

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

10th February 2026

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Caroline Wallis (CWa), Jerry Janes (JJ), Stuart Hunt (SH), Celia Wood (CW), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM), Vanessa Gist (VG)
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Don Hammond (ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC) – by invitation Tom Horwood (ATC Town Clerk)
Holybourne Members	Bob Page (BP), Andy Hankin (AH). Matt Julius, Barrie Lawrence.


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:- Pat Lerew (PL), Sam Dalton (SD), Keith Halcrow (KH)	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	Minutes of the January meeting were acknowledged and thanks given for submitted corrections.	AM
2.2	Matters Arising RL said that matters arising would be discussed under their appropriate items.	
3	Members Open Forum Barry Lawrence noted that the Spring Edition of the magazine is now being collated and the last chance for submissions to it is 20 th Feb.	
4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Village Picnic MBM said that the picnic is scheduled for either the last Saturday in June or the first in July. It will be at The Lawns and discussions are underway.	MBM
4.2	Fireworks. The subcommittee are yet to meet with the date being the main concern atm. Nov 5 th is a Thursday so Sat 7 th is the preferred date, however this is also the Holybourne Remembrance Service day too.	
4.3	Christmas Planning RL has the Christmas tree lights and will be taking them to Sue Stevens for storage with the crib. AH pointed out that the lights are powered by a 240 supply from the pub and we should check our Public Liability Insurance. RL will speak to Thanasi at the Pub over this. Following the confusion over the tree purchase, it was suggested that we approach Belport Farms (Andy Kirby) to see if they would sponsor the tree next year. (AK has indicated in the past that the farm business would be happy to do so.)	
4.4	HVA fundraising ideas RL said that the defibrillator will soon need new batteries and so we will need to fundraise for these (© £400). Cllr G Hill has offered to fund this from his councillor grant.	

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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 to the suitability of these dwellings.</p> <p>A proposed development on Montecchio Way near the roundabout is holding pre-application meetings with the EHDC planners.</p> <p>The traffic monitoring at Lower Neatham Mill Lane was questioned. It was thought that this was related to the recent pre-site work with diggers looking at drainage issues.</p> <p>ClIr G Hill said that, although not directly related to Holybourne, there was a planning application on Wilsom Road (EHDC-26-0082-FUL) which may have a significant impact on the area. Worth looking at.</p> <p>Redbrown development update. Redbrown have been given a further extension prior to determination so that they can address the shortfalls in the flooding and traffic issues that the HVA have identified and pointed out. The HVA are questioning the planning procedure and have submitted various documents to EHDC. ClIr G Hill said that if the details of the Redbrown application changes significantly then they would need to submit a new application and it would go out for consultation again. SH asked if the planning group would need support for a leaflet drop. RL confirmed that atm no leaflet drop was planned but the team are closely monitoring the situation.</p> <p>Local Plan / ANP ClIr G Hill said that there was nothing new to add to the situation outlined last month. Any update will be shared as soon as practical.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Village Communications</p> <p>Website: - business as usual:</p> <p>Magazine: Barry Lawrence reported that advertising income is on track to cover all the publication expenses. He asked RL if he could review the HVA bank statements to correlate invoices and payments. RL is currently obtaining printed statements and will pass them on in due course.</p> <p>Social Media - business as usual.</p> <p>The Church Lent lunches will be starting soon details are publicised on the church web site (resurrectionbenefice.org)</p>	RL/BL
<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p>	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Chair Nothing to report.</p> <p>Treasurer RL reported that we now internet access to the bank account but only for future statements. RL has requested print out of the historical statements. Angie Moulton has agreed to undertake a financial review for the past 2 years to bring our accounts up to date.</p> <p>Friends of the Pond Bob Page and Andy Hankin brought us up to date with their investigations relating to all the waterways around Holybourne. Testing equipment has been delivered thanks to the grant from ClIr G Hill which has enabled testing the river and streams for Nitrates, Phosphates, pH alkalinity hardness and Chlorine. Once an incubator has been delivered they will add tests for E. Coli – (a bacterial marker indicating sewage pollution). Details are being</p>	

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<p>7.4</p>	<p>tabulated in an HVA database and also reported to The River Wey Trust (TRWT). BP and AH joined TRWT on the Southern Wey for testing invertebrates (water health) and learning how it is done. They hope to involve Andrew's Endowed School when the weather gets warmer.</p> <p>Accessing Thames Water's own data they identified that for the period January 2025 to January 2026, the Holybourne pumping station has discharged into the River Wey for 199 hours and 40 minutes. It was noted that if the size of Holybourne s increased by 30% (Redbrown development) this would only adversely affect the pumping station.</p> <p>It was recorded that most of the local springs are now issuing and streams are flowing again. Water testing will begin soon and will continue into June.</p> <p>At the pond: Horatio the fish is alive and well! Pond testing and observation shows that the majority of the silt is field run-off flowing down Brockham Hill Lane. The grips are poorly maintained and if this could be remedied the pond condition would improve. Work is ongoing to determine if land spreading of the silt can be permitted and if so dredging of the pond could be considered. Dye tracing in the pond has confirmed that there is a leak under the outlet weir together with small leaks through the brickwork.</p> <p>The Lavant Streams are identified as special chalk streams that dry out at certain times of the year as groundwater changes. They support high biodiversity and specialist wildlife which has adapted to these conditions. Holybourne streams are among the headwaters at the start of the River Wey and are a good place to start to improve the overall catchment.</p> <p>Given the more diverse nature of this group, a change in name from FoP is warranted. The group will now report as "Water Resources Group"</p> <p>Flood Action Group RL reported that the groundwater table is now at normal levels.</p> <p>SID SH gave a short presentation of the data from the Speed Indicator Device (SID). SID captures data from vehicles travelling in both directions while giving motorists feed in one of those directions. SID can be and has been deployed in two locations. Each run is for 10 days.</p>  <p>Data from the Sports Ground shows 1639 vehicles entering the village and 4621 leaving Data from Andrew's Endowed: 11925 entering and 13365 leaving. The average speeds at both positions was:- in 27mph and out 29mph. A larger summary of this data will be uploaded to the HVA website.</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>8 8.1</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Tom Horwood gave us some steer on the proposal to convert the HVA into a Parish Council. He started by suggesting that we should approach the issue by considering "What is the question we are asking to which the answer is "Form a Parish Council"? The Town Council has no position either way even though the process would affect the surrounding parishes and the ATC. With the current Government Reorganisation there will be a potential change in the map and this can affect all levels of government. A fact to consider is that when the Unitary Council has been formed The Parish of Alton and Holybourne would be the third largest with the appropriate level of influence. If Holybourne were to become a separate Parish, then Alton would still be the third largest, but Holybourne would</p>	

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	<p>be the 59th. TH gave his view that the HVA seems to cover all the areas that a Parish Council will do without the expense of a Parish Clerk. However he said that there may be advantages in having a Parish Clerk and if that was the conclusion he would offer help and advice. The Parish Council subcommittee said that one of the pressing issues is that we want to be convinced that ATC can see that Holybourne is substantially different to Alton itself and would like to be recognised as such. TH replied that he is well aware of this difference and could assure us that in his mind it will be.</p>	
8.2	Cllr G Hill said that from the 1 st April he will have an allocation of £7,000 to fund local projects. He says if you have any worthwhile projects then apply for a grant.	
8.3	The Alton runners hold an annual event starting and finishing in Holybourne. This year it will be Sunday 10 th May.	
8.4	Parish Council and SID to be added to the agenda FoP to be amended.	AM
9	<p>Close – DONM</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:45 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 10th March 2026.</p>	

Action Items

Progress Village Picnic	MBM
Collate bank statements and mag ads	RL/BL
Upload SID data	AM
Amend Agenda	AM