

HOLWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 8TH FEBRUARY 2022
IN THE BOWLS CLUB AT 7.00 P.M.

Present:

Ms Yvonne Hart (Chairperson)
Mr Colin Everett
Mr Martin Thurlow
Mrs Wendy Harris
Mrs Ann Warner (Clerk)

Members of the Public
Mrs Susan Young
Mrs Rosemary Gainsford
Mr Colin Cropley
Mr A Ham

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Hertfordshire County Councillor Mr David Barnard and Mr Nigel Eaton. These were accepted and approved by the Parish Council.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting which had been circulated to all Parish Councillors were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed by the Chair Ms Yvonne Hart.

3. Matters to report:

3.1 Police Update – none were received

3.2. County and District Councillors Reports – County and District Councillors did not attend the meeting.

3.3. Recreation Ground Issues:

It has been arranged for the old damaged shed to be demolished for safety reasons.

Mr Ham our groundsman suggested that we need to address the worm problem at the recreation ground. The cost of the spraying is in line with government policy and would be £300. Safety notices will be put up at all entrances to the recreation ground and messages put on facebook, noticeboards and the Parish Council website during this time as the recreation ground should be closed to residents for 24 hours. All Parish Councillors agreed that the work should be carried out. **Black Poplar Tree** with large amounts of deadwood dying back. Branches to be crown reduced by approximately 40%. These types of trees are hollow and are at risk of large branches falling off in high winds. Due to the safety concerns of residents using the recreation, and it was agreed by the Parish Councillors that this work should be carried out. This will be done on 14th February.

Cricket and Football Clubs – A discussion commenced regarding the increase of fees for the use of the square and pitch. Ms Hart would arrange a meeting with the clubs to discuss this further. Parish Councillor Mr Martin Thurlow agreed to make enquiries regarding other club's costings for children/youths hire of pitch and would report back at the next meeting.

PAVILION: Final funding from the Football foundation has been given and the work has started on the Pavilion, this consists of demolishing the building. The area has been made safe with barriers around the site. Work will commence further when all finances have been completed. Hertfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils advised the Parish Council to engage the services of Steve Parkinson of Parkinson and Partners an expert on VAT.

The builder Allan and Sons has been given the new contract for him to sign. The clerk has been in touch with London Building Control to arrange the building regulations and the inspection of the works to be carried out.

3.4 Children's Play Area: nothing to report.

3.5 Rights of Way: access to play area from Holwell Road (definitive Map) There is a huge back log of rights of way matters to deal with and so we are just another on the to do list. The hold-up is that the resident who has closed off this area has appealed against the decision that was made in favour of the Parish Council. The clerk will again contact Rights of Way team for an update.

3.6 Highways: It was agreed that the 6th March is to be the day for the litter picking. Holwell residents and Pirton residents will meet half way between the villages.

The path between the houses in Rands Meadow leading to the recreation ground is in need of repair and Parish Councillor Mr Thurlow has agreed to report this to Highways.

4. Finance:

It was agreed to pay the following invoices:

Mr A Ham	£270.00	Groundskeeping
Evolution Trees Limited	£870.00	Black Poplar
Mr C Craig	£150.00	Removal and disposal of old wooden seat
South East Security	£ 30.00	Batteries – Clerk has cancelled their contract
Mr C Craig	£400.00	2 persons to demolish Shed and removal of bricks
SLCC	£ 78.00	membership for clerks
Bulb	£ 59.00	DD (Mr Thurlow to look into)

The clerk has applied to community@north-herts.gov.uk lottery fund which they have just set up to help fund projects. The Parish Council has been accepted. There is a need for 20 tickets at £1 each to be sold to start the process. There is the prospect of winning various amounts of money.

The clerk has also applied for a grant from the North Hertfordshire District Council for a Community Grant to help pay for new table and chairs etc for the new pavilion.

The clerk has informed the insurance company BHIB that the Pavilion has been demolished and all safety measures are in place by the builder while work is being carried out. We have been informed by the BHIB that alarms at the Pavilion are not a requirement for insurance purposes, but the Parish Council will install these in the New Pavilion.

5. Correspondence has been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

It was agreed to object to the new London Luton runway.

Planning Application:

Hawthorns, Bedford Road Holwell.	Ref: 21/03450/FPH	no objection
Farm Track, Off Bedford Road Holwell	Ref: 21/03368/PNW	no objection
Glebe Lodge, Pirton Road Holwell	Ref:22/00146/FP	no objection
Dunroamin, Ramerick, Bedford Road	Ref:22/00217/FP	no objection

Community Garden:

It has been decided that as there is no land available in the village for the provision of a community garden it will be in the recreation ground in the far corner on the left-hand side.

Mr Martin Thurlow and Mrs Wendy Harris have agreed to start this project.

Queens Green Canopy – the clerk has collected a Rowan and Birch tree free of charge to be placed in the community garden. This is to commemorate the Queens Jubilee year.

There being no further matters to be discussed the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 29th March at 7.00 p.m. in the Bowls Club