



MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting
HOLMES CHAPEL
Thursday 30 March 2017 at 7.00 p.m.
The Brooklands Room, Holmes Chapel Community Centre.



1. Present:

Parish Councillors Cllr D Savage (in the chair), Cllr AR Armitt, Cllr BA Bath, Cllr ME Blomeley, Cllr JA Clowes, Cllr PA Cotton, Cllr SD Hamilton, Cllr KE O'Regan, Cllr M Ranger, Cllr S Ranger and Cllr MJ Street.
Cllr L Gilbert CE Ward Councillor.
Nicola Clarke, Clerk to the Council and Sue McKay, Assistant to the Clerk.
37 members of the public

2. Introduction and welcome by the Chairman, Councillor D Savage

3. Apologies – Dr Ron Cooper

4. Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 March 2016 were approved and signed as an accurate record by the Chairman.

5. Presentation to Mr. Paul Brider

On behalf of the Community of Holmes Chapel, the Chairman thanked Mr Paul Brider for his exceptional 42 years of service as watch manager at the local Fire Station. Mr Brider, recently retired, has been an on-call fireman for the duration of this service.

6. Presentation by U3A local history Group:

6.1 John Clowes : Making the most of our conservation area:

Cllr Clowes gave an informative talk relating to the history and heritage of the Holmes Chapel Conservation Area, which extends from the pedestrian crossing on London Road up to, and around, the Village Centre at the mini-roundabouts. He talked about the history of some of the older dwellings in the Village, and showed how the Village has changed and progressed in a relatively short space of time. He stressed that the Conservation Area is a valuable asset for Holmes Chapel which needs to be preserved, and where appropriate; improved. Shop signage, face-lifting Church Walk and adding heritage Alley names and information boards were cited as possible areas for improvement.

6.2 Peter Cotton : The History of St Luke's Church

Mr Peter Cotton then followed with a short history of St Luke's Church. He explained its importance as a great part of our heritage in the centre of the Village, having stood on the site since 1430, the only Grade 1 listed building in Holmes Chapel. Its existence is largely due to wealthy benefactors over the years, namely the Needham family in the 15th Century and the Hall family in the 18th century, and has survived war, both religious and political. The loss of the ancient tombs of the Needham family re-emphasizes the fragility of our heritage, and the need to preserve it. The Church roof was recently repaired, saving this magnificent architecture for future generations.

7. Chairman's Annual Report: The Chairman, Cllr David Savage, talked briefly about the achievements of the past year, namely achieving Quality Gold status, the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan, which is due to be made on 11 April 2017, the official opening of the Community Centre in November 2016, as well as the

Skatepark project finally coming to fruition, opening in April 2017. The full Annual Report is at Appendix 2.

- 8. Accounts:** The Parish Clerk provided information on the annual accounts up to the 23rd March 2017 and informed the meeting of the capital projects on which the precept for the last year had been spent. See Appendix 3.

9. Questions and Answers:

The Chairman opened the meeting for questions and comments and the following issues were raised:

1. Mr C Harmeworth asked of the progress on the repair of the Hermitage Bridge. Whilst this has been signed off for completion by Cheshire East Council, and appears on the schedule each month, a start date has not yet been confirmed. More enquiries will be made as to the interminable delay.
2. Mr. M Hopkins commented on the terrible volume of motorway traffic making its way through the village, including the conservation area, at night. Although there are planned closures at the moment, many HG vehicles are coming through the village every night regardless of whether the motorway is open or not. The planned closures are unfortunate and due to continue for another year, while the motorway is upgraded. The concerns of the residents will be raised at the next meeting with the Highways agency with the hope of a public meeting in the near future.

10. The Chairman then thanked the following:

1. The Neighbourhood Plan could not have been achieved without dedicated work from Volunteers comprising the NP Steering Group, and passed on grateful thanks to Dr Ron Cooper and Mr Alan Watkinson for their exceptional contribution to the project.
2. The success of the Neighbourhood Plan also relied heavily on publicity, and for this the Parish Council are greatly indebted to the larger group of volunteers who advertised the plan via mail-drops around the village. The Chairman thanked these volunteers, and in particular, Mrs Dorothy Davidson and Mrs Pat MacMaster, who organised and co-ordinated this service.
3. The success of the Council also depends on help from the Holmes Chapel Partnership, together achieving projects such as the SkatePark. The Chairman thanked the Partnership, and the Chairman Mr Stuart Gammon, for their support over the year.
4. The Chairman asked for recognition to the dedicated team of Parish Councillors and officers, who together constantly strive to make Holmes Chapel the pleasant and happy place it is to live in.
5. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions at the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Signed by Chairman of the Council as a true and accurate record.

.....date.....

30th March 2017

Appendix 1

The following questions / comments were submitted by members of the public via the question forms supplied at the meeting;

1. Mrs P MacMaster – Easier access is sorely needed for pedestrians using the Community Centre. The present “long way round” is a deterrent for potential users of the centre, and needs attention, particularly with the new Skate Park opening soon.
2. Mr D Eborall – Can anything be done about the man who runs a transport business from his house on Station Road and parks his vans and trailers adjacent to his house along Sandiford Road, causing a traffic hazard?
3. Mr.P Bridger – Can signage be installed, during the motorway upgrade, requesting truck drivers and other vehicles to respect the village residents during the night, by turning off loud music and using air horns. The disturbance during the night time closures is significant.
4. Mr. D Eborall – There is a serious black spot on Station Road – more noticeable since the new lights were installed – on the village side of the junction with Sandiford Road.

Appendix 2

Holmes Chapel Parish Council Chairman's Report 2016 -17

It has been my pleasure to have been Chairman of the Parish Council during one of its most successful years in modern times. A few highlights include:

We began the Civic year by being awarded the highest Quality status (Gold) for a Council, recognising that we conduct ourselves to the highest standards and attempt to do the best for our community.

This was followed by the formal opening of the Community Centre on the site of the old AP Social Club. To date this centre is providing valuable community space and leisure facilities. Over the last two years the Council has been promoting the development of a Neighbourhood Plan designed to ensure that future development within Holmes Chapel meets the needs of the community. A Steering group was set up to manage this process and just recently was rewarded with a resounding 97% YES vote in favour of the plan. This would not have been possible without recognising the tremendous amount of work put in by volunteers, over 100 of them, and we hope they continue to give their support in the future. The Parish Council does not operate alone and we are always very grateful for the work carried out by our colleagues at the Holmes Chapel Partnership. In just a couple of weeks' time a joint project to build a skate park for our young (and old) members of the community to enjoy will open on the site of the Community Centre.

After the successful works carried out at the Dane Meadow the Council is working on a project to open up more walking routes to be enjoyed by the community. The path along the River Croco is in dire need of repair and phase 1 will be completed by April 2017. The remaining stretch will be completed when funding permits.

Recognition that the Council is doing a worthwhile job is always welcome and this year we achieved this in various ways. Firstly, we came second in the Community Initiative Awards hosted by Cheshire Community Action; one of our Councillors was runner-up for Councillor of the Year and another was awarded a British Empire Medal for his work in the community. These awards reflect on the dedication and effort that all Councillors put into supporting the community and I must offer my sincere thanks to all of them and our Officers for the sterling work they have done over the last year in the knowledge that they will continue to do so in the future.

There are other projects being carried out by councillors and volunteers worthy of note – the Speedwatch team helping to keep our roads safe, the Swimming Pool group considering the feasibility of a much-requested facility are examples. We also installed a defibrillator in an unwanted telephone kiosk and are looking to utilise another redundant kiosk this year. We continue to monitor road usage, HGV traffic, speeding and the parking situation which we know are issues that are high on the list of residents' concerns. We are also in constant contact with the Police, Health & Education Services, Railway Authority and many others to assist in supporting you.

I could add more but I hope you can recognise that whilst we do not always get it right we do try, to the best of our ability, to make Holmes Chapel a desirable place to live. We have many pressures to come with the increase in housing and the influx of new people to the village. We will welcome them all and do our very best to ensure they are accommodated within the community and infrastructure that we existing residents enjoy.

Cllr David Savage
Chairman of the Council
March 2017

Appendix 3

Holmes Chapel Parish Council 16/17

Income and Expenditure Account for Year up to 23rd March 2017

31st March 2016		23rd March 2017
	Operating Income	
148,587	Council Income	188,425
1,640	Grants & Donations	5,389
855,483	Capital Projects	0
0	Dane Meadow Project	485
0	HC Community Centre Project	129,955
0	Youth Facilities Project	23,960
0	Neighbourhood Plan Project	3,200
1,005,710	Total Income	351,413
	Running Costs	
29,291	Employees	35,200
6,402	Premises	3,541
2,628	Office Services	3,575
1,065	Communications	1,967
1,077	Members	756
10,371	Professional Services	11,136
11,800	PCSO	0
1,380	Subscriptions	1,563
2,600	Grants & Donations	2,850
10,825	Village Services	11,366
2,901	Village Maintenance	7,996
897,713	Capital Projects	0
297	Dane Meadow Project	8,925
53,605	HC Community Centre Project	232,467
0	Youth Facilities Project	31,306
493	Neighbourhood Plan Project	3,986
0	Boundary Signs Project	5,148
357	Village Volunteers	0
0	Village Centre Improvements	840
0	Play Area Elm Drive Project	1,059
1,032,805	Total Expenditure	363,681
	General Fund Analysis	
132,688	Opening Balance	105,593
1,005,710	Plus : Income for Year	351,413
1,138,398		457,006
1,032,805	Less : Expenditure for Year	363,681
105,593		93,325
0	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	55,000
105,593	Closing Balance	38,325*

* Note: £31,000 of the closing balance is already earmarked for projects currently underway