

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

12th May 2026

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Caroline Wallis (CWa), Pat Lerew (PL), Celia Wood (CW), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM),
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC),
Holybourne Members	Bob Page (BP), Andy Hankin (AH), Andrew Joy

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), Stuart Hunt (SH), Keith Halcrow (KH), Vanessa Gist (VG)	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	Minutes of the April 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 Bob Page and Andy Hankin gave an update on the pond and the surface water testing. Water Testing They reported that the River Wey at Lower Neatham Mill Lane bridge had an E.Coli level of 2100 cfu. The Government Bathing Waters Regulations (2013) classify inland waterways as: Excellent at 500 cfu, Good at 1000 cfu. As the R.Wey does not meet these it should be considered not suitable for bathing. It must be noted that the Alton STW (Thames Water Site {TW}) has no obligation to limit E. Coli discharges from its effluent this is common to almost all of the inland sewage works of the UK (and Europe). A level of 2000 or so is probably due to the legal effluent discharge from the Alton STW and not from any storm water overflow or spillage. A discussion ensued about safety concerns with this water quality and whether it should be improved. There are ways in which the E. Coli can be removed, by UV disinfection for example, which is a 'consent parameter' imposed on STWs discharging into 'Blue Flag' bathing waters. This may become enforced in future for works like Alton. Andrew Joy added that TW would probably like to do this but finances don't allow it. Kings Pond in Alton is also part of the R. Wey catchment and as such there is common interest. Cllr Graham Hill suggests setting up a meeting with BP and AH to cooperate with the interested parties; hopefully to include representation from TW as well. Pond The specification for the pond dredging proposal is progressing. The EA have helped with ongoing consultation particularly over silt sampling methods but there is a need to get certainty over the disposal route to land with Redbrown. For this to happen toxicity testing of the silt is needed. Stuart Hunt has helped with this but samples will need to be sent to an accredited laboratory. Discussions are ongoing as to the number and distribution of samples to be analysed. Cllr Graham Hill has said that we should apply for a grant to help cover this cost. It has been noted that the pond is now experiencing abundant blue-green algae growth and the number of small fish have declined. This may be due to Horatio the white carp but presently he has been somewhat elusive perhaps scared by the Canadian Geese.	

Holybourne Village Association

	All the springs are slowing down and the main Lavant in the Streamacres field is, according to the RB measuring device down to 5 litres/sec.(This is 432 cubic metres per day or 1964 gallons per day). Most of the culverts are clear but the one at Smithy Close is beginning to get choked with weed growth and AH said he would be clearing this in due course. Rob thanked Bob and Andy for their comprehensive input.	
4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Parish Governance Review (PGR): The Committee subgroup working on this subject gave a progress update. Although significant progress had been made on the logistics, it was suggested that the project should not be advanced until the local government review has been completed. The group will continue to gather information and provide updates to the committee as appropriate. It is considered most important that we gauge the opinion of the village as to whether they would support a move to Holybourne becoming a parish. Pros and Cons have been listed. Pros:- A more formal and legal framework than the current HVA which may have bearing on the views particularly with regard to planning issues. Entitled to raise a precept and receive a proportion of Council Tax to fund activities Employment of an experienced paid Parish Clerk who would be able to give guidance on decisions and ensure regulatory compliance. Would encapsulate all village committees and amenities (Village Hall, Sports Field, playground, etc.) generally as an umbrella function. Could enable village residents to make local decisions which would affect the way of life in the village. Cons:- Could be seen as another layer of formal bureaucracy. Could be seen as political which may result in division. Could be seen as a financial burden – although this needs to be investigated. Easier to maintain the Status Quo with ATC performing this role. The current roadmap is:- PGR would poll the village of Holybourne to determine the views of the village. If this is in favour then a formal petition would be submitted to the EHDC (or Mid Hants Unitary Council). This would define the exact area which is under consideration. The Local Council would then need to make an order to progress the recommendation. The order would need to define the area and the effects on surrounding areas and seek to transfer ownership and management of properties within the area currently controlled by the ATC to the new Parish Council. It is thought however that given the current status of the local government reorganisation there would be insufficient time or emphasis from the council to give the matter the level of consideration it would deserve and therefore the PGR will slow down the progress of the review until the reorganisation is complete. Although the progress is slowed the group will produce an article for the next Holybourne magazine and would then organise a presentation to the village and a leaflet drop.	
4.2	Village Picnic The date is now fixed on 1st Saturday in July (4th July). The venue is The Lawn and much of the organisation has been sorted with the management of the Lawn. It will follow the programme of last year and include a dog show. Publicity and a new Ad Banner will be ready soon.	
4.3	Fireworks. There has been no communication with the firework supplier yet but we expect the catalogue soon. We have been in discussion with English Heritage to resolve siting of the bonfire. This year we will be having a lantern parade. Likely to start at Andrew's Endowed School and heading to the sports field. Lantern Kits will be exhibited at the Village Picnic and will be available to order there.	
5	Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton	
5.1	No new applications this month. The renovation of the Oil Depot is on-going. It was reported that the development by A Lyndon-Skeggs has had a pre-app submission for discussion.	

Holybourne Village Association

	Cllr Graham Hill said that the ATC has endorsed the EHDC Chalkstreams and rivers motion and this will be reflected in their planning reviews.																														
5.2	There has been no further update from Redbrown in regard to their development project.																														
5.3	Alton Neighbourhood Plan No further update on the new ANP(3). The existing ANP(2) will continue to be the current document. Due to the reorganisation of the county councils it is likely that the Local Plan will need to change.																														
6	Village Communications Website: - business as usual: Magazine: The Spring magazine is ready for distribution which will happen next week. We currently have one change in distribution volunteers, another may be needed too. The WhatsApp group will sort this. Social Media - business as usual. The Church. No update.																														
7	Committee Reports	AM																													
7.1	Chair Nothing to report.																														
7.2	Treasurer Sam is happy to remain treasurer and will be asked to supply up-to-date info if he is unable to attend the monthly meeting. AM to request.																														
7.3	Friends of the Pond – (see input under item 3)																														
7.4	Speed Indicator – SID AM received info from SH and appraised the meeting. SID seems to be having a very positive effect on speeding. The table below gives a view of the data. Alton End of Village 24th March – 3rd April <table><tr><td>Direction</td><td>No Vehicles</td><td>Avg Speed</td><td>Max Speed</td><td>V85 speed</td></tr><tr><td>Into village</td><td>9643</td><td>22</td><td>58</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Out of Village</td><td>15274</td><td>25</td><td>59</td><td>28</td></tr></table> Binsted End of Village <table><tr><td>Direction</td><td>No Vehicles</td><td>Avg Speed</td><td>Max Speed</td><td>V85 speed</td></tr><tr><td>Into village</td><td>5252</td><td>23</td><td>50</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>Out of Village</td><td>7926</td><td>26</td><td>57</td><td>30</td></tr></table> It was also reported that over 99.5% of the vehicles travelled at less than 40 mph Speeders - number of vehicles above 40 mph Alton end in 16 of 9643 : Alton end out 54 of 15274 Binsted end in 11 of 5252 : Binsted end out 34 of 7926		Direction	No Vehicles	Avg Speed	Max Speed	V85 speed	Into village	9643	22	58	25	Out of Village	15274	25	59	28	Direction	No Vehicles	Avg Speed	Max Speed	V85 speed	Into village	5252	23	50	26	Out of Village	7926	26	57
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8	Any Other Business Councillor Graham Hill showed a “Do not feed the Ducks” notice for approval. These were accepted and will be put up on the fences around the pond. There is an Oak Sapling which needs a new home and the small area near Rakemakers was thought suitable. Local Rakemakers will be contacted.																														
9	Close – DONM The meeting closed at 9:10 pm. The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 9th June 2026.																														

Action Items

AM to contact SD about accounts