

Holybourne Village Association

Founded 1974

8th September 2026

Minutes

Committee Members	Rob Law (Chair)(RL), Andy Muir(AM), Pat Lerew (PL), Celia Wood (CW), Sam Dalton (SD), Stuart Hunt (SH), Keith Halcrow (KH), Vanessa Gist (VG)
Ex Officio	Cllr Don Hammond (ATC), Cllr Emily Young (HCC), Cllr G Hill (ATC EHDC)
Holybourne Members	Andy Hankin (AH), Paul Fitzgibbon (PF), Barrie Lawrence (BL)

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), Jerry Janes (JJ), Caroline Wallis (CWa), Bob Page (BP)	
2	Minutes of Last Meeting	
2.1	Minutes of the September meeting were acknowledged and accepted following revision to section 4.3 concerning the village picnic.	
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. Andy Hankin gave an update on the state of the culverts which transfer the springs to the River Wey. The Smithy Close culvert is in need of a clear. The A31 culvert is running OK but needs vegetation clearing. The recent bacterial analysis of the river gave a high e. coli measure (3000 cfu / 100ml). After discussion it was agreed that AH would report the findings to the EA and they would consider if any action was warranted. The HVA are not in a position to interpret this result. (Note:- Bacteria like <i>E. coli</i> are naturally found in the environment and can come from many sources, including wildlife, farm animals, and sewage. Finding <i>E. coli</i> doesn't necessarily mean pollution is from sewage. While drinking water and designated bathing waters are regulated, most rivers and lakes are not routinely monitored for <i>E. coli</i> .) With regard to the pond, 2 silt samples will be required and with analysis costs this will be in the region of £1,500. The councillors present at the meeting agreed that this cost would be an acceptable use of grant money and the HVA should apply for a grant from each of them. AH will send details of the sampling costs to RL so that HVA can submit grant requests to hopefully cover the whole cost.	AH/RL
4.2	Parish Governance Review (PGR): The document has been submitted to the magazine for the Summer edition, it includes a QR code to the website for more details and for the village to make their feelings known. The deferment by Central Government to the Local Government Reorganisation may have an effect on the outcome of the PGR, it remains to be seen as to how this will materialise.	
4.3	Fireworks. There seems to have been a miscommunication over the ordering of the fireworks and this must be done as a priority. BP has calculated the depth of sand required to raise the bonfire on the land to a level which will have no impact on the archaeological remains below, thus there will be a bonfire this year. AM has written a letter calling for local business sponsorship. This should be delivered soon too.	AM

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4.4	Village Archive SH raised the digital archive project. He and Linda Habberfield have discussed the process, and SH confirmed that he has the necessary equipment and is ready to continue with the digitisation. He would welcome support from MBM in progressing the project. Cllr G Hill noted that a grant may be available, although SH has sufficient resources to proceed without funding at this stage. RL to contact MBM.	RL
5	Planning and Development Issues in and around Holybourne / Alton	
5.1	New Applications 6x tree work: 1 Listed Building (Andrews Endowed Sch.) flat roof repair Application for outline permission for 6 new homes on Lower Neatham Mill Lane has been received by EHDC. A short discussion of this proposal ensued with a result that the HVA as a body did not feel in a position to make a comment, but has informed the residents of the village and if anyone has personal views they should submit them in the usual way to EHDC planning.	
5.2	Redbrown Development HVA has raised its concerns related to both the proposed highways scheme and to flood risk with the relevant authorities. Residents can access the HVA's submissions, which were developed in consultation with the village community, on the EHDC planning portal. EHDC are working towards determination of this planning application in October.	
5.3	Alton Neighbourhood Plan / Local Plan With the LGR now deferred, EHDC will need to hold elections for the coming year. A great deal of time and effort has been spent on the LGR plans. Existing actions which were to be affected by the LGR must now be restarted. ATC and EHDC are considerably disturbed by these events. It is likely that the Local Plan will need to be revived, however some steer from Central Gov is still needed. The existing ANP is still valid however it too will need either an update or a complete new ANP will be produced.	
6	Village Communications Website: - The website platform has been updated however this has caused an issue with the calendar function, due to an expired licence. AM is working on this. As noted last time the platform upgrade was chargeable and although no invoice has yet been submitted by Carl Saunders, it is probable that it will be added to the current hosting fee invoice. Magazine: Due to several unfortunate incidents, the publication of the magazine has been delayed. Typesetting is underway and the mag should be at the printers soon now. Ad revenue is now in excess of the printing costs and therefore the magazine will continue to be a free issue to the village.	AM
7	Committee Reports	
7.1	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.	
7.2	Treasurer There was no financial activity this period. The treasurer is in a position to prepare the accounts for the AGM in October.	SD
7.3	S(speed) 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.	
8	Any Other Business Next month is the AGM and a list of committee persons and appointment dates will be circulated with the minutes.	

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	HVA was contacted by the new British Legion Poppy Appeal Organisers for Alton. The message was passed to the shop as this is a normal place for poppy selling.	
9	Close – DONM The meeting closed at 9:20 pm. The next meeting is the AGM at 7:30pm on 13 th October 2026.	

Action Items

Grant application for silt testing	AN/RL
Fireworks sponsorship	AM
Fireworks purchase	RL / MBM
Village archive	SH/RL
Website	AM
Annual Accounts	SD