

**Holton Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 14th February 2022
starting at 7.30 pm in Holton Village Hall Committee Room I**

Present:

Chairman Robert Barter
Councillor Andy Murray
Councillor Roger Farrow
Councillor Brian Pridmore
Councillor Allan East
Parish Clerk Sonja Barter

Also present: Tim Bearder (County and District Councillor), Tim Martin (Headteacher, Wheatley Park School), Carol Johnston and Annie Johnston (Residents of Holton)

1. Apologies: None

1a. Declarations of interest: Robert Barter declared an interest in the agenda item No 5 – Access to Wheatley Park School as the access crosses land in his ownership and control.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the council held on Monday 10th January 2022 which had been circulated to all councillors before the meeting.

Proposed by Andy Murray
Seconded by Roger Farrow

All agreed

OPEN FORUM

Tim Martin the Headteacher of Wheatley Park School explained the reasoning behind the proposal to close off the cut through from Holton which provides unauthorised access to the school site. The issue of safeguarding of the pupils is a priority for the managing trust and the unauthorised use of the site grounds has resulted in damage to school property and instances of anti-social behaviour which is of concern to the School. Tim Martin also reported that the School had taken legal advice that it was within their rights to close the access from Holton as there was no right of way across the School grounds.

Having consulted with the Holton pupils who attend the school it is proposed that there will be a locked gate and fencing erected across the area and arrangements will be made to unlock in the morning for school access and to remain locked until the afternoon when it would be open again to allow exit at the end of the school day. This would be in the interests of a safer route to school avoiding the village road and control access to the site.

The Wheatley side of the site will also be controlled by improved fencing and locked gates leaving access through the approved entrances.

Robert Barter, a joint owner of the land below the school boundary and responsible with others for the upkeep and maintenance of the access driveway from the highway, was also concerned about the increase in footfall over his land and the security aspects, the damage caused and the instances of anti-social behaviour and abuse received. The cut through was made available to Holton school children to provide a safe route to school avoiding the village road. The school site was always considered to be private land with no right of way across the land, although some Holton residents felt that there was an established right.

Annie Johnston used the cut through to go to the bus stop and the Sports Centre.

Carol Johnston who grew up in the area considered that she had a right of access to cross over the school campus at all times and had used this access since she was a child.

Parish Councillors questioned the Headteacher on the rationale for the decision and the implication and feasibility of managing the access through the locked gate.

Everyone was thanked for attending and the members of the public left the meeting.

3. District and County Councillor Reports

Tim Bearder gave an account of County Highways matters which come under his brief on the County Council. SODC concerns about lack of 5 year land supply in light of potential withdrawal of Chalgrove from housing plans. A Councillor grant for the Holton Orchard fencing has been approved. The Maple Tree Centre has received a rent holiday from the County Council for one year and there are plans to make improvements to the Gypsy Site off the A40.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Orchard Hedging/Fencing. Richard Taylor has cut back the orchard roadside hedging to the existing part fenced boundary and cleared the scrub alongside the ditch. A quote for post and 3 rail fencing has been received from Steve Palmer. The fence distance is approx. 90 metres. Further quotes have been requested from Richard Taylor for post and rail, chestnut cleft posts and rails and galvanised estate fencing. A quote for post and wire stock fencing to be requested as being a less expensive option.

The Hollies – The McCleans have carried out some ditch improvements to minimise the impact of water along the road boundary.

The Warren Farm entrance onto the highway. Shotover Estate have carried out some temporary remedial work on the water pipes to limit the water leak and will be carrying out further improvements when time allows. Tracy Morton of County Council Highways has visited the site and there are planned improvements to re-surface the area at the bellmouth of the entranceway where the track meets the Highway. A diagram showing Highway boundaries and areas of responsibility in Holton has been received.

Wheatley Park School Access

Everyone's priority was the safety of pupils walking to school and keeping the access from Holton open at the start and end of the school day during school hours.

The issue and process of establishing a legal right of access was discussed and whether it was a power or duty under the Parish Council brief. Advice to be taken.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should work with the school to try to ensure consistent access for school pupils morning and afternoon, on every school day. If a technological solution was found to avoid a member of school staff having to be present in the morning and afternoon to unlock and lock the gate, the Parish Council would consider a financial contribution to enable this to happen.

It was decided to write to the Headteacher thanking him for attending and offering to work with the school to retain this access for Holton children and for an undertaking that this access would remain in place and not be rescinded in the future.

The Clerk to check with OALC as to whether it was in the remit of the Parish Council to make an application to modify the Definitive Map.

6. Financial Matters

a. Accounts submitted for payment

Clerk's Salary February	432.00
R. Taylor Orchard Dec/Jan/Feb	400.00
R. Taylor Village Dec/jan	416.00
Oxfordshire Play Assoc Grant Playdays	250.00

b. Bank balances after paying above amounts and monies received

Deposit £19,970.21

Current £1,229.31

c. Annual Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment document had been sent to all Parish Councillors for comment and the following changes were made: 14. Under measures change the wording Bus

Shelter maintenance carried out. Add the number 15. And under 16 add that a list of monthly duties carried out by the Clerk to be listed for reference.

It was proposed by Andy Murray and seconded by Robert Barter that the Clerk's Report be accepted and the accounts paid. **All Agreed**

7. Churchyard

David Bendor Samuel has reported to the Parish Council on 25 January that the Diocese has given permission for the land transfer to go ahead and David BS is to clarify whether he has to instruct the Diocese solicitors Winkworth Sherwood. We are waiting to find out who the acting solicitor will be and then arrange a meeting of the landowner and his solicitor to draw up the transfer document.

8. Playground Proposal

Interesting responses from villagers and general support for the scheme. Earthwrights have come back with a revised figure in excess of the original figure and Discovery Play revised quote has increased. Awaiting quotes from Playdate and Touchwood Play. Funding from the District Council Capital Fund and Parish CIL funds. A decision to be made on the actual elements of the scheme and costs to be put together and agreed.

9. Planning applications:

P22/S0345/LDE Slaymaker, The Studio. Holton. OX33 1PR

Certificate of Lawful Development for: The plot has three buildings Slaymaker (the original cottage), the studio built in 1996 and the barn built in 2005. The Studio has been used as a dwelling separate from Slaymaker since shortly after the studio was built (1996). The barn's agricultural use ceased shortly after it was built and is now ancillary to the residential use.

Checks to be made on the enforcement report on file for the properties.

P21/S5311/LB. Pond Farm Barn, Holton. OX33 1PY

Installation of an EO mini EV charger on the external wall. Dimension: 175mm x 125 mm x 95mm. **No comments.**

10. Planning Decisions (South Oxfordshire District Council):

None

11. Reports

Enforcement SE20/188. Holton Field Groundworks Land adjacent Wheatley Park School, Holton. OX33 1PZ. The case officer Anne Wilkinson has asked the owner to submit a Planning Contravention Notice for the Container by the Barn, the hard standing, the Green container on the hard standing and the Wormery. No comments to date.

Holton Village Hall Meeting –Brian Pridmore attended as a representative of the Parish Council. A Reserve Policy has been drawn up by Sue Holmes and Brian Pridmore. Jubilee celebrations on the Sunday June 5th and suggestions and input requested from the village. Booking of amusements/entertainment to be carried out as soon as possible as the Jubilee dates will book up fast. Jubilee Quiz on Friday May 27th. Village Hall Coffee mornings to be held fortnightly starting in March. Annual Village Hall accounts – surplus of £7000 in 2021 with Covid grants in 2020 and 2021 of £30,000, reduction of letting income of 75% in 2020 and 2021. Maintenance and improvements continue.

Holton Orchard - Andy Murray. A meeting of the Orchard Committee to be called to discuss 2022 maintenance and the play equipment proposals.

Brookes Liaison Group – Robert Barter and Brian Pridmore – The group has been informed by Kevin Heritage that there is likely to be a planning application for development of the two houses and land by the Waterperry Road on the eastern part of the campus. No application has been received to-date. Kevin Heritage wishes to remain as the link with Wheatley Park School along with the new Site Manager. Robert Barter to contact Mark Tugwell, Oxfords Brookes Estates Manager, for an update and arrange a meeting of interested parties.

Brookes Residents' Meeting – Roger Farrow – next Zoom meeting on Thursday 17th February 6 – 7 pm.

Neighbourhood Plan (Wheatley) – Roger Farrow – Nothing to report.

Wheatley and Holton Good Neighbour Scheme – Deb Bale. No further report.

12. Publications/Letters and forthcoming events

None

13. Items for discussion and/or referral to a future meeting

A request for ideas and helpers to organise the Holton Jubilee celebrations was posted in the February HWW News. Village Hall Committee putting together plans for the Sunday 5th June and Jubilee Quiz on Friday 25th May.

Holton Litter Blitz to be arranged for Saturday 12th March start and pick up equipment 10.00 am Holton Village Hall.

14. Date of next meeting. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 14th March 2022 starting at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm.