

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

9th June 2026

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Caroline Wallis (CWa), Pat Lerew (PL), Celia Wood (CW), Jerry Janes (JJ), Sam Dalton (SD), Stuart Hunt (SH), Keith Halcrow (KH), Vanessa Gist (VG)
Ex Officio	Cllr Graham Hill (EHDC and ATC),
Holybourne Members	Bob Page (BP), Barry Lawrence (BL), Paul Fitzgibbon (PF) David Maxwell, Judy Maxwell

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), Megan-Beth Millar (MBM),	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	Minutes of the May 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 No issues (not covered later) were brought up.	
4	Current Issues Events and Projects	
4.1	Ponds and Waterways. Bob Page gave an update on the village pond and also some technical concerns over the Redbrown Development – these will be minuted in the Planning Matters agenda item. It is still the aim of the HVA to get the pond cleared of the years of silt build up which is currently affecting the whole pond. A major stumbling block is that no one can identify the owner of the pond. BP has approached the Holybourne archive and even tracing records back to 1347 no owner has been found. Assuming that the job is to go ahead, removing the silt is also a two stage process: first the silt needs to be tested for possible toxicity and if found OK then stage two is to raise a contract to do the work. However the HVA is an unincorporated association and cannot legally raise a contract. BP has been in discussion with the Alton Town Clerk Tom Horwood to explore possible options. There would appear to be three possible routes. 1 That the ATC provides immediate support to run the project 2 That the HVA form an independent “pond charity” to provide the governance of the pond going forward. 3 The HVA forms a formal joint approach with the ATC with clearly defined areas of control. Clearly the formation of a pond charity would seem to be the best in the long run but this is a lengthy process and results in long term administration. This matter is subject to further discussion for resolution. With regard to funding, sampling itself will require in the region of £2,000 and the dredging a very considerable sum. The best way forward is to apply for a CIL grant firstly with the ATC but also in conjunction with the ATC to EHDC for the proportion of CIL that they control. Nevertheless, in order to move forward BP is currently drafting a complete “work package” to define the dredging process including risk and liability assessments and separate document defining the sampling process. This has been done with guidance from the Environment Agency and it is hoped that we can carry out sampling in the very near future.	

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4.2	Parish Governance Review (PGR): The Committee subgroup have formulated a document setting out the pros and cons of creating a PC together with the steps needed to do so. This will be published on the HVA website and also in the next issue of the magazine. The village will be asked to review and vote for or against proceeding with the formation. The document will be made available to the committee for their views first. Villagers will be directed to send their comments and decisions to the secretary email address where it will be collated and evaluated.	PL/VG
4.3	Village Picnic The date is now fixed on 1st Saturday in July (4th July). PL produced advertising flyers which AM will put up around the village. The HVA would like to have a stand and together with displays of what we do, Bob Page and Andy Hankin would like to showcase the work they are doing on the pond, the streams and the River Wey Bob Page to contact MBM for direction. Fireworks. The fireworks supplier has asked for our order and the committee agreed that this should go ahead. A budget of £2500 was agreed. RL/MBM to progress. We also believe that this year it should be properly advertised within the Summer magazine and also details should be sent to the ATC for inclusion in the Alton News weekly publication. A further update should be given next month when more of the details have been done.	AM BP/MBM RL/MBM
5	Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton	
5.1	No new applications this month.	
5.2	Redbrown have submitted updated documents on dealing with water and with traffic. These still fall far short of resolving the particular issues and the village has been encouraged to post comments on the EHDC Planning Portal. Help will be on offer with a meeting held in the church on Tuesday 16th where the implications of the issues will be presented. The closing date for comments to EHDC is 21st June so time is tight. There are technical concerns related to this proposal. 1 The hydrological assessment report covers one spring, yet there are 4 known springs and opinion suggests that the conclusion drawn from the report is flawed. 2 The existing sewage asset is often stressed and will not cope with a 30% increase in load. 3 Bacterial tests on the River Wey show it already has high levels of E. Coli.	
5.3	Alton Neighbourhood Plan No further update on the new ANP(3). The existing ANP(2) is in force until November 2026 and will continue to be the current document. It is noted that under this and the current Local Plan, Holybourne is registered as a Tier 4 settlement implying that the growth target should range between 5 and 10 maximum new builds. Due to the reorganisation of the county councils within Hampshire, it is likely that the Local Plan will need to change. The central government housing allocation plan is for 3000 new houses and will also need a transport strategy review by HCC Highways. Traffic surveys by the HVA may be able to contribute to this.	
6	Village Communications Website: - business as usual: Magazine: The team apologised for the delay in distributing the Spring issue of the magazine and are learning from this. It has been suggested that we should have a deputy magazine distributor to ensure full coverage. Social Media - business as usual. The Church are planning to have a stall at the Village Picnic.	

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7	Committee Reports	
7.1	Chair reported that the knitting group raised £200 to go towards the defibrillator and has purchased children's pads to supplement the adult ones. The defibrillator has also been checked and is in good condition.	
7.2	Treasurer We have access to the bank account at last. The current account stands at £8991.10 of which approx. £3991.10 is currently available for general use. This month, income received was £570.00 and expenditure was £1957.36 the major expense being magazine printing. We also contributed £327.36 as the 50% share of the cost of the Brass Plaques honouring the late Queen and the current King.	
8	Any Other Business The "Do not feed the Ducks" provided by Councillor Graham Hill were put up round the pond – and they have already caught the eye of villagers. Several trees within the church graveyard are needing to be trimmed or removed; there is one however, near the pond which does need attention but is not on recognised church-owned ground. Members of the Holybourne Gardening Club have expressed an interest in having allotments. This is something that is in the remit of ATC	
9	Close – DONM The meeting closed at 9:15 pm. The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 14 th July 2026.	

Action Items

Progress formulating Parish Council pro/con for magazine	PL/VG
Put up Village Picnic posters around Holybourne	AM
Arrange the HVA stand at the Village Picnic	BP/MBM
Progress fireworks preparation	
including a timely ad in the ATC weekly Altonian mag	RL/MBM