

# Holybourne Village Association

*Founded 1974*

9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Minutes

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| Committee Members  | Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Pat Lerew(PL), Caroline Wallis (CWA), Jerry Janes (JJ), Celia Wood (CW), Stuart Hunt, Vanessa Gist (VG). |
| Ex Officio         | Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC),                                                                                      |
| Holybourne Members | Matt Julius, Barrie Lawrence, Andy Hankin, Bob Page, Debbie Whitehead, Andrew Lyndon-Skeggs                                                  |

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

| No       | Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action |
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| <b>1</b> | <b>Opening of Meeting and Apologies for Absence</b><br>RL opened the meeting welcoming the committee, the councillors and representatives from the village.<br>Apologies were received from:-<br>Cllr Don Hammond (ATC), Sam Dalton (SD) Megan-Beth Millar (MBM).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | AM     |
| 2.1      | No meeting was held in August and therefore the minutes of the July meeting were acknowledged. PL wished to comment on these before they are uploaded to the website (- suitably edited).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |
| 2.2      | Matters Arising<br>RL noted that there were no matters arising which would not be discussed under their appropriate items.<br>(Post meeting note - )The water leak on Upper Neatham Mill Lane appears to have been stopped following action by Hampshire Highways (HH).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Members Open Forum</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |
| 3.1      | RL invited Andrew Lyndon-Skeggs to convey his proposition to the committee. ALS began by stating that he has been a resident of Holybourne for 50 years and has seen development over that time. He recognised that development is still necessary in this area but on a far smaller scale than the Redbrown proposal and that any development should not put any pressure on the already highly loaded London Road. There was a proposition many years ago to build a service area next to the A31 / Montecchio Way junction. Although this was refused, the concept of building here was not the issue. A plan has been drawn up and was presented to the HVA showing an area roughly 10 acres holding a development of 48 residential properties of various sizes - meeting planning requirements which assist EHDC meet its house building target. It is recognised that this land is not actually in Holybourne and indeed there would be no vehicular access to the village, however there would be cycle and pedestrian access and would therefore enjoy the facilities of the village. Holybourne is a tier 4 area and therefore is required to accept up to 7 additional houses and this development would not necessarily have any effect on this as it falls outside the ward boundary, although it is within the ANP envelope. These points were recognised by the HVA committee and ALS was extensively questioned about the impact on the village given the close proximity of the development. Overall, the committee would support this development and thanked ALS for his presentation. |        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Current Issues Events and Projects</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |        |
| 4.1      | The village picnic was adversely affected by the weather and had to be cancelled this year. This was a disappointment however it was thought that the poor weather                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |        |

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| <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>                            | <p>would have severely affected attendance and the decision to cancel was the right one.</p> <p>Fireworks.<br/>Historic England have reviewed our application to hold the firework display on the sport field and given that we will no longer have a bonfire, are happy for the event to proceed now and in the future. Catering has been organised and the Cricket Club will be approached to see if they would provide a bar service. There are concerns over holding a lantern parade as this might require a road closure. Discussions led to the thought that having a gathering of lanterns and a lighting of them on the field would be a suitable way forward. This will be put to the fireworks subcommittee. RL said that there is room for more people to join the fireworks subcommittee and we take this as a call for help. Ad will be out soon.</p> <p>Preparation for the AGM<br/>Next month's meeting is the HVA AGM and preparation work is needed. VG has volunteered to draft a recruitment letter which will be uploaded to the HVA website and also put onto 'The Hub' for villagers to see. It is hoped that seeing the work the HVA has done with the planning issues, some people will be encouraged to join the committee. At this AGM Pat Lerew has come to the end of her role and may step down from the committee. The 3 office bearers are willing to stand for a further year but in 2026 many will be coming to the end of their appointments. It would be good to have more representation from younger members of the village too.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>FrWks team</p> <p>VG<br/>AM</p> |
| <p><b>5</b></p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> | <p><b>Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton</b></p> <p>New Planning Applications<br/>The only significant new application was for a garage replacement in Upper Neatham Mill Lane. Others were for tree work within the conservation area or with a TPO. None of these will impact the village in any adverse way. Tree growth on Montecchio Way was brought up, this area is controlled by Hampshire Highways and it has been noted and will be dealt with at the appropriate time. At this point AJ reminded us that if we see any hedging which is encroaching on the highway it can be reported via the Hampshire website. Doing so will record the incident and action will follow.</p> <p>Redbrown development update.<br/>Cllr G Hill gave an update. The window for comments has now officially closed - however during the review of comments there would still be time to add more. It is clear that EHDC find there are several fundamental issues with this development and also areas where the analysis of the impact has been deficient. Several key statutory consultees have expressed concern. HH have considerable concerns over the impact assessment data.<br/>Although the consultation from Thames Water is itemised on the planning portal, it cannot be accessed. This is probably an admin error and Cllr G Hill will report it back to the controller. Flood management data and the Travel Plan are also considered inadequate and will need further details.<br/>ATC has evaluated it against the ANP and will object strongly.<br/>These issues alone will delay any decision on the progress of this proposal.</p> <p>Local Plan / ANP<br/>Cllr G Hill said that the current ANP is still in force and will be until 2026 but thereafter will have a diminishing effect.<br/>Going forward there are 3 options.<br/>1 Wait till the EHDC local plan is produced and act on the outcome<br/>2 Formalise the existing draft new ANP with the land allocations identified<br/>3 Formalise the existing draft new ANP without the land allocations identified<br/>ATC has commissioned the consultancy Aecom to undertake a review of all LAA sites within the area and its report is awaited.<br/>On receipt of this the ANP planning will progress. The HVA planning group will also review it.</p> | <p>Cllr GH</p>                     |

## Holybourne Village Association

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| <p><b>6</b></p>                                             | <p><b>Village Communications</b></p> <p><b>Website:</b> The HVA Website went down due to technical admin issues. It is recognised that it is not extensively used as a media for communication as the WhatsApp groups are fulfilling this role. Cllr G Hill pointed out that a website is a “pull” system whereas WhatsApp is a “push” one. They each have their place. Generally remains the go to place for Village public information although ‘The Hub’ has taken rightly over day to day issues.</p> <p><b>Magazine:</b> The currently Summer Magazine is out for delivery Barry Lawrence, the magazine adverting manager, said that on paper, the magazine is now back on track to be self-funding however he pointed out that he has not received any feedback as to receipts of the revenue from the invoices he has sent. This situation must be addressed as a matter of urgency. BL was formerly thanked by RL for his work in getting the funding back into the black .Any articles would be welcome to <a href="mailto:editor@holybourne.com">editor@holybourne.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Social Media</b> The WhatsApp groups continue to be that quickest platform for village communication, the HVA FB page taking a lesser role.</p> <p><b>The Church</b> no issues</p> <p>It was mentioned here that we should add an item to identify the archive facility at The Lawn. This will be put on future committee meeting agenda.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>SD to BL</p> <p>AM</p>          |
| <p><b>7</b></p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p> | <p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>The treasurer could not attend this meeting and a response was shared by RL. SD (Treas.) has opened a new bank account for the HVA with the COOP bank. The existing bank account will remain open for a period so that all information relating to it can be obtained. In due course it is expected that it will close and we will run on the new account. As the AGM is next month the annual accounts should be drawn up. SD will need to meet with Vickie Kemp and may be assisted by RL. During this process feedback to BL will need to take place.</p> <p><b>Friends of the Pond</b><br/>Bob Page and Andy Hankin have done some serious in depth work on the pond and were thanked by RL. They have noted however that the pond has suffered from a large inflow of milky water, traced back to the use of chalk scalplings on the Redbrown farm tracks. BP has drafted a letter to be sent to the farm manager, Andy Kirby. This was circulated to the committee and will be officially sent by the HVA. BP and AH have researched methods of removing the silt from the bottom of the pond and renovating the island. Due to the probable base of the pond being puddled clay, it would not be suitable to use a dredger to remove the silt, better to be a vacuum suction method. The removed silt could be used to re-establish the island and pond margins. There would however still be the future problem of silt ingress which needs to be addressed. The farm needs to be approached to bolster up the roadside drainage grips preventing silt ingress into the drainage system. HH also has a responsibility here too. AJ said that individuals should report deficiencies to HH via their website and this will identify and record events. During their dealing with the pond BB and AH have joined the River Wey Trust, which monitors the whole stretch of the river gathering samples to identify and record pollution incidents. They have taken responsibility for gathering samples and analysis kits for the stretch between Holybourne and Bentley. and are asking for funding for the sampling kits. Cllr G Hill suggest that they write to him with the needs as he considers that this type of expense will qualify for a council grant.</p> <p><b>Flood Action Group</b><br/>Nothing to add.</p> | <p>SD/RL</p> <p>Bob to Cllr GH</p> |

## Holybourne Village Association

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| <p><b>8</b></p> <p>8.1</p> | <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>JJ said that the area along Montecchio Way by the Holybourne junction is inundated with estate agent signs; For Sale, Sold and Under Offer, on both sides of the road, one being near the Barleyfields entry These have been there for a very long time and are unsightly. Cllr A Joy said that signs on land near the road are HH responsibility but behind fences or road crash barriers were on private land and HH could not remove them. Trader signs have been removed but estate agent signs have a dispensation, however he said he would politely ask them to consider the duration of signage.</p> <p>PL gave an update on the progress of investigation Parish Council status for Holybourne. She has sent to the committee an instruction set on the process to follow and one of the main criteria is to get a petition going. If we were to be a Parish Council then there would be a paid member of staff to help control the activities. The issue is a suitable one to be raised at the AGM.</p> | <p>Cllr AJ</p> <p>PL</p> |
| <p><b>9</b></p>            | <p><b>Close – DONM</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:20 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is the AGM at 7:30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025</p> <p>All are welcome to attend this.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                          |

## Action Items

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|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Upload previous minutes                     | AM              |
| Fireworks publicity                         | MBM, FrWks team |
| AGM Agenda and recruitment                  | AM VG           |
| Planning Portal issue                       | CIlr GH         |
| Website Maint                               | AM              |
| Progress Bank Account                       | SD              |
| Annual accounts and Ad payment details      | SD RL           |
| Grant applic for test kits (await Bob Page) | CIlr GH         |
| Advertising signs on the road               | CIlr AJ         |