

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

14th October 2025 52nd HVA AGM MINUTES

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair); (Vice Chair); Andy Muir (Secretary, Website); Pat Lerew; Stuart Hunt (Magazine); Vanessa Gist; Jerry Janes; Celia Wood; Megan-Beth Millar; Caroline Wallis
Ex Officio	Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC); Andrew Joy (HCC)
Village Members and visitors	Barry Lawrence; John Bound; Andy Hankin; Bob Page; Tom Horwood; Richard Hill; Mary Hill; Sue Stephens; Matthew Evans; Sarah Steel; Keith Halcrow; Mike Moulton; Richard Kelly; Matt Julius; Matthew Kellermann
No	Item
1	<p>Opening of Meeting and Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Rob Law opened the meeting and warmly welcomed all attendees, including Tom Horwood the Alton Town Council Town Clerk. He then called for apologies.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:- Sam Dalton (HVA Treasurer), Nigel Stephens, Julia Muir, Don Hammond (ATC)</p>
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>The Minutes of the 51st AGM held on 8th October 2024 were put forward for approval, proposed by Jerry Janes, seconded by Megan-Beth Millar. Approval agreed.</p>
3	<p>Annual independently examined accounts</p> <p>The difficulties with the bank account continue and to some extent the issue lies with the bank itself who no longer wish to host charity, club, society and association accounts and those existing account are now being managed by the business departments of the bank. Any attempt to modify the access to the account electronically meets with unanswerable questions and thus stalls. The bank has been approached and has agreed to undertake this control update via manual forms. This process will be completed as soon as possible. Earlier this year the HVA have researched and agreed to open an account with another bank which does support association accounts and have submitted our application on 25th July. The bank currently has a backlog of applications and indicated that the process would take up to 3 months. Hopefully therefore this will soon be live. The HVA are now in possession of account statements for the last two years and are actively consolidating them to present to an external examiner for ratification. As previously explained, the HVA does not charge anything to villagers and it's only income streams are magazine advertising, Fête donations and fireworks ticket sales. This year the fireworks made a small loss due to poor attendance as a result of some negative publicity, the fete had to be cancelled due to the weather, leaving only the magazine as the income source. Barry Lawrence the magazine advertising manager has reported that revenue has increased during the year and should hopefully enable us to continue to fund the activities we currently undertake. A question was asked from the audience asking that the accounts be made available for village scrutiny. It was agreed that they would be uploaded to the village website.</p>
4	<p>Annual committee reports</p> <p>The chairman (Rob Law) stated that he would continue in the role for another year subject to the agreement of the committee. He thanked the Councillors, Cllr Graham Hill, Cllr Andrew Joy and Cllr Don Hammond for their continued attendance at our monthly meetings and their support on various issues throughout the year. He thanked the committee members without whom the Village would not have a voice and the members of the village who attended the AGM. He gave special thanks to Jerry Janes for chairing and enabling the planning subcommittee and the whole of that subcommittee for their actions and analysis of the impact of the Redbrown proposed development.</p> <p>He thanked John Bound, Barry Lawrence and Stuart Hunt for bringing the magazine back into profit, being one of our few income streams. Stuart then also added that</p>

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	<p>delivery of the magazine would not be possible without the help of the 20 or so volunteers who deliver it, free, to the whole village.</p> <p>He thanked Bob Page and Andy Hankin for their sterling work on the drainage and mapping of the streams around Holybourne. The impact of the proposed development by Redbrown would have a severe impact on the drainage and certainly has not been investigated accurately. This work has been passed to the planning dept. of East Hampshire.</p> <p>Finally he thanked Megan-Beth Millar for her work on the Fete and the Fireworks. Unfortunately this year the fete had to be cancelled due to weather, but this does not detract from the amount of work that went into the initial planning of the event. Hopefully next year it will run smoothly. The loss of the event this year had an adverse effect on our income. The fireworks will be held this year on 1st November on the Sports Field as we have satisfied Historic England's conditions, which also means that there will be a lantern display instead of a bonfire. Last year's display made a slight loss due to erroneous adverse publicity on various media site claiming that the display had been cancelled, leading to a reduced attendance.</p> <p>Rob then said that the HVA were always looking for new people to join the committee. It is a great chance to have a say in activities which affect the village. He particularly would like to see some younger representation as issues affecting younger families do need more support. If anyone is interested then they should contact the HVA via email to {chairman@holybourne.com : secretary@holybourne.com} or by speaking to any committee member.</p>
5	<p>Election of Committee Members</p> <p>Chair: -Rob Law was proposed by Megan-Beth Millar, seconded by Stuart Hunt: as previously mentioned Rob agreed to continue</p> <p>Secretary Andy Muir was proposed by Rob Law, seconded by Celia Wood: Andy agreed to continue in the role of secretary.</p> <p>Treasurer Sam Dalton was proposed by Rob Law, seconded by Jerry Janes: Sam agreed to continue in the role of treasurer</p> <p>Pat Lerew was due to step down this year but would like to continue as a committee member. This was approved by all the committee.</p> <p>This being the case it will not be necessary to discuss the officer structure at the next HVA meeting in November.</p>
6	<p>Proposal to form Holybourne Parish Council</p> <p>A subcommittee was formed earlier this year to investigate the possibility to form Holybourne Parish Council. Consideration for this has been raised by the up and coming reorganisation of the district councils. The group will undertake this with no pre-conceived ideas, being very much an investigation into pros and cons. They will be seeking advice from others with relevant experience eg Parish Clerk for Binsted and Tom Horwood ATC Town Clerk.</p> <p>Example of Pros</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 A more formal, regulated and legal framework than current HVA. 2 Entitled to raise a precept and/or receive a proportion of Council Tax to fund activities; and a legal status which enables the village to apply for funding, grants and a share of any CIL affecting the village 3 Benefit of an experienced, paid Parish Clerk who can guide decision-making. 4 Will link to all village committees and amenities eg village hall, sports field, playground 5 Could enable village residents to make very local decisions. <p>Cons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Could be seen as too formal and bureaucratic and will need to cover items currently dealt with by ATC. 2 Could be seen as political because councillors will be elected, though we would want to discourage this. 3 Could be seen as expensive because of possible increase in Council Tax? Needs investigation 4 The ATC presently fulfils the role as part of wider Alton community

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	<p>Our basic procedure would be to obtain further advice and information eg Binstead Parish Clerk, EHDC Parish Council contact, Emsworth (who are going through process atm), NALC and Hampshire Association of Parish Councils.</p> <p>The findings will be presented to HVA and subsequently a village meeting to establish enthusiasm for project, and to hold a boundary wide referendum. If positive, it will invite representation from, eg village hall member, sports field trust member, Holybourne Theatre member, War Memorial member? to join the PC team. The team would then submit a formal petition to EHDC of not less than 250 signatures (based on 500-2500 electors in the area). The petition would need to define the area to be comprised in the PC. (This will have an effect on the neighbouring areas which will need to be considered). The submission would specify the recommendations which we wish EHDC to consider making. The EHDC would then make an Order within 12 months. The Order would provide for transfer and management of property, legal proceedings and make appropriate electoral arrangements</p>
7	<p>Holybourne Cup</p> <p>The Holybourne Cup was initiated by Chris Everet and is awarded by agreement of the chair and the previous winner. This year the award was presented to Andy Hankin for his work with Bob Page on the pond, streams and lavants of Holybourne. It was pointed out that the Holybourne Cup can only be awarded to someone once so Bob Page, who has received it before was not eligible on this occasion to jointly receive it.</p>
8 8.1	<p>Other Issues Raised.</p> <p>“Friends of the Pond” During their investigations of the springs and waterways around Holybourne, Andy Hankin and Bob Page have developed a great interest in the state of the village pond. This lovely village asset has suffered over the years from silt ingress from the road drains feeding it. The HVA has a sub-group called Friends of the Pond which has not been very active over the last 2 years. AH and BP are willing to take on this role going forward. Andy Hankin has produced a number of videos and documented the current pond and together they have shown that the pond is in dire need of some help. In the short term working groups will be needed to do some maintenance but in the long term some serious action will be needed and with that will come some considerable expense. The situation is not helped by the fact that ownership of the pond is not clear, what is clear is bodies which do not own the pond. Silt in the pond has built up over a number of years (or even decades) and the main source has been traced to the road gullies on Howards Lane to the north of the Church which takes run-off from the lane and possibly a large proportion of Brockham Hill Lane. During periods of heavy or prolonged rain water leaches soil from the surrounding fields and it runs down the lane. Road Grips are installed to try to prevent this run-off from getting into gullies but these periodically need to be renewed and over the last year have been inadequate. Re-forming the Friends of the Pond group will enable the HVA to contact the relevant bodies, the farm and/or Hampshire CC Flood Management Team for assistance. Cllr GH has offered £550 to pay for chemicals that are needed for pond analysis.</p>
8.2	<p>Cllr Graham Hill raised five issues</p> <p>1) A Speed Indicator Device has been obtained for use in and around Holybourne. Cllr GH has worked with ATC to purchase the unit. It will be used to indicate vehicle speed at various points on different occasions. The unit cost £ 2,500 funded by grants from Alton District Councillors: Hill (£1,000). Burns (£500), Marshall (£366), Young (£124) and Moore £500). The HVA will monitor and publicise any data gathered during the coming year. It is hoped that this will raise the level of safety in the village.</p> <p>2) During last year models forming a nativity scene were donated to the HVA. Cllr GH organised for the Alton Men’s Shed to construct a “Crib” using £550 from his District Councillor grant to pay for materials and a donation. This will be displayed during December outside the village shop, however it will need to have a home for the rest of the year. A question was asked and very kindly, a villager, Sue Stephens agreed to store it. This was very gratefully acknowledged by all.</p> <p>3) There have been a number of estate agent signs along the fences on Montecchio Way by the lights and the entrance to Barleyfields. ON the Barleyfields side these signs had been erected on council land and attached to the council owned fence. Cllr GH has approached the agents in question and signs have now been removed with</p>

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8.3	<p>instructions that they should not appear at that location again. Unfortunately the ones on the left as you leave the village are on private land and thus out of the ATC's jurisdiction.</p> <p>4) Treloar's College have submitted planning permission to construct a memorial to those who suffered from the infected blood scandal which had a major impact on pupils of the college. Cllr GH encouraged people to review the application and felt that this was very good project.</p> <p>5) Last year HDC revamped its planning portal where people can inspect all planning submissions. The portal was an improvement over the previous one however it has suffered from several issues and site stability. It is now much improved but Cllr GH has invited people who wish to make comments, to send them to him at graham.hill@easthants.gov.uk.</p> <p>Andy Hankin said that the large carp is still very much alive in the pond however it is suffering greatly from the lack of depth of the water. He with colleagues will be attempting to catch in and put it into another pond until such time as the pond refills.</p>
9	<p>Closure of meeting – Date of next AGM 14th October 2026 – 7:30pm</p> <p>There being no more business, Rob Law thanked everyone who attended and closed the meeting at 20:40</p>