

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

9th December 2025

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM)., Caroline Wallis (CWa), Jerry Janes (JJ), Celia Wood (CW), Stuart Hunt (SH), Keith Halcrow (KH)
Ex Officio	Cllr Don Hammond (ATC),
Holybourne Members	Matt Julius, Barrie Lawrence, Andy Hankin (AH), Bob Page (BP), John Bound (JB), Debbie Whitehead, Nick Whitehead.

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 councillor and representatives from the village. Apologies were received from:- Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC), Pat Lerew (PL), Sam Dalton (SD), Vanessa Gist (VG).	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	Minutes of the November meeting were acknowledged. RL proposed, seconded by CW to be uploaded to the website.	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 RL said that Bob Page and Andy Hankin were working on the flooding system and would be presenting finding later under FoP.	
4.1	Village Picnic MBM said that plans for next year are in hand. Discussions are ongoing with The Lawn. The date might be late June at the beginning of the school holidays. The Lawn are very willing to host the site and would help with publicity too.	
4.2	Fireworks. Following this year's fireworks, a survey was sent out to the villagers. The response was reasonably good and representative of the village. A few people said price was an issue – however research shows we are well within the normal area price range. The vast majority said that the biggest factor was the lack of the bonfire and in general other types of entertainment to make it an event rather than just a firework display and provide activities for the children. These points will be considered. We will approach Historic England to investigate how we can overcome the difficulty. Many people like the idea of a Lantern Parade. Ticket availability was also highlighted. We may need to consider online methods. Finally should we consider getting local business sponsorship? In general MBM suggested that a sub-committee should be formed to help with the whole event – supported by RL and CW.	FrWks team

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4.3	<p>Christmas Planning</p> <p>The pub have sourced a tree which has now been put up and is waiting for the lights to be hung. AM said many thanks should go to Cllr G Hill and Alton Men's Shed for the crib display currently outside the shop.</p> <p>Thanks should also go to The Lions for Santa's visit which proceeded even though the weather was atrocious and they had to find emergency shelter in the Theatre (Thanks to the theatre too). The church has many events and services over the festive period and these are mostly promoted on "The Hub"</p>	
4.4	<p>HVA fundraising ideas</p> <p>RL said that the HVA does not have an income stream at all as its purpose is to give a forum to the village to air common issues. It does however have some expenses mainly to hold the fireworks and to produce the magazine. In the past – pre-Covid the magazine advertising provided the income to cover all the HVA expenses, however with the current climate, advertising revenue has understandably dropped resulting in a shortfall for the HVA to carry on with its service. The magazine team said that due to their efforts, advertising has been brought to a level where it is covering its costs. A short discussion was had over the distribution area, the paper quality and the print size. It was confirmed that the magazine was the right quality and size to give it proper presence and that distribution to Barleyfields and up to the Holybourne boundary on London Road gave it the coverage which appealed to advertisers. It was thought that maybe there are some businesses/trades in Barleyfields which could be approached for ads. It was decided that the magazine should remain free to villagers and John B suggested that a QR code be put in the mag to invite donations to assist in the production.</p> <p>It was also decided that the HVA should only fund-raise for specific issues, not for general running expenses. Issues could be highlighted via media and the mag on for example iCanvas.</p>	JB JB
5	<p>Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton</p>	
5.1	<p>New Planning Applications</p> <p>Westbrook House has replied to a drainage issue to the satisfaction of the planners and is now accepted.</p> <p>5 other new applications have been lodged but these are all for tree work within the conservation area and have no specific impact on the village.</p>	
5.2	<p>Redbrown development update.</p> <p>Redbrown have made changes to their application which has now revised the progress route. The changes are currently under review by the HVA planning committee and in due course information will be distributed to the village. At this stage it was considered that no further discussion was necessary.</p>	
5.3	<p>Local Plan / ANP</p> <p>There has been no further movement on this.</p>	
6	<p>Village Communications</p> <p>Website: - business as usual:</p> <p>Magazine: The Winter Magazine has been delivered in record time. The whole team deserves thanks for this. BL reported that the magazine income has put it firmly in the black, however this situation may not last but has to be pushed all the time. Feedback was that this was a very good issue. Any articles would be welcome to editor@holybourne.com.</p> <p>Social Media The WhatsApp groups continue to be that quickest platform for village communication, the HVA FB page taking a lesser role. The availability of the HUB was discussed. The Hub was initiated during Lockdown to provide a point of contact to overcome the isolation and access to provisions etc. It has grown into a major form of Village contact and was open for anyone to join with no firm admin oversight. As its sole function is to provide The village with local issues and</p>	

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	<p>contacts, the reason for outsiders to be part of the circulation was questioned and firmer admin control has been initiated. It was agreed that in future any applicant wishing to join The Hub needs to demonstrate a true connection to Holybourne.</p> <p>The Church Services Dec24: 3pm Crib Service:10pm Communion Dec25: 9:30 Christmas Communion</p>	JJ
7	Committee Reports	
7.1	Chair Nothing to report.	
7.2	<p>Treasurer The treasurer could not attend this meeting and a response was shared by RL. We are still having difficulty gaining proper control of the existing bank account but will be working on it. In the meantime the previous treasurer is still working for us and keeping our bills paid. A statement of account as at the AGM (31/08/2025) was produced. The HVA normal bank account has a balance of £1281.74. The Planning Fund (for investigating all planning issues) is £6,186.98. BP asked if he could get details of the bank account as he has grant funding from Cllr G Hill which needs to be deposited into the account. He also has expenses to come from the fund and will be submitting these. SD/RL to provide details.</p>	SD/RL BP
7.3		
7.4	<p>Friends of the Pond Bob Page and Andy Hankin reported that they have received a grant of £550 for testing chemicals and equipment to undertake sampling of the local watercourses for health (or otherwise). They gave thanks to the councillors who have been very helpful. They noted that following a review of the Redbrown application, that the current proposals for water issues will have a negative effect on the River Wey. Testing will help to establish a current quality background of the river. The sampling points at Hawbridge and Lower Neatham Mill Lane at the confluence with The Bourne. It is hoped that the pond and the springs can also be added to the testing programme. At this point AH gave a visual presentation of the situation at the pond. Research by Jane Hurst on ownership of the pond stretched back to 1337. At the moment no clear owner of the pond can be established. It is well understood that the pond has suffered and is suffering from silt intrusion from farm field wash-off. Research found that the pond was dredged in 1992 under a legal provision as no owners were known Alton TC and local residents funded this work but then regulations were not as onerous then. Tom Horwood (ATC Town Clerk) and the EA are also interested in seeing how we can improve the pond again. The main issue is the potential toxicity of the silt for determining the disposal route. If the silt proves toxic then landfill is the only option and is very expensive. AH and BP have established that the silt testing will cost in the region of £1000. It is hoped that we could approach the village for donations to help with this. There will be an appeal for donations in the next magazine. An article will also be included which should canvas for what type of pond we should aim for. A duck pond would not have any other substantial wildlife. Whereas a wildlife pond with more vegetation will need to discourage ducks to remain viable but probably more picturesque. It was also noted that the Church springs have started to flow again. Springs adding to the surface water load which needs to be included in any development drainage plans: currently not properly considered by the Redbrown development.</p> <p>Flood Action Group AH and BP are actively looking at all aspects of surface water drainage around the village and analysing current and projected capacities. They will also progress to looking at foulwater drainage.</p>	Bob to Cllr GH
8	Any Other Business	
8.1	<p>The Speed Indicator Device (SID) data has been downloaded and analysed. Graphs were presented by SH to the meeting. The data was taken from a point just outside Treloars gate. The SID will move to the Binsted end of the village next and data gathered there. All data will be reviewed and put on the HVA website. For reference, the device only measures speed above 9mph and the time and direction of travel. There is no ANPR or any other way of identifying the actual vehicle.</p>	

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8.2	<p>The Parish Council subcommittee have progressed the proposal and have noted some details to be shared before their report which will be due in March. The have had a very useful meeting with Tom Horwood who has had personal involvement in this process. He is happy to direct the group and will have no bias either way. He has raised a number of significant points which the group will need to consider. These revolve around assets and managing funding. There is also the impact that the formation will have on surrounding existing parishes and the council tax changes which will ensue. The team have been complemented by Mike Moulton chair of the Village Hall Trustees, one of the local assets which would be affected.</p>	
9	<p>Close – DONM</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 13th January 2026</p> <p>All are welcome to attend this.</p>	

Action Items

Upload previous minutes	AM
Fireworks publicity	FrWks team
Funding QR and canvasing	JB
Social Media moderation	JJ
Progress Bank Account	SD/RL
Pass bank details to Bob Page	SD/RL/BP