

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

11th November 2025

Minutes

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Committee Members | Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM), Jerry Janes (JJ), Celia Wood (CW), Stuart Hunt, Vanessa Gist (VG), Keith Halcrow (KH). |
| Ex Officio | Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC), |
| Holybourne Members | Matt Julius, Barrie Lawrence, Andy Hankin, Bob Page, John Bound, Paul Fitzgibbon |

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. He also welcomed Keith Halcrow as anew committee member Apologies were received from:- Cllr Hammond (ATC), Sam Dalton (SD), Pat Lerew (PL), Caroline Wallis (CWa). | |
| 2 | Appointment of officers (following the AGM) The 3 officers, Chair Rob Law, Secretary Andy Muir, and Treasurer Sam Dalton confirmed their roles for this coming year. There being no opposition to this, their appointments stand. | |
| 3 | Minutes of Last Committee Meeting and October AGM | |
| 3.1 | The last committee meeting was in September and the circulated minutes were ratified. | |
| 3.2 | October AGM Cllr GH advised on some updates expanding on information: date of next AGM corrected, then the minutes were ratified. | |
| 3.3 | There were no matters arsing which were not covered in this meeting's agenda. | |
| 4 | Members Open Forum The only item of concern to the members was that of the Redbrown Planning application. This being so RL said that the discussion would be held under Item 5 relating to all planning issues. | |
| 5 | Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton | |
| 5.1 | New Planning Applications There were no significant planning applications since the last meeting. Some tree work in the conservation area was proposed. | |
| 5.2 | Neighbourhood Plan Update - Local Plan / ANP Cllr Hill said that following the ATC meeting in July, the community has been polled for the suggested way forward to draw up the next Neighbourhood Plan. The Options: 1 Wait till the EHDC local plan is produced and act on the outcome 2 Formalise the existing draft new ANP with the land allocations identified 3 Formalise the existing draft new ANP without the land allocations identified Were asked and the ATC are now assessing the result. There are of course other factors which will have an influence, the major 2 are a) The local government reorganisation is progressing and it will have a bearing on where the planning department is placed in the new set-up. It is | |

Holybourne Village Association

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| | <p>also very likely that the new authority will not be fully functioning till 2027. This may affect any decision made by the current regime</p> <p>b) Central Government is striving to push for a substantial amount of the planning process to be made centrally, and not at local District level</p> <p>With regard to the EHDC Local Plan, the existing ANP is still in force till 2026 and Holybourne is designated as a tier 4 village, not part of the tier 1 settlement of Alton. The emerging Local Plan has completely changed the settlement hierarchy and treats Holybourne as part of Alton. It has also downgraded the status of Bordon to tier 2 relieving it of much of the planning pressure. This situation should be questioned and the HVA call for people to lobby their councillors to strongly object to this change in status.</p> <p>Redbrown development update.</p> <p>The HVA and with it the rest of the village have received an update from Redbrown as to their continued discussions with some of the statutory consultees, such as Historic England, Hampshire Highways, Hampshire Flood and Water Management team. Notably absent was Alton Town Council, (and its representation of Holybourne Village. A lively discussion ensued particularly with reference to some of the updated planning documents and as a result, the HVA would like to present their concerns to the ATC local councillors and to then comment on the planning portal. With a development as significant as this, the comment window of 10 days was also considered too short. Of particular concern to the village as a whole was the proposed traffic management and both the surface water and foul water systems.</p> | |
| 6 | Current Issues Events and Projects | |
| 6.1 | <p>Fireworks.</p> <p>This year the attendance at the fireworks display was very low, it is now no longer feasible to continue in the same vain. A poll of the village after the event conclusively considered the lack of the bonfire as a major factor in attendance. The fireworks team will attempt to mitigate some of the losses by inter-community negotiations. It is also thought that some re-assessment by Historic England should be sought. Details will be reported next month.</p> | |
| 6.2 | <p>Christmas Tree</p> <p>MBM reported that as of two years ago, the White Hart has taken ownership of the provision of the Christmas Tree and may benefit with donations from the Craft Group Fayre. Cllr Hill then reported that the Nativity Crib, which was constructed by Alton Men's Shed is due to be delivered imminently. In consultation with Sid it will be displayed outside the shop during December. Following that, it has found storage courtesy of Mrs Sue Stevens at The Priory. Thanks we given for both the funding and construction via Cllr Hill and for the storage.</p> | |
| 6.3 | <p>Village Picnic</p> <p>The HVA plan to have The Picnic in 2026 and planning will start later. Reporting as necessary.</p> | |
| 6.4 | <p>Archives</p> <p>The Archives received a Cup named the Holybourne Working Men's Billiards Cup. It generated interest in finding out where and when the competitions took place.</p> | |
| 7 | Village Communications | |
| 7.1 | <p>Website/Social Media: The HVA Website continues to be maintained and a source of local news and historical info. However for day to day dissemination of info, the social media FB page and WhatsApp group have in general taken over the role. It was pointed out that for outsiders trying to get a feel for the village the site was incredibly useful. It does also assist in directing people how to contact various sources of info and submit comments.</p> | |
| 7.2 | <p>Magazine: The magazine reported that it is now projecting a small surplus over its admin costs which is a great relief to the HVA being as the HVA itself is unfunded and relies on the few events (Magazine Fireworks Picnic) to maintain its viability.</p> | |

Holybourne Village Association

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| | <p>Especially as this past year the Fete was cancelled and the fireworks ran at a loss. Discussion were had over ways of increasing the margin and these will be ongoing throughout the coming months. Thanks were given to the whole Magazine team. The current Winter Magazine is taking shape and will be with the printers very soon. It is projected to be distributed in early December.</p> <p>The Church no issues</p> | |
| 7 | Committee Reports | |
| 7.1 | Chair Nothing extra to report. | |
| 7.2 | <p>Treasurer</p> <p>The treasurer could not attend this meeting and a response was shared by RL. SD (Treas.). Change of signatories is progressing on the existing bank account (one retired legacy member's signature was missing from the Bank's request – this has now been obtained. The overall account stands at £6649 but much of this was a volunteered fighting fund from the village and demarcation will be required as a matter of priority once control is obtained.</p> | |
| 7.3 | <p>Friends of the Pond</p> <p>Bob Page and Andy Hankin have formed the backbone of the Friends of the Pond group which has an aim of returning the pond to a viable living pond. One of the major problems is still the level of silt within the pond but equally important is to find a way of preventing silt from entering in the first place. Cllr Hill noted that the ATC has similar but greater issues with Kings Pond in Alton. FoP are actively seeking out information to determine who owns the pond as it is difficult to carry out any remedial work without owners consent.</p> | |
| 7.4 | <p>One major source of silt is the road drainage and field run-off coming down Brockham Hill Lane. New Grips are being installed and the existing ones need clearing too.</p> <p>Along with the pond, AH and BP have also joined The River Wey Trust and will be testing the river and its sources for various pollutants. Cllr Hill has earmarked a grant of £550 to cover cost of testing chemicals and requested that BP, without delay, should submit a grant request to the ATC electronically. When they are established in the testing regime, they will be visited by pupils and teachers from Andrew's Endowed School as part of a local environmental learning exercise.</p> <p>Flood Action Group</p> <p>AH reported that many of the springs are still not running, however with the forecasted rain over the next week, it is likely that they will start again.</p> | |
| 8 | Any Other Business | |
| 8.1 | SH said that "There is a new SID in the village" that being the Speed Indication Device, kindly sponsored by discretionary Councillor Grants from Cllrs Hill, Burns, Marshall, Young and Moore. It will be commissioned later this week. It is <i>not</i> an ANPR, but will record speed, time and direction of travel. This data can be used in future investigations. There are two designated gathering spots one at each end of the village on London Road. | |
| 8.2 | The appearance of flags around the approaches to Alton were brought up. It has been considered intimidating to people due to their association with far right groups – especially "Rise up Alton" It is feared that these groups are very misguided and are also very dubiously funded. The present a problem to residents and local government as well. They have been illegally put up, but the strain on stretched council resources to safely take them down would be excessive. Plus they would likely be put up again. There is also the concern that it could be considered unpatriotic to remove our union flag. | |
| 9 | <p>Close – DONM</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:40 pm. Next meeting: 7:30pm on 9th December 2025</p> <p>All are welcome to attend this.</p> | |