

**Holton Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 starting at 7.00 pm in Holton Village Hall Committee Room**

**Present:**

Chairman – Brian Pridmore  
Councillor – Andy Murray  
Councillor – Robert Barter  
Councillor – Allan East  
Councillor – Charli Keely  
Parish Clerk - Sonja Barter

**Also in attendance:** Residents of Barns Close, Holton: Mick Blowfield, Marc Lafferty, Johanna Lafferty, Adrian Henderson, Richard Bainbridge and Christine Bainbridge.

1. **Apologies:** none
2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The Minutes were confirmed. Proposed by Robert Barter and seconded by Andy Murray. **All agreed**
3. **Declarations of Interest** – none

**OPEN FORUM**

Introductions were exchanged between the residents of Barns Close and Parish Councillors. The residents met with the Head Teacher of WP School on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and aired their views on the closure of the school access from the private lane which stopped these residents crossing over the school property. The lack of initial communication with the residents about this closure from both the school and the Parish Council had been a source of irritation to them. Lately incidences of intimidation had been shown to some pupils which had raised concerns among the Holton parents, the Parish Council and the School. The general feeling of the residents was that they did not object to the school children crossing the private lane to gain access to the school and would remain in contact with the school regarding the possibility of their private access.

The residents left the meeting at 8.00 pm.

4. **District and County Councillor Reports** – No District/County Councillor present.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** none

## 6. Traffic, Road and Highway Matters

The first meeting of the Road Safety Group consisting of Mick Blowfield, Eileen Race, Clare Wright, Ian Beach and Sonja Barter met on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Areas of concern were traffic through the village when the Holton Park housing development is being built and afterwards when the buildings are completed and occupied. Look into restricting traffic through the village by weight restriction limits. The Clerk to enquire through Highways on the process of installing such measures. The next meeting of the committee is to be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Charli Keely offered to join the committee and will be copied in on the correspondence along with Allan East.

Verge maintenance – It was agreed to carry out a full cut of the urban and rural areas of the village in August and ask Richard Taylor if he could rake and take away the cut vegetation from the verge wall side from the bus shelter to opposite the village hall . To concentrate on this area of verge and monitor the resultant growth pattern. A further winter cut to be made in December.

## 7. W P School Access Gate:

A useful exchange between the Parish Council and the residents of Barns Close was held earlier in Open Forum. A clearer understanding of the issues relevant to all parties.

## 8. Financial Matters

<b>a. Accounts submitted for payment</b>	<b>Total inc. VAT</b>
Clerk's salary - July	514.80
Richard Taylor Village maintenance May	162.00
Richard Taylor Village grass cutting May	90.00
Richard Taylor Church grass cutting May	211.20
Richard Taylor Orchard May	196.80
Richard Taylor Village June	90.00
Richard Taylor Orchard June	196.80
Richard Taylor Churchyard June	211.20
Holton Village Hall Hire April/May/June	62.00

## b. Bank balances after paying the above amounts and monies received

**Deposit £12,846.22    Current: £884.07**

## c. Monthly Cash Reconciliation with Bank Statement

Andy Murray checked the cash balances with the bank statement, agreed the figures and signed the cash reconciliation.

**d. Holton Parish Council AGAR and Annual Accounts y/e 31/03/2024.**

Annual Governance and Accounts with the Auditor Moore & Co. The Notice of Electors Public Rights to inspect the Accounts posted on both Notice Boards and on the website.

**e. Quarterly Budget Comparison 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The quarterly Budget comparison had been circulated to Parish Councillors before the meeting .

The figures showed a potential overspend of £217.00 at this stage.

**It was proposed by Robert Barter and seconded by Andy Murray that the Clerk's report and Accounts be accepted, cash balances reconciled and all accounts paid.**

**All agreed.**

**9. Contract of Employment**

The Clerk has received a revised draft contract and will be responding shortly. The Clerk has produced a Health and Safety Policy for Holton Parish Council and Charli Keely will be checking through the document.

**10. Churchyard extension land.**

The transfer of title has been completed between Paul and Richard Hunt and the Holder of the Benefice of Holton, Waterperry, Waterstock and Albury with Tiddington acting for St. Bartholomew's. A letter of thanks and gratitude to be sent to the Hunts from the Parish Council and an announcement to be published in the Holton News reporting on the finalisation and receipt of the gift of land for use as a churchyard at St Bartholomew's.

Some formal way to thank the Hunt family for their generous gift and to mark their considerable generosity to be decided. A meeting to be arranged with the PCC and the Vicar to discuss the next steps.

**11. Brookes Liaison Group.**

The Reserve Matters application has been received by SODC Planners and Savills and Crest Nicholson have requested a meeting of the Brookes Liaison Group to discuss the Reserve Matters Application. A meeting to be arranged in the next few weeks.

Charles Bulmer has not been back in touch as yet regarding a proposed footpath to the Brookes site.

**12. Planning Applications:**

None

**13 Planning Decisions: South Oxfordshire District Council:**

None

**14. Website Migration and gov.uk domain**

Hugo Fox have started on the website migration and sent a first draft. Further information and updates have been added by the Clerk to this draft and a final draft should be ready shortly. The Clerk is applying for the .gov.uk government grant of £100.00. Hugo Fox have applied for registration as a supplier of Gov.uk Domains.

**15. Reports:**

**Holton Village Hall** – Orchard Summer Barbecue on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August from 6.00 pm (Live music, BBQ, strawberries and cream, icecreams and games in the orchard).

**Orchard Committee** – Summer pruning workshop Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> 10 – 12 noon. Also to include the Cherry Tree on the Green in the pruning programme. Allan East suggested that the PC look into grants to encourage wildflower sites in the Orchard – this project and grants to be considered at the September PC meeting’

**16. Publications/Letters and forthcoming events.**

Benches and seating on verges – where and has a need been established – further discussion. No reply from Max Neal.

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

CIL Payments: Further to a email from SODC Infrastructure Claims it was agreed that the forthcoming CIL payment due by 28 October should be paid to Holton Parish Council and not retained by SODC.

The updated Financial Regulations to be circulated to the Parish Councillors for their consideration and adapted for Holton Parish Council and adopted at a later meeting.

**18. Date of the Next Meeting.** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th September 2024 starting at 7.00 pm. There is no meeting in August. The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.