

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

8th July 2025

Minutes Updated with post meeting notes, in blue, from August

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Sam Dalton(SD), Pat Lerew(PL), Caroline Wallis (CWa), Jerry Janes (JJ), Megan-Beth Millar)MBM)
Ex Officio	Cllr Don Hammond (ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC),
Holybourne Members	Paul Fitzgibbon, Andy Hankin, Bob Page, Ailsa Jacob

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, the Councillors and representatives from the Village. Apologies were received from:- Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Celia Wood (CW), Stuart Hunt, 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 RL wished to emphasise that villagers could if they wished help with the gardening at the Lawn on a voluntary basis. Steve Swift of the Lawn and Tony Nelson of the village are the contacts. HVA will be happy to pass any names on to these. The water leak on Upper Neatham Mill Lane is slowing and is not dangerous any more. Cllr AJ pointed out that the underlying problem is still there and he will take it further with Hampshire Highways. Cllr AJ reports that the Upper Neatham Mill Lane leaky(!) works are rearranged yet again for 20/21 Aug 0800-1600	
3	Members Open Forum	
3.1	RL invited Ailsa Jacob (Chair of the Governors of Andrews' Endowed School) to speak to the committee. Andrews' Endowed is a well-established school in Holybourne and as part of its ongoing educational programme it wishes to have a closer connection to the rest of the village. Pupils already visit The Lawn on a regular basis but there must be activities within the village which could also benefit from the involvement of the pupils and at the same time be of educational value to them. The school also engages in collaboration with Treloars and engagement with the village would be in line with the school motto – Love; Courage; Respect. The school itself has many outdoor facilities which could also be available for use, for instance the Holybourne Preschool children. There is an all-weather running track and a forest area for relaxation and mindfulness. Ailsa concluded by saying that the school was open to suggestions and that we should spread the word of cooperation. The best contact would be through Mrs Tracy Slater, the business manager. AM suggested that the HVA could publicise future open school events on its website and would like to update the existing school entry. Contact for this would be via secretary@holybourn.com . Paul Fitzgibbon then said that the current planning issues are presently undertaken by mostly older generations and that young families and pupils are very much under represented. Perhaps this is an activity with which the school could help. It would also provide a learning activity too.	
4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Village Picnic. Megan-Beth announced that Friends of the Lawn have agreed to hold the village picnic on their site on 30 th August 13:00 to 17:00 and their media team will get involved with the publicity. RL said that our events insurance has been updated and will cover this. He also passed on contacts for hiring of	

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	<p>portaloos as the Lawn facilities will not be available for the public. Fete details should be finalised by 17th Aug: if anyone has anything to contribute let me know please.</p>	
4.2	<p>Fireworks: We have secured a grant from Cllr GH to enable us to purchase and manufacture firework stabilisation platforms. RL will arrange material purchase and will call upon help from the committee to construct them. The fireworks are now on order and RL will arrange for invoice settlement. Ticket prices will need to be raised this year and the fireworks sub group will establish the range. MBM said that as we were having a lantern parade instead of a bonfire, perhaps we could arrange to start the parade at Andrews' Endowed School. AJ said this sounded a good idea and we should contact Tracy at the school.</p>	FrWks team
4.3	<p>20MPH speed limit through village. We agreed that we would not press for a rapid resolution on this at present leaving Hampshire Highways to progress it. Cllr AJ said that a more immediate action could be the introduction of flashing lights and a reduced speed area outside Andrews' Endowed School to highlight the crossing and safety thereof. We agreed also that we should support Cllr Graham Hill carrying on with the purchase of a speed indicator (smiley/frowny face display) and the HVA may need to start fundraising to meet some of the cost in conjunction with Cllr GH's grant allocation.</p>	
5	<p>Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton</p>	
5.1	<p>New Planning Applications No new applications have been received this month. The development of one dwelling at Westbrook House (Howards Lane) has been given permission meeting the ANP guidelines for the conservation area. Consultation has closed for the application for two houses on the land to the south of The Priory (11 Howards Lane). This will be watched. PP for the Queens Head conversion to a nursery has been accepted by ATC</p>	
5.2	<p>Redbrown development update. The outline planning permission has been submitted for up to 160 houses in this development. JJ (HVA planning group coordinator) said that it has formulated a response to this application and a leaflet will be delivered to every house in the village. The findings of the subcommittee will be put before an EGM of the HVA on Friday 11th and will call for HVA agreement. A public meeting has been arranged to be held in the church on 22nd July where our objections to the development can be disseminated to the village. Many thanks were given to the ATC councillors and RL for successfully achieving an extension to the timeline for receiving comments. The very size of the application – over 60 documents would have made it unduly challenging for anyone to review and comment. HCC specialist Highways and 'Water' management consultee reports are being addressed and that EHDC Planning WILL take these into account as and when they can be completed probably end Aug/early Sep.</p>	
5.3	<p>Local Plan ANP Cllr DH said that progress will begin on the emerging ANP soon. There are still no actual guidance numbers for developments. A report on all sites on the LAA has been received and the new Town Clerk is currently forming a strategy to move the process forward.</p>	
6	<p>Village Communications</p> <p>Website: Andrews' Endowed agreed to send through details to update their entry on our site. AM put out a general call for people to pass on details which should be relevant for recording publicly on our site. AM will pursue other relevant inputs too.</p> <p>Magazine: The currently Summer Magazine is still in development but closing soon – any articles would be welcome to editor@holybourne.com.</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>AM</p> <p>AM</p>

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	The Church no issues	
7	Committee Reports	
7.1	Chair Nothing to report.	
7.2	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Following last month's meeting where it was agreed that we should pursue a new bank account, the Treasurer researched possible establishments and put forward 4 likely banks. A discussion followed and it was unanimously agreed that we should open a mainly on-line account with The Cooperative Bank Community Directplus Account. The signatories would be the office bearers, Chair Rob Law, Treasurer Sam Dalton and Secretary Andy Muir. RL proposed (seconded AM) that SD should progress this and called for relevant details, (carried unanimously). AM will pass a copy of the constitution to SD. RL will approach Vickie to get a copy of the existing bank statements for the last 3 years.</p>	SD AM RL
7.3	<p>Friends of the Pond</p> <p>Andy Hankin and Bob Page have researched companies to help clearing the silt from the pond. Aquamaintain were approached for details and discussions were held over sampling the silt for toxicity and methods of silt removal and disposal. A set of guidelines has been obtained so that we can sample the silt ourselves, thereby reducing the overall cost. Analysis will need to be undertaken by an accredited lab for the result to be valid. Following a hopefully positive lab outcome (i.e. non-toxic silt), the company can remove the silt by vacuum dredging and by using it to consolidate the island, the logistics of off-site disposal are overcome. Off-site disposal would require obtaining a waste management licence. AH & BP will provide costs for each of these activities. The HVA does wish to improve the quality of the pond and will consider how we can raise funds. Discussion of pond maintenance followed as did the query of the actual pond owner (which is currently unclear). IN reality the ATC will only undertake emergency maintenance, and this does not fall into that category. JJ, long standing member of the HVA, recalled that the pond was cleared once before by the HVA. PL was on the committee at that time and agreed to find out how it was done on that occasion.</p> <p>PL reports that the HVA never dredged the pond because it would have been very expensive.</p>	PL
7.4	<p>Flood Action Group</p> <p>Although there are currently no issues with regard to flooding, as part of the ongoing research into the springs and lavants in Holybourne, AH & BP have met The River Wey Trust with a view to helping with maintenance of the river Wey between Holybourne and Bentley and the effect of all the inputs on the water quality. To this end they have requested funds of around £300 to undertake qualitative river sampling and analysis and will pass results on to the Trust. (This sampling will also pick up overflows from the Thames Water Holybourne sewage pumping station). As part of developing relations with Andrews' Endowed, this activity would be an ideal educational source for pupils to see.</p>	
8	Any Other Business	
8.1	Pat Lerew reported that the Jane Austen Regency Week had been a great success with many international visitors particularly as this was the 250 th Anniversary of JA's birth.	
9	<p>Close – DONM</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 9th September 2025</p> <p>All are welcome to attend this.</p>	