

The Holton Parish Council meeting was held in Holton Village Hall on Monday 13th January 2020 starting at 7.30 pm

Present:

Vice Chairman Allan East
Councillor Roger Farrow
Councillor Andy Murray
Parish Clerk Sonja Barter

Also present: Mandy Smith (The Maple Tree Children's Centre}

1. Apologies: Robert Barter, Brian Pridmore, Sarah Gray, (District Councillor)
Tim Bearder (County Councillor).

1a. Declarations of interest: none

2 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 9th December 2019 which had been circulated to all councillors before the meeting.

Proposed by Andy Murray

Seconded by Allan East

All agreed

OPEN FORUM

Mandy Smith – The Maple Tree Children's Centre, thanked Holton Parish Council for their support and gave an overview of the wide range of services provided to help young families and early years education in the area. Questions regarding funding and uptake in the village of Holton were answered and everyone agreed that the service was of great benefit to all in the community and every effort should be made to enable this service to continue.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Another quote for Tree work in the Orchard had been obtained. This was twice the original quote and the work was therefore awarded to the original contractor.

The tree work has been carried out and note was made that the large Ash Tree is not in the best health and will need some attention in the future. Either completely remove or monolith the tree. Two other Ash Trees in the top end of the Orchard road boundary are also in a state of decline. All has been done for the moment to make them safe.

Website Accessibility. Notes on website check lists and methods of checking the accessibility of the site were made available. Allan East is in the process of checking the site and will come back with recommendations.

4. Traffic, Road and Highway Matters

Road signs have been cleaned. The signpost on the Green, Holton sign at the School end of the village. Others to be looked at and attended to.

Blocked drains have been reported to the County Council and will be dealt with when the Gully clearing teams are in the area.

It was agreed that a Litter Blitz should be held in early March and ditch and gully clearing carried out at the same time.

5. Financial Matters

a. Accounts submitted for payment

Clerk's Salary January	385.00
Clive Laman Village Maintenance December	117.00
Holton Village Hall hire December	13.00
Buryhook Countryside Management (VAT £100) Orchard	600.00

Received from Holton Village Hall re. Orchard use £540.

b. Bank balances after paying above cheques and money received.

Deposit	£15,227.40
Current	£1,154.46

c. Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment for 2019/20 was completed – there are no significant risks identified that need attention.

It was proposed by Roger Farrow and seconded by Andy Murray that the Clerk's Report be accepted, the Risk Assessment adopted and the accounts paid.

All Agreed

6. District/County Councillors

Apologies were received from both the District and County Councillors. Reports have been received from both Councillors. Attention was drawn to the County Council proposals to close both the lay-bys on the A40 near Forest Hill due to unsociable behaviour issues. Concerns were raised that these closures may push the problem into the surrounding areas namely the area of land between the Forest Hill turn and the Holton turn and maybe onto the Wheatley Park School internal road systems. The Parish Council's concerns to be reported to Tim Bearder.

7. Churchyard

Richard Hunt has been contacted and it is agreed that a Planning Application for change of use will be completed when the area in question has been cleared. This is being carried out at the moment and the work on the conveyance and other details can be started in the next few months.

8. Neighbourhood Plan: Submitted for inspection. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee have been in discussion with the Inspector.

9. Local Plan: Secretary of State Holding Direction. Talks continuing.

10. Oxford/Cambridge Expressway: Decision awaited now the Election has taken place. Oxfordshire County Council officially oppose the building of the Expressway.

11. Planning Applications:

P19/S4247/HH. The Old Presbytery, Holton. OX33 1PR

Rear extension to provide kitchen and ancillary accommodation.

Holton Parish Council have no objections.

12. Planning Decisions (South Oxfordshire District Council): None

13. Reports.

Holton Village Hall Management Meeting December report: December events well attended -Trivia Quiz, Carols and refreshments in the Hall after the Church Carol Service. Future hall refurbishments being planned – new ceiling, lights, ceiling extractor fans and Hearing Loop system. Quotations in hand and grant applications to be made. Film Night 'Fisherman's Friends' on February 21st.

14. Publications/Letters and Forthcoming Events.

A request for support in installing fibre broadband to the Church end of the village has been made by Polly Davidson from The Old Barn, Holton. A request for further details has been requested. Polly was to have attended the meeting but got the dates mixed and will be forwarding more information and attend the February meeting.

A letter has been sent to MP John Howell, Mr J Edwards, District Office Manager, Royal Mail, and the Permanent Secretary for DEFRA stating the objections from everyone in the area to the proposal to relocate the Postal sorting office from Wheatley to Oxford

The Maple Tree Children's Centre – Copies of the accounts and Strategic Plan have been received and a request for grant funding as given in the two previous years. Holton Parish Council have made provision in the 2020/21 Precept for a grant of £750 to the Maple Tree payable in October 2020.

It was proposed by Andy Murray and seconded by Roger Farrow that the grant of £750 will be made in the financial year 2020/21.

A letter has been received from Juliet Kendall requesting that the Parish Council investigate the installation of a bus shelter at the Holton Turn Bus Stop. This has been taken up with the County Council who confirm that this is technically possible but the Parish Council would need to find the funds (£4000-£5000) for installation and agree to accept responsibility for its ongoing insurance, maintenance and

repairs. At this moment in time the Parish Council do not wish to commit to this expenditure until a greater need is proved.

Holton, Waterperry and Waterstock News – Lawrence Wootten (Editor) of the News has made a request to the three parishes for funding to make up the shortfall of £420 per annum in the production costs of the News. The Parish Council greatly value this publication and agreed to grant £235 per annum as a proportionate cost for the Holton share of the distribution shortfall.

Proposed by Allan East and seconded by Andy Murray.

All agreed

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

Batteries have been removed from the Christmas lights on the Green.

The Holton Parish Council Grass Cutting and Village Maintenance Contract will be put out for tender in February. This is a two-year tender. The existing contractor has been notified and will be seeking to re-new his contract.

16. Date of next meeting. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 10th February 2020** starting at 7.30 pm in Holton Village Hall Committee Room.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.