

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

10th March 2026

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Caroline Wallis (CWa), Jerry Janes (JJ), Sam Dalton (SD), Keith Halcrow (KH), Celia Wood (CW), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM), Vanessa Gist (VG)
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC) – by invitation Tom Horwood (ATC Town Clerk)
Holybourne Members	Bob Page (BP), Andy Hankin (AH), 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. Apologies were received from:- Pat Lerew (PL), Stuart Hunt (SH), Cllr Don Hammond (ATC),	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	AM
2.1	Minutes of the February meeting were acknowledged and thanks given for submitted corrections.	
2.2	Matters Arising RL said that matters arising would be discussed under their appropriate items.	
3	Members Open Forum Nothing raised.	
4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Parish Governance Review: CW gave an update on the discussions that the sub-group looking into the proposition of forming a Holybourne Parish Council. A fruitful meeting was held with Jane Hurst a local historian and expert on the history of Holybourne. Old maps of the area show that before 1920 Holybourne was a separate parish but with continued housing development and changes in local governance the boundaries were redrawn and some parishes were lost, their duties being absorbed by Alton Town Council. It will be incumbent on Holybourne to identify the actual border for the proposed parish and this is currently under scrutiny – the old border may not be relevant given the change in development. (e.g. Barleyfields). To progress the project to the submission phase would need the support of the village and a poll would need to be undertaken. The group stated that there was a need to clarify exactly the position and benefits that would result before this poll could be taken. They felt that this could be achieved in time to be publicised in the Summer edition of the magazine (copy date early July). It was agreed that the group would make a presentation at the May HVA meeting.	
4.2	Village Picnic MBM said that the picnic – fête is scheduled for 4 th July. It will be at The Lawns and discussions are underway. It is likely to include a dog show too	
4.3	Fireworks. MBM headed a robust discussion over this event. She had polled the village and it was clear that the major attraction was the bonfire which provided a central focus for the evening. There was also a clash this year with the Remembrance Parade which falls on the Saturday nearest Guy Fawkes night our usual date. Again the	

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	<p>village poll came out in favour of the Friday night rather than the previous or following Saturday. It was also thought that if we did not hold the fireworks this year, the whole enterprise would be lost. In order to make it financially sustainable, MBM will try to get sponsorship for the fireworks and in the meantime the HVA would need to work out how we can build a platform for the bonfire. Historic England have been approached and would sanction the use of a platform. It was still proposed to have a lantern parade and lantern kits would be on sale at the picnic / Fête. This will also give advance publicity for the fireworks. Food was also discussed and SID will be approached to see if he would be willing to provide this service. It was also thought that ticket sales could be done through an on-line service such as Eventbrite.</p>	
<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 No significant planning applications in Holybourne were received this month, only small domestic ones. Not local, but maybe significant:- 1 The development at Chawton Park Farm which has progressed to the EIA stage. This is virtually a new village being 1100 homes and will need its own school and commercial buildings. It is known that access to the A31 by-pass is poor under a single track narrow railway bridge. 2 Neatham Down – which falls within the Parish of Binsted but its proposed access would be from the A31 Montecchio Way roundabout and would have significant traffic impact on Alton and Holybourne. 3 A proposal for commercial development on Wilsom Road between the Omega Park and the A31 fly-over. This land is in the flood plain and there are many good objections with the planners. It was proposing 112 HGV movements per day along Wilsom Road to Mill Lane and on to Montecchio Way. The residents have presented a good case to the planners and would be willing to share details with the HVA.</p> <p>Redbrown development update. Currently, Redbrown have engaged a drill team to sink boreholes in the Lavant field to investigate the water table. These have gone down 10 – 29 metres and have definitely hit the water table. Significantly the 29 m one in the north east of the field may have discovered an underground reservoir. RB will be reviewing the report and will need to make decisions based on it. IN the mean time the HVA planning group have come to a hiatus until such time as answers come from Red Brown. More info will be put out as soon as significant developments have occurred.</p> <p>Local Plan / ANP The council committee tasked with developing the ANP3 would like to meet the HVA planning committee. It has gain much respect and has much to contribute to the planning and monitoring bodies.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Village Communications</p> <p>Website: - business as usual:</p> <p>Magazine: Barry Lawrence reported that advertising income remains on track to cover all the publication expenses. RL can now provide details from the HVA bank statements to correlate invoices and payments. Particularly needed are the 2025 entries.</p> <p>Social Media - business as usual.</p> <p>The Church Lent lunches are underway on Wednesdays in the church. (resurrectionbenefice.org)</p>	RL/BL
<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Chair Nothing to report.</p>	

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7.2	<p>Treasurer RL/SD reported that we now compiling the past 2 year's statements so that they can be financially reviewed by Angie Moulton. Sha has sent details of what will be required and this will be collated.</p>	SD/RL
7.3	<p>Friends of the Pond – and associated Waterways Bob Page and Andy Hankin brought us up to date with their investigations relating to all the waterways around Holybourne. Testing continues at Neatham Mill Bridge and this time for Coliform Bacteria (especially Escherichia coli (E. Coli) an indicator of sewage effluent. Levels at Neatham Mill Bridge were 3700 Colony Forming Units (CFU –i.e. a viable live cell capable of reproducing). IN contrast the level on the Caker Stream just downstream of the Alton Sewage Treatment plant discharge was 14300 CFU.</p>	
7.4	<p>Given the current weather conditions, little persistent rain, it is very likely that the 3700 is all from the sewage works and not from our local pumping station. This does not mean that our local facility will not at times overflow and add to the bacterial count. Our sewers take a significant proportion of rainwater from guttering and so in times of heavy rain the pumping station comes under enormous strain and frequently will overtop and spill to the river. Adding a significant load onto the system (from RB dev) would increase the frequency and impact of these spills to the extent that the facility should be upgraded before any development is permitted to occur. At the pond, flow into the Bourne maybe coming from a leak under the weir or from a spring or both. Dye tracing suggests that pond water does get under the weir. There is also erosion of the bank of the Bourne in this area. When we get the pond dredged to remove the build-up of years of silt, then we can find the leak and resolve it. We are making enquiries from the Environment Agency to find out what we need to test the silt for to determine how it can be disposed. This will be a long and costly job. It must be done with extreme care so as not to disturb or break the puddled clay liner.</p> <p>Flood Action Group Nothing new to report.</p> <p>SID Alive and well but no specific info this month. Data will be put on the website at regular intervals thus building up a picture of the village traffic movements.</p>	
8	<p>Any Other Business Nothing raised.</p>	
9	<p>Close – DONM The meeting closed at 9:30 pm. The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 14th April 2026.</p>	

Action Items

Collate bank statements and mag ads RL/BL
 Compile Account details for Angie SD/RL