

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

14th April 2026

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Caroline Wallis (CWa), Keith Halcrow (KH), Vanessa Gist (VG) Pat Lerew (PL), Stuart Hunt (SH),
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC), Cllr Andrew Joy (HCC)
Holybourne Members	Bob Page (BP), Andy Hankin (AH), Andrew Lyndon-Skeggs



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:- Cllr Don Hammond (ATC), Jerry Janes (JJ), Sam Dalton (SD), Celia Wood (CW), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM)	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	Minutes of the March meeting were acknowledged and accepted.	
2.2	Matters Arising RL said that matters arising would be discussed under their appropriate items.	
3	Members Open Forum Andrew Lyndon-Skeggs (ALS) was invited to give a presentation on the progress of his planning proposal for the land adjacent to the roundabout and the A31. Given the pressure that EHDC are under to provide new housing, this proposal aims to provide 74 houses within the Holybourne Ward. ALS pointed out that although the housing was within walking distance of the village centre, traffic movements would have no impact on London Road as it would be accessed via the by-pass and Montecchio Way. The land does not lie in the flood plain. The site in question is 11 acres in size of which 7.72 would be under construction and 3.28 would be set aside as a Nature Park. This park would be donated as a public park for all residents of Holybourne to use. The proposal has taken great care to abide by all the constraints that EHDC have for future housing. Of the 74 houses 30 would be affordable housing and 44 at market value. Car parking is up to the required standard for dwellings and in addition will include visitor parking. There will be bin and bike storage to the ANP standard. Within the development 130 new trees will be planted. After the presentation there followed a short Q&A session and it concluded with a general appreciation of the effort taken to satisfy all planning objectives and was generally positively received.	
4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Parish Governance Review: Cllr G Hill gave an update from the HDC perspective. The process to establish a Parish Council would take in the region of 1 year there being many stages to consider. Cllr G Hill said he would forward an email to the sub-committee investigating this. An update will also be given at the May HVA meeting.	
4.2	Village Picnic No update this meeting.	
4.3	Fireworks. No update this meeting.	

Holybourne Village Association

5	Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton	
5.1	<p>New Planning Applications</p> <p>Pickerings Hire have an application in for renovation the Oil Depot (Star Energy Weald Basin) next to the Veolia Site on the by-pass. Described as :- Removal of existing structures, erection of workshop/office building for flexible use within use classes B2 and/or E, construction of wash bay, laying of concrete apron and use of the remainder of the site for open storage (class B8), together with access, parking and associated works and signage. The business is hiring 'Portakabin' type units which will take place from this site. It will necessitate lorry movements which will use the by-pass in the same way as the Veolia trucks do. The ATC have made some observations and it is now currently under review by EHDC planning.</p>	
5.2	<p>Redbrown development update.</p> <p>Redbrown are working on highway proposals and re-assessing the flooding and waste management proposals. It is likely that these would constitute a substantial change and will require them to go out for consultation again. This will need to happen before 1st June.</p>	
5.3	<p>Local Plan / ANP</p> <p>The Local Plan is heading for the next stage Regulation 19, that is to publish the plan and formally invite comments on it. This is likely to be towards the end of summer. It will then be ready to submit to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for independent examination around the end of the year.</p> <p>The ANP steering committee acknowledged the very helpful input from the HVA Planning Development Group. At this point the most favoured option is to update the existing ANP2.</p>	
6	<p>Village Communications</p> <p>Website: - business as usual:</p> <p>Magazine: RL reported that all bank statements have been made available to the business manager and the data is now being consolidated to clarify the income position. The current (Spring) magazine is in production.</p> <p>Social Media - business as usual.</p> <p>The Church. A new vicar has been recruited for the local POTR. He is Rev Tim Gomm and will move to Alton on Thursday 16th July. His licensing will be on Tuesday 11th August at St Lawrence church.</p>	
7	Committee Reports	
7.1	Chair Nothing to report.	
7.2	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Accounts are still being compiled for their financial review. (But we are getting there albeit slowly).</p>	
7.3	<p>Friends of the Pond – and associated Waterways + Flood Action</p> <p>Bob Page and Andy Hankin brought us up to date with their investigations relating to all the waterways around Holybourne.</p> <p>Andy Hankin attended a session at the River Wey Trust about testing for invertebrates which are good indications of water quality.</p> <p>Following contact with the Environment Agency, a testing spec is being prepared for removal of the silt from the pond. BP managed to get the EA fee waived due to the status of the HVA. Silt testing will need to be undertaken by a UKAS accredited lab at a cost of around £1000. Cllr G Hill suggested that BP approach him for a possible grant to cover this.</p> <p>The springs are all running into the pond and the Bourne however the flow has reduced. All the waterways running towards the river under the A31 are clear and in good condition.</p>	

Holybourne Village Association

<p>7.4</p>	<p>Towards the beginning of this month, the Lavant field (Redbrown proposed site) has been equipped with a V-notch flow measuring device. The consultants H S Fraser installed this and the results will belong to Redbrown. This device is an indicator of flow but unless there is a constant recording facility there is no data record. BP and AH have taken a spot reading from the V-notch and on calculation the volume of water agrees closely with known data which we have collected ourselves.</p> <p>It is important that when the new Redbrown assessment is produced that it is critically reviewed as it may try to assure the statutory consultees that this new data shows that the proposed provisions are satisfactory. We know from the 2014 data that the situation can be so much worse.</p> <p>It was also noted that there was someone looking at the drainage system from Montecchio Way.</p> <p>SID Is alive and counting. Trees at its present spot near Andrew's Endowed is partially obstructing its view and will need pruning. Tom and Jerry will see to this. In the meantime, SID will be moving to the Binsted end of the village.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Councillor Andrew Joy said that as he would not be standing in the next local election, this would be his last meeting with the HVA. He followed this by saying that he had become a councillor 17 years ago partly due to working with a group near Kings Pond fighting a planning proposal. He then said that many local groups and said that the HVA was one of the nicest groups he has dealt with and that it serves the local community very well. In return, on behalf of the HVA, RL presented Cllr Andrew Joy with a bottle and bouquet to thank him for his contribution to the work of the HVA during his time as HDC Councillor and wished him well in retirement. RL said that he would always be welcome to attend future HVA meetings.</p> <p>Cllr G Hill said that as reported in the Herald, the local government reorganisation is happening and that Alton will fall in the Mid Hants Unitary Council area. (There appears to be opposition to the divisions but it is what it is.)</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Close – DONM</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9:40 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 12th May 2026.</p>	

Action Items