

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

10th June 2025

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair), Andy Muir, Celia Wood (CW), Pat Lerew, Caroline Wallis (CWa), Stuart Hunt, Jerry Janes (JJ), Megan-Beth Millar
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC),
Holybourne Members	Barry Lawrence, Nigel Stevens, Tony Nelson, Steven Swift

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

No	Item	Action
1	Opening of Meeting and Apologies for Absence RL opened the meeting welcoming the committee, Tony Nelson, Steven Swift Nigel Stevens and Barry Lawrence. Apologies were received from:- Cllr Don Hammond (ATC), Sam Dalton, Vanessa Gist.	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	The minutes of the May meeting were ratified and will be uploaded to the website.	AM
2.2	Matters Arising No specific items were brought up which would not be covered in later in the agenda.	
3	Members Open Forum	
3.1	RL invited Tony and Steven to raise their views. Steven Swift introduced himself as the new manager of The Lawn and explained that as well as being near the centre of the village he would like The Lawn to play a much more prominent and active role within the village. To this end he will be undertaking a number of new initiatives to achieve this aim. Tony Nelson recounted that he has recently taken up some volunteering work tidying up the gardens at The Lawn. He said that it was obvious that in the past the gardens were well laid out and showed much underlying structure but had fallen into disrepair and would benefit from some active maintenance. He recently met with Steven and Mr T with a view to getting the best advice to improve the area. He has obtained a grant of £500 from Cllr Graham Hill who has visited the Lawns recently to start the ball rolling but is actively looking for a number of volunteers who can help with the project. Cllr Graham Hill suggested that he should get in touch with Natalie from the ATC who could include a message in The Altonian. Megan-Beth suggested that it might be a good target for 'The Big Help-Out' which is an annual community activity. Tony says that he would welcome any volunteering whether it was just once or on a regular basis. The garden is large and it will take time to get it back into shape. Steven Swift is right behind this initiative and has facilitated the means of entry into The Lawn carrying out risk assessments to control the access.	
3.2	Megan-Beth brought up the issue of the water leak in Upper Neatham Mill Lane. Cllr Andrew Joy was able to give an update. Following tests by South East Water (SEW), the water source is not from a burst water main. It is a natural spring. It has been surmised that the spring was probably culverted and that the recent road works undertaken by SEW may have disturbed the culvert or blocked it and the spring consequently found an exit point through the reinstatement. East Hampshire Highways will be investigating this and hopefully rectifying it soon. They have already cleaned the road under the railway bridge as the water has allowed moss and algae to grow and consequently it is very slippery and dangerous to walk through.	
3.3	Nigel Stevens wished to talk about planning. This is an agenda item raised later.	

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4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Village Picnic. Megan-Beth has been in discussion with Steven Swift of The Lawn and The Lawn are happy to host the Village Picnic this year. There are still some issue to firm up but the proposed date is 30 th August 13:00 to 17:00. Publicity and info will be coming soon.	MBM
4.2	Fireworks: We have started negotiations with Historic England for permission to hold the event. We have planned and organised non-invasive securing platforms for the fireworks. RL is talking to Cllr Graham Hill about a grant for these. We will negotiate with Tom Main at the farm with regard to having a bonfire elsewhere.	FrWks team
4.3	There has been much discussion about establishing a 20MPH speed limit through village. Cllr Graham Hill showed a detailed résumé of the recent speed indicator which was placed on London Road near the Treloars entry. After some discussion it was agreed that the HVA should proceed with the purchase of an indicator (smiley/frowny face display) and to start fundraising to meet the cost. Cllr Graham Hill said that he would provide some funds from his grant allocation. The actual introduction of a 20 MPH limit rests with Hampshire Highways and is under consideration.	
4.4		
5	Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton	
5.1	<p>New Planning Applications</p> <p>Several new applications have been received this month. The only one of significance is the alteration to the application for two houses on the land to the south of The Priory (11 Howards Lane) with proposed access via demolishing a section of the old wall bordering Howards Land and requiring a small section of the land of No 5 Houses Lane. This is in the Holybourne conservation area. EHDC-25-0526-LBC. Nigel Stevens (NS) is the new owner of The Priory and is greatly affected by this proposal. He wished to record that he was very pleased with the help he has received from Cllr Graham Hill and wanted to point out the areas in which he feels this application falls short of what would be acceptable within the conservation area. He said that he appreciated that the conservation area should consider carefully any development, indeed as it was built in 1627 and imposed a 'no building zone' then, much of the housing would not be there. However in 1977 the Priory, its structures and curtilage was listed by Historic England. This development is on land which formed part of the Priory curtilage but was sold separately prior to the sale of the Priory. Part of the listed wall was included in that sale. In order for the development to proceed, the developer wishes to knock down and remove this part of the listed wall. Rather than knocking it down, NS believes that the wall should be repaired to a suitable standard to maintain the integrity of the listing. The proposed build itself is sited about 20 metres from the Priory and as such will have a major effect on the amenity value, including degradation of light. Cllr Graham Hill said that ATC reviewed this planning application but stated that it has deferred its comments until the report from the Conservation Officer has been received and reviewed. The progress of the application is therefore delayed until this has happened. In the meantime comments can still be posted on the EH Planning Portal.</p>	
5.2	<p>Redbrown development update.</p> <p>Jerry Janes (HVA planning group coordinator) said that it has been recognised that an outline planning permission will be submitted before the end of June. The Group is currently assessing the existing information. After the OPP is made public, the group would meet with both ATC councillors to advise them of the HVA position. It will then publish and distribute its reasons for its actions in relation to the application (likely to be objections). The group wishes to call an EGM to brief the HVA on its findings and to get endorsement from the HVA. This will then allow the HVA to set up a village meeting and publicise the details of the application and its impact on the village. The meeting will help identify areas to which villagers may wish to object and to demonstrate how they might post their objections. At present the EIA submission has been noted as flawed in many places but is not itself something to lodge an objection.</p>	
5.3	<p>Local Plan ANP</p> <p>No new development.</p>	

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6	<p>Village Communications</p> <p>Website: no issues</p> <p>Magazine: We have currently lost our magazine compiler/designer and are currently looking for a replacement. The Summer Magazine is currently in development – any articles would be welcome to editor@holybourne.com. The Cricket Club have approached us to insert flyers in with the magazine. They should contact John Bound (Editor) on how this can be done, it should be during printing/production rather than after receipt of finished magazines.</p> <p>Social Media The HVA FB page is looking for a replacement admin. MBM and JJ volunteered to undertake this role. AM to arrange this with the retiring admin.</p> <p>The Church no issues</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>AM</p>
7	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>7.1 Chair Nothing to report.</p> <p>7.2 Treasurer</p> <p>Given the difficulties with the treasurer's account it was proposed by JJ and seconded by MBM that we create a new bank account for the HVA and arrange to transfer all but a holding sum from the existing account to the new one. This was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>7.3 Friends of the Pond</p> <p>Following the discussion last month, Stuart Hunt said that if we could get a silt sample to him, he could arrange to get it analysed for potential toxins at a fraction of the accredited lab costs which would give us a good idea as to whether it was worth arranging an accredited lab analysis. We would of course need the accredited sample if we wanted to dispose of the silt. The first sample would be a good way forward. AM agreed to pass the message on to Andy Hankin and Bob Page who are currently acting as FoP.</p> <p>7.4 Flood Action Group. No issues.</p>	<p>SD</p> <p>RL</p> <p>AM</p>
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>8.1 Magen-Beth said that along with many people in the village she was concerned that the main entrance to the village via Montecchio Way was subject to an overnight closure with no prior warning leaving many people stranded and having to find another way back into the village. Cllr Andrew Joy totally agreed with her and said he was unaware that this happened. He said he would inform the Highways Team and find out how this happened, and to ensure there would be no repeats.</p> <p>8.2 Barry Lawrence wanted to record that with regard to the Redbrown proposal, the screening to be provided was not, in his opinion, adequate cover for his house and the ones nearby.</p> <p>8.3 Pat Lerew passed round the programmes for the forthcoming Jane Austen week</p>	
9	<p>Close – DONM</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 8th July 2025</p> <p>All are welcome to attend this.</p>	

Action Items

Upload previous minutes	AM
Publicise the Village Picnic	MBM
Progress the fireworks programme	FrWks team
Inform Cricket Club re flyers	RL
Arrange admin handover of FB page	AM
Open new bank account	SD/RL
Sampling of silt info	AM