He welcomed Andrew Kirby farm manager of the Belpot/Redbrown estates.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>	
2.1	The minutes of the February meeting were ratified and will be uploaded to the website (-correct month edited).	AM
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>Current Issues Events and Projects</b>	
4.1	<p>Andrew Kirby was invited to give an update of the farm activities with particular emphasis on the hedging work which has caused concern among the villagers. Andrew started by giving some background on the running of the farms local to Holybourne. 4 tenant farms have been amalgamated into the one present farm which he now runs. In the past there would have been a number of workers keeping hedges maintained on an annual basis. However due to various circumstances this had not been done for many years and as a consequence many if not all the hedgerows have become out of control. The drastic looking action taken over the last two years has been needed to rejuvenate the hedges. The action will, in a short time provide thicker lower hedges and provide better cover for nesting birds. Indeed the hedgerows cut last year have shown this growth and have been trimmed again to increase their density. Where needed, areas have been replanted with mixed native hedging, hawthorn, field maple and hazel. Andrew was questioned:</p> <p>a) on whether planning permission was needed for hedge work and Cllr Graham Hill said that he would check this.</p> <p>b) that some dense areas were also scrubbed out depriving birds of nesting sites. Andrew agreed that a few areas of denser scrub was removed but it was necessary to maintain farm tracks for the heavy machinery which was used. He said that the rejuvenation of the hedges will encourage the return of many songbirds as the nesting sites will be vastly improved. This has happened in other areas. He agreed that the action looked severe but in future the maintenance will be much more gradual and sectionally rotated to decrease the overall impact (for wildlife too).</p> <p>The farm has undertaken a tree survey with contractor Wessex Woodland Management. All trees have be assessed and graded red, amber and green. Red signifying trees presenting dangerous conditions and needing urgent action to green where future action may be required. All tree work will be assessed and where needed work licences will be obtained.</p>	Cllr GH

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	<p>The subject of road grips, flooding and farm run off was brought up. It was noted that some of the road grips on Brockham Hill Lane were blocked with hedge trimmings and causing excess flow onto the road with subsequent silt run-off which is finding its way into the pond. Andrew said that repair and maintenance is on the work schedule of Belport and in addition together with a planning application to EHDC for Belport to create an extra grip on Brockham Hill Lane is being considered to reduce flooding outside the church</p> <p>Andrew has written an article which will appear in the next HVA magazine.</p> <p>Rob thanked Andrew for his input.</p>	
4.2	<p>This year, the 8<sup>th</sup> May will be the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. Across the UK there will be bell ringing, beacons and lamp lighting. Villages are encouraged to participate in these activities and the HVA would like Holybourne do play its part. The day itself is a Thursday and thus we may hold celebrations on either the previous or subsequent weekend. MBM will help to identify what we can do; street parties are the present thought together with lamps around the war memorial.</p>	MBM
4.3	<p>Village Picnic</p> <p>HVA have earmarked a date of 12<sup>th</sup> July for the Village Picnic. We will be looking at potentially holding it at "The Lawns" which is central to the village and has the space. MBM will make contact.</p>	MBM
4.4	<p>Fireworks</p> <p>Historic England (HE) has said that we could have a bonfire if it were raised off the ground, however this would be impractical and we have therefore decided to progress a lantern parade. RL will talk to the fireworks supplier to get full details and discuss again with HE the H&amp;S need to secure the fireworks and try to reach agreement. Andrew Kirby said that he could consider making the field to the north of the sports field available at the point where it is outside of the ancient monument curtilage and thus securing the fireworks. RL will consider this too.</p>	RL
4.5	<p>Following the kind donation of a nativity scene via Ysanne, Jerry J has volunteered to make a crib to go with the models. It could then be displayed in the village at Christmas. Cllr GH said that he could provide a grant with the Men's Shed doing the construction. The whereabouts of the figures is also questioned MBM to look into</p>	MBM
<b>5</b>	<b>Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton</b>	
5.1	<p>New Planning Applications</p> <p>There has been one new applications in Holybourne this month for a dropped kerb and new tarmac area for off road parking. This has no implications for the village. EHDC are continuing to improve their new planning portal which should improve functionality.</p>	
5.2	<p>Local Plan ANP</p> <p>Cllr GH stated that The Local Plan is progressing slowly toward a consultation stage next year and a probably issue date in the following year (2027). Delays have been caused by the edict from Central Government which doubled the housing target for East Hampshire and also the move to a Unitary Local Government body which will be responsible for planning matters. Also our local MP Damian Hinds had a meeting with the Minister for Housing Matthew Pennycook to express EH concerns over the Govt. housing allocation which ignores the fact that ~50% of EH is in the South Downs National Park with very minor development targets thus putting undue pressure on the rest of EH. Cllr AJ and Cllr GH have also recently met with Damian Hinds to further highlight these concerns.</p>	
5.3	<p>Other planning Issues</p> <p>A question was raised about the development on the Alton School site. Cllr GH clarified the position that there had been a previous application to build 25 houses which are now underway but it does not affect any of the land area which has become available due to the school closure. Any possible development of this site will be subject to a separate planning application.</p> <p>Chris Sawyer asked whether any development was going on at Manor Farm as there was the sound of work going on there. Andrew Kirby confirmed that no</p>	

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	development was taking place but there had been a large wood chipper working there following hedgerow work and this was probably the reason for the noise.	
<b>6</b>	<p>Village Communications</p> <p>Website: no issues</p> <p>Magazine: John Bound gave an update: he said that Barry Lawrence the new advertising manager has managed to sell £5,000 of advertising for the next 3 issues of the magazine and together with John they have implemented a new procedure which means that advert traceability is now much better controlled. JB asked could the treasurer forward a 'CSV' version of the bank balance so that the system could identify all payments. RL said that he would chase this up. The magazine is almost complete now but submissions are always welcome send articles (etc.) to <a href="mailto:Editor@holybourne.com">Editor@holybourne.com</a>.</p> <p>Social Media – Jerry Janes said that the only real issue with social media is due to the current proliferation of AI generated material, children's faces will be masked and that for adults too, there is a danger that if faces are seen, these could be harvested by AI and put to very inappropriate use. He asked people to be aware of everything they publish on public sites.</p> <p>The Church most church details are available on the POTR website: Lent lunches are now in full swing on Wednesdays till 16<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p>Andrew Micklefield has presided over his last service here at Holyrood and also St Lawrence Alton. As reported before, he moves on to become Canon Treasurer at Winchester Cathedral</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Committee Reports</b>	
7.1	Chair Nothing to report.	
7.2	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>David Tomlinson will be contacted by Sam and Rob asap.</p>	
7.3	<p>Friends of the Pond</p> <p>Andy Hankin gave an update on the pond.</p> <p>The assumed leak near the weir of the pond has now been identified as a spring and is not a leak in the pond. AH has surveyed the pond itself with CCTV taking underwater pictures which have identified up to 4 spring sources within the pond and the outflow from the road drains in the top of Howards Lane. The pond does suffer from silt with the layer ranging from 150mm to 600mm deep. Most, if not all of this silt will have come from field run-off through the road drainage system. AH proposes to get the silt checked for toxicity with a view to getting it cleared from the pond. Andrew Kirby said that the farm is willing to help where they could with this task and hopefully can remove and dispose of the unwanted silt. Any action relating to pond work must be approved by the EA and Cllr GH has passed on details of the local EA rep as ATC are working on Kings Pond Alton. It was noted that there are several fish in the pond, including one rather large white carp. Chris Sawyer then pointed out that he regularly undertakes maintenance work on the island and has noticed that the construction is decaying and that if not addressed the island will split into two. This might need to be addressed. AH will have an article in the magazine.</p>	Cllr GH Andy Hkn
7.4	Flood Action Group. No issues.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
8.1	Pat Lerew reminded us that, as reported in the November meeting the subject of Holybourne forming a parish council was to be considered. She agreed that given the pressure of planning issues the proposal to investigate forming a Parish	PL CW SD
8.2	Council is now imperative. As mentioned in November, Pat, Celia and Sam would look at this and report back to the HVA. (Next month or the following?).	
8.3	<p>Andy suggested we ask about having an official 20mph speed limit through the village. This was unanimously supported. AM to contact Cllr Andrew Joy for info.</p> <p>Cllr. G Hill said that as the new financial year was beginning he now has a new grant fund available for suitable projects throughout the Holybourne Ward.</p>	

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	Applications should be sent to him. The investigation of the pond was immediately considered as worthy and Andy Hankin should liaise with Cllr GH to progress this,	Cllr GH/AH
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Close – DONM</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:20 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025</p> <p>All are welcome to attend this.</p>	

### Action Items

Minutes from Feb to web	AM
Did Farm need PP for hedge cutting	Cllr GH
VE day celebrations	MBM
Village Picnic	MBM
Securing fireworks	RL
Where are nativity figures?	MBM
Details of EA contact to Andy Hankin	Cllr GH
Parish Council issues	PL/CW/SD
Funding of pond silt investigation	AH to Cllr GH