

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

13th January 2026

Minutes

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| Committee Members | Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), , Caroline Wallis (CWa), Jerry Janes (JJ), Stuart Hunt (SH), Keith Halcrow (KH), Pat Lerew (PL), Sam Dalton (SD), Vanessa Gist (VG) |
| Ex Officio | Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC) |
| Holybourne Members | Matt Julius, Michael Fidler, Sarah Steel, Barrie Lawrence. |

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

| No | Item | Action |
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| 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 Don Hammond (ATC), Celia Wood (CW), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM), Bob Page, Andy Hankin. | |
| 2 | Minutes of Last Meeting | |
| 2.1 | Minutes of the December meeting were acknowledged. | AM |
| 2.2 | Matters Arising RL said that matters arising would be discussed under their appropriate items. | |
| 3 | Members Open Forum There were no new issues raised at this meeting. | |
| 4 | Current Issues Events and Projects | |
| 4.1 | Village Picnic It was pointed out that the date of late June is not the beginning of the school holidays as recorded last month; these begin in late July. MBM to review and revise, keeping The Lawn informed. | MBM |
| 4.2 | Fireworks. RL reported that Historic England have not changed their view on the bonfire. We will have time to come up with a solution. A subcommittee is being formed to carry this out. | |
| 4.3 | Christmas Planning There was a bit of confusion over the purchase of the tree. Next year we need to liaise with the pub to avoid this. The lights were replaced this year as the previous set were faulty. The lights have been carefully wrapped and the HVA will take charge of their storage. The crib was admired by many people. It was equipped with solar powered lights, however the weather conditions over the festive period were not conducive for them. Sid (Shop) said that next year he may be able to arrange for an external power supply to be in position to be used. Sue Stephens from the Priory has agreed to store the crib until its next outing. Cllr G Hill suggests we approach her to see if we could store the lights with it. He will ask Sue. | Cllr GH |
| 4.4 | HVA fundraising ideas We should identify projects that the HVA would like to support and we could then explore funding routes. Funding should be restricted to projects and not for general admin purposes. The idea of asking people to consider legacies in wills was aired. | All |

Holybourne Village Association

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| <p>5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> | <p>Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton</p> <p>New Planning Applications The Queens Head has put in an application to build 8 houses; 6x3bed and 2x2bed as part of their development. There have been a number of objections to this details of which can be found on the EHDC planning portal (EHDC-25-1395-FUL). The ATC have put in an objection. As an aside, Cllr G Hill said that he was aware of the current problems with the Portal, which has been running for about a year and a task force is in place to facilitate repair. Cllr G Hill said that the committee should also be aware of two further development applications at the other end of Alton; one at Will Hall Farm (Site2) which is for ~200 dwellings; and one on Pertuis Avenue for 99 dwellings.</p> <p>Redbrown development update. The HVA organised a village meeting at the church to present the revised Redbrown planning proposal, attended by over 200 people. The deficiencies within the plan were highlighted and the road traffic changes were shown to be incredibly detrimental to the whole village. Our local councillors were commended for their help in arranging meetings with the planning officers and flood management teams where our knowledge of the localities could be shared. This provided much needed information to the authorities which ultimately will decide on the planning outcome. It was noted that the ATC strongly objects to this new proposal and there are already over 100 objections from the village. The closing date for objections is 21st January so there is time for more input. It was agreed that there will be a further 'push' to encourage the community to put in their own, personalised objections to ensure that the fight against this proposal goes on. One area, related to flooding, where the plan was seen to fall short is the lack of a sequential test. This has now been recognised by the relevant bodies and it is hoped that the developer will now be required to undertake the test.</p> <p>Local Plan / ANP Cllr G Hill gave an update on the current status of the EHDC Local Plan and the ANP. LP – This is progressing towards the next consultation stage on infrastructure (Regulation 19) It is hoped that this will be towards the end of the autumn (2026) and the LP can then be submitted for adoption in 2027. ANP The have been a number of practical difficulties in progressing a new ANP and it is hoped that the current ANP 2 could be modified to extend its life. Given that the current local government reorganisation will affect many areas, there is a need to carry on with day to day business as best as possible until such time as the system settles and unitary areas can be identified.</p> | |
| <p>6</p> | <p>Village Communications</p> <p>Website: - business as usual:</p> <p>Magazine: Barry Lawrence reported that the new advertising year will soon be starting and he will be looking for new and repeated advertising income. It is projected that this revenue will cover the magazine running costs and potentially HVA admin too. The deadline for the next magazine will soon be announced and if items wish to be included in the spring issue then the sooner they are submitted the better.</p> <p>Social Media Admin control has been added to the WhatsApp groups. Any applicant wishing to join The Hub needs to demonstrate a true connection to Holybourne.</p> <p>The Church Services are publicised on the church web site (resurrectionbenefice.org)</p> | |
| <p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> | <p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Chair Nothing to report.</p> | |

Holybourne Village Association

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| 7.2 | <p>Treasurer RL and SD reported that we now have updated the signatories on the HVA account but currently do not have internet access to it. There appears to be yet another stage to go through to do this. (Post meeting note – Success, we now have access.)</p> | |
| 7.3 | <p>Friends of the Pond No report from AH and BP this month. Cllr G Hill mentioned that EHDC have helped the restore Buriton village pond with a floating dredger which remove silt from the pond and building the island with this spoil; thereby not having any off-site disposal. Buriton pond is of a comparable size to our pond (~1.25 times the size). This has been publicised and is a useful reference.</p> | |
| 7.4 | <p>Flood Action Group RL reported that despite the recent rains, the groundwater table is still some 12 m below the normal levels for the time of year.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Any Other Business</p> | |
| 8.1 | <p>The Speed Indicator Device (SID) has been at the Binsted end of the village for the last few weeks. It is due to be taken down, the data retrieved and the unit put at a new location. Data from the unit will be analysed and results will be posted on the HVA website. In future all data will be available on our website, SID will be introduced as an agenda item.</p> | AM |
| 8.2 | <p>The Parish Council subcommittee will meet again soon to review the project. The Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) needs to advise on the details of the proposed boundaries which in turn will affect the surrounding boundaries. To provide this information the group will first poll the village to understand the level of support. If positive then the application can be submitted. However it was pointed out that with the current involvement in local government reorganisation, the application would not be seen as high priority and thus there would likely be a delay in processing. A further progress report will be given in due course.</p> | |
| 8.3 | <p>RL said that as Vickie is no longer treasurer of the HVA and given her sterling work over the previous years, he proposed that the HVA should organise a presentation to recognise her involvement. This was unanimously supported.</p> | |
| 8.4 | <p>Cllr G Hill said that he had spent all of his £7,000 on projects in the village. A new allocation would be available in March so please let him know of any new projects.</p> | |
| 9 | <p>Close – DONM The meeting closed at 8:55 pm. The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 10th February 2026 All are welcome to attend this.</p> | |

Action Items

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| Upload previous minutes | AM |
| Village Picnic progress | MBM |
| Storage of Xmas lights | Cllr G Hill to contact Sue Stevens |
| Fundraising Ideas | All |
| SID as an agenda item | AM |