

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

14th July 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 Don Hammond (ATC), Cllr Emily Young (EHDC)
Holybourne Members	Bob Page (BP), Andy Hankin (AH), John Bound (JB)

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:- Megan-Beth Millar (MBM), Cllr G Hill	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	Minutes of the June meeting were acknowledged and accepted following heading update.	
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 started by saying how well their display was received at the Village Picnic. He gave credit to Andy H for designing and building the investigation models which have been used both in our pond and Kings Pond (for ATC) and also in the various culverts around the village. Videos above and below the waterline are regularly being captured and the displays proved a great draw to people in general. With regard to the pond, progress has been made toward the clearing of the silt. Following a general discussion the logical path has been determined to comprise of three interlinked phases each with their own needs. Phase one is to sample and analyse the pond silt to determine if it is viable for land disposal or if it is toxic and would require a waste disposal licence and path. If the latter, the clearing of the pond would take a very different path. It is hoped that it is the former and the analysis shows it is viable for land disposal. A cost for this phase is estimated to be between £800 and £1200 and it is recommended that the HVA, assisted by Bob Page approach the Councillors to apply for a grant to meet this cost. SH may be able to assist BP. Phase two is to determine where the silt can be placed. Discussions will need to be had with Belpot Farms (Andy Kirby) and the fields identified. Soil samples of these fields will be required which will determine the spreading rate of the silt to ensure that the disposal does not adversely affect field. Samples of the soils will be required and again the cost will be in the region of £500 per test. The Environment Agency will need to determine how many tests will be needed. For initial estimate we should consider three tests, each having a sampling scenario of at least 5 sampling positions in a W shape. Again we should approach the Councillors for grants but in addition it is thought that fund raising from the village would improve the chances of successful grant applications.	BP / SD RL

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4.2	Providing phase two is positive, then phase three would be to engage a suitable contractor to undertake the task. Bob Page has already prepared a draft contract for this. If we get this far it would be prudent to have this contract reviewed by the ATC – say Cllr Don Hammond to ensure that all legislative impacts are addressed. Cllr Don Hammond also has knowledge of suitable contractors for the work and this info would be useful. It was noted here that the pond is suffering from an algal bloom and it has been suggested that we use barley straw to reduce or eradicate the algae. This is currently being done at Kings Pond. Bob Page also informed us that following a meeting with June Chatfield it is now apparent that the pond is not lined but instead sits on the aquifer. How this affect the silt removal needs to be considered. It is noted that there is a leak around and under the weir of the pond and this could be addressed during or after the silt removal has been undertaken. Andy Hankin then gave an update on the springs and waterways. Many of the local springs have now ceased flowing however some – the Alter spring and Church Lane are still running. Some springs ceased a while back but have now restarted. E. Coli levels in the River Wey have increased somewhat (probably due to the lower river flow affecting the dilution of the Alton sewage works effluent.) Another E. Coli test will be taken in July and then will be on an annual basis.	
4.3	Parish Governance Review (PGR): A document has been prepared highlighting the pros and cons of forming a Holybourne Parish Council. The document will be put on the HVA web site and also in the next addition of the Holybourne Village Magazine. The HVA will be asking for feedback from the village specifically on this topic. Following a discussion it was agreed that any feedback should be addressed to the HVA secretary email address as a convenient point of contact for the villagers. CW will update the above document and send to Sec for the website and to John Bound for the magazine.	CW /AM
4.4	Village Picnic The Village Picnic was held at The Lawn and many thanks must go to Steve Swift for providing the location. Thanks is also due to Megan Beth Millar for the coordination of the event. PL said that we should thank 'Digitus' for generously printing our posters for free. Olga hosted a yoga class in the large marquee provided by The Lawn, our generous hosts taken by a mixture of ages and abilities enjoying the movements created by Olga's clear instructions which had a beautiful calming delivery and tailored to the heat of the afternoon. Susie of Dexter's Shed wowed us with her delicious cakes and treats which included home-made dog treats too. The magic show given by Reverend David kicked off the activities and brought all the children (and adults) together ready for the races – great fun. Our thanks go to Tony for organising the races and to Olga and Ollie who helped (good warm up for the yoga). T&C drinks provided excellent tea and coffee the weather was hot so the iced coffee was a must. The atmosphere was relaxed and happy with craft stalls around the periphery, including, as mentioned before, the pond and waterways exhibit.	
	Fireworks. RL said he wishes to take a back seat from the fireworks. He will arrange the purchase this year and is happy to light them but cannot commit to any other involvement. After a short discussion it was proposed that a new events sub-committee be formed and this could also undertake Village picnic planning as well. It should be headed by someone on the HVA committee but should involve other villagers as well. Past events were done this way and it shares the burden among people. The fireworks order has been compiled and will be sent to the supplier. MBM has an outline plan for the event and this can be used to organise it from now on. It was noted that the summer magazine has a copy date in late July and we should publicise the event in it.	RL/MBM

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5 5.1 5.2 5.3	Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton No new applications this month. Redbrown have submitted new application details and the planning group has informed the village as a whole. The group keeps on top of developments and it has been noted that the consultation end date has been adjusted to 3rd August. We will keep a watch on any submissions and comments as they are uploaded – particularly from a highways and flooding points of view. Alton Neighbourhood Plan / Local Plan With the up and coming Local Government reorganisation EHDC have deferred working on these plans as the structure to which they would apply will change radically. Cllr Emily Young gave an update on the current position. There will be 4 unitary bodies covering the area that included EHDC. In May 2027 Shadow Unitary bodies will be formed and the process of handover will commence. In April 2028 the EHDC will cease to exist and in May 2028 elections will be held to finalise the Active Unitary Authorities. To set this in motion in November or December of 2026 the Government will issue a Structural Change Order which will enable the formation of a shadow committee. In the meantime however, existing councillors are getting together to work on a Local Plan based on the new area.	
6	Village Communications Website: - business as usual: - (post meeting note: there are some issues with the platform and AM will contact Carl Saunders who hosts the site to get a price for resolving these.) Magazine: The financial position of the magazine has become much more positive following a push to collect advertising revenue. HVA would like to give thanks to Barry Lawrence and John Bound for this. The magazine will provide a financial statement for the September meeting. It was noted that £5 was received from Binsted for the purchase of magazines. Keith Halcrow has accepted the position of deputy distribution manager which will ensure timely distribution of magazines from now on. The recent leaflet drop related to planning has helped in streamlining the distribution teams. Social Media - business as usual. The Church The new vicar and his wife have arrived and will take up residence in Alton. The Reverend Tim Gomm's licensing will be on Tuesday 11th August at St Lawrence church, conducted by the Bishop of Winchester, The Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen at 7pm. Revd David Chattell and Ruth will remain in Holybourne.	AM BL/JB
7 7.1 7.2	Committee Reports Chair Rob Law said that his term as chair will currently end at the upcoming AGM. He said that he would be willing to stand another year. Treasurer Advertising revenue of £1370.00 was our income for the month June 9th to July 8th. Our outgoings of £698.60 were for Village Hall hire, Picnic portaloos and Duck food. In addition we purchased planning leaflets (– money from the planning fund). The current account stands at £9662.50 It was noted that the HVA events licence was due for renewal but it was considered not fit for our present usage. We resolved not to renew this licence but to purchase a single event licence for the picnic next year nearer the time it would be needed. RL also suggested that we should contact the cricket club to see if there was merit in combining events insurance as well. S(peed) I(ndicator) D(evice) Data is regularly being collected from both sites however analysis has not been carried out recently due to many other commitments.	

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8	Any Other Business It was resolved not to hold a meeting in August and thus our next full committee meeting will be in September – the meeting before the HVA AGM. The planning subcommittee will keep abreast of planning developments and will flag up anything important.	
9	Close – DONM The meeting closed at 9:20 pm. The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 8 th September 2026.	

Action Items

Continue to progress pond clearing	BP/RL/SD/SH
Parish Governance Review for WEB	AM / CW
Progress Fireworks (committee)	RL / MBM
Website security	AM
Magazine Balance Sheet	BL / JB