



**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting
HOLMES CHAPEL
Thursday 20 March 2018 at 7.00 p.m.
The Brooklands Room, Holmes Chapel Community Centre.**



1. Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr B Bath(in the chair), Cllr AR Armitt, Cllr ME Blomeley, Cllr JA Clowes, Cllr PA Cotton, Cllr KE O'Regan, Cllr M Ranger, Cllr S Ranger and Cllr MJ Street.

Cllr L Gilbert CE Ward Councillor.

Sue Davies, Clerk to the Council and Sue McKay, Assistant to the Clerk.

40 members of the public

2. Introduction and welcome by the Chairman, Councillor B Bath, who introduced the new parish clerk, Mrs Sue Davies.

3. Apologies – Cllr D Savage, Cllr R Parry, PCSO Chesters and Mrs Street

4. Minutes:

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 March 2017 were approved and signed as an accurate record by the Chairman.

5. Presentation by Parish Councillors:

5.1 Cllr John Clowes : Making the most of our conservation area:

Cllr Clowes gave an informative talk, summarising the work of the Conservation Area working group to enhance our conservation area, which extends from the pedestrian crossing on London Road up to and around the Village Centre at the mini-roundabouts. This work includes adding heritage street nameplates and information boards, face-lifting Church Walk and possible improvements to shop signage. (A copy of presentation can be found on the parish council website)

5. Cllr Mike Blomeley : Traffic and Transport

Cllr Blomeley provided the audience with the latest information from the parish council on how we are addressing the issues around traffic in the village. Whilst the parish council is the lowest level of government, it is the closest to its community, striving to address those needs. The background from the work came from the Neighbourhood Plan, which highlighted the key concerns of the community.

The key issues covered in the talk included volumes of traffic, pedestrian safety and car parking. Cllr Blomeley also summarised the public transport options that are available in the village. He then talked about what the parish council are both doing and want to do, to improve the many issues around this subject. (A copy of presentation can be found on the parish council website)

6. Cllr Brian Bath : Housing and Commercial Development

Cllr Bath explained that the legal planning framework is now in place, comprising of our own neighbourhood plan, which links into the Cheshire East local plan. These were both adopted as legal documents last year.

He then informed that approved applications already in place are due to produce a total of 824 new houses. Of these, 350 are completed with the remainder expected to be delivered over the next 7-8 years, 220 of which are not within our present parish boundary. The range of commercial facilities in the village was also summarised. Cllr Bath then explained what the Parish Council are doing

within the Strategic Planning Task Group, including an assessment of the parish boundary and consideration of a possible boundary review, as well as ensuring that the relevant funding from developers for the village is sought and obtained, for the benefit of the village. (A copy of presentation can be found on the parish council website)

7. Chairman's Annual Report: Cllr Bath talked briefly about the achievements of the past year, namely the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan by Cheshire East Council, the various community organisations, which are thriving, and continued progress with the enhancement of facilities at the Community Centre. This year saw a major administrative change, with the resignation of Nicola Clarke in August 2017. This post is now filled by Mrs Sue Davies. The full Annual Report is at Appendix 2.

8. Accounts: The Parish Clerk provided information on the annual accounts up to the 20 March 2018, explaining how the council are now seeking to build some reserve funds. See Appendix 3.

9. Questions and Answers:

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

1. Mr S Gammon spoke to raise awareness of the pedestrian safety petition, which is currently amassing signatures until the end of March . It addresses concerns around pedestrian safety at the site of the proposed new roundabout at the Chester Road / London Road junction.
2. Ms Sam Matthews requested that a template letter be drafted to aid parishioners in contacting Cheshire east individually, in support of the petition.
3. Mr M Luckett thanked the council for an informative evening so far, and then commented on the disgraceful situation on the highways with regard to potholes. He highlighted in particular the following areas:
 - Grasmere Drive / Chester Road junction
 - Nairn Avenue / Balmoral Drive / Selkirk Drive
 - Mini roundabouts in village centre
 - Station Road Bridge
 - Thatch Close – broken kerbsHe requested that we energetically lobby for the repair of these potholes.
4. Ward councillor Les Gilbert stressed the importance of continuing to log these potholes with Cheshire east, for attention.
5. Mr J Howson made the point that the village will need extra infrastructure for the increase in population. He asked if there was any plan to consider the development of a new health centre and shopping centre on the commercial land available on Manor Lane.
6. A member of the public asked who issues licences for cyclists who race on main roads – namely the A50 towards Knutsford.
7. Ms Sam Matthews requested that the slides from the talks be made available to share with others – this will be done via the Parish Council website
8. Ward Cllr les Gilbert commented on a good turnout for Holmes Chapel, and commended the councillors in Holmes Chapel for their dedication and the work they achieve for the parish. He also stressed that he is happy to be contacted for matters relating to Cheshire East.
9. Mr P Wilbraham asked when the signage to prevent HGVs coming down Macclesfield Road from the new roundabout at Manor Lane would be installed. The present signage he felt was insufficient.

10. A member of the public queried the permissible route of HGVs to the site of FADs factory.
 11. A member of the public requested measures to slow down the traffic on London Road, as the village is entered from the south, past Alum Court, and in particular, can a camera be installed.
 12. Mr Stuart Gammon reported on a dangerous situation at the traffic lights on London Road/Chester Road, where motorists overtake the waiting queue of cars in order to turn right.
 13. A member of the public commented that the fact the line is hashed here does allow this overtaking to happen – perhaps it should be changed to a solid white line.
- 10.** The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions at the meeting and particularly thanked all Parish Councillors for the help and support over the past year. Thanks also to the Clerk and Administrative Officer for their dedication and support.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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

.....**date**.....

22 March 2018

Appendix 1

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

1. Mrs Jennifer Anstock, CW4 7EZ – Will pedestrian crossing points around the new roundabout be provided before or at the same time as the proposed roundabout. (The proposed roundabout is not a good idea)
2. Mr Geoffrey Malp – CW4 7EN
 1. Concern over grass verges being damaged by heavy vehicles in Middlewich Road area
 2. Lighting in village – one lamp stand is leaning by the notice board in the centre of the village
 3. Condition of the main London Road through the village wrt potholes
 4. Railway station buildings not to be redeveloped until 2025. The old waiting room is a disgrace on the North bound side. Something needs to be done sooner rather than later. A general repaint would help the other building.
3. Ms Vivienne Dickin, Bessancourt
 1. There is a very dark spot by four houses on Bessancourt, in the vicinity of number 59. The lighting is very inadequate.
 2. A light on London road opposite the medical centre is still off.
 3. The bus stop on London Road, Sutton Oaks side, is very dirty and needs a good clean.
 4. The condition of the pavement on London road from Sutton oaks to the village centre is very poor.

HOLMES CHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report 2017 – 2018

Wow, what a Year! It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council this year.

Just prior to the year starting we saw the formal legal status of our Neighbourhood Plan being 'made'. This was followed later in the year by the formal approval of the Cheshire East Local Plan which completed the circle on a legal structure for future development in Holmes Chapel and across the borough. The Parish Council formed a new Strategic Planning Task Group at the beginning of the year to follow up all this hard work and consider what possible options there may be for the future of Holmes Chapel. This group, which consists of Parish Councillors and volunteers, are preparing a range of discussion documents that we expect to be available to all residents soon, so that we gather the many comments we know are essential in thinking about the future of our village.

During the year we have seen many activities taking place throughout the village and are pleased to see and report that the many community organisations are thriving. These include U3A, the churches organisations, Probus and many others. The Parish Council has continued to support these groups in whatever way it can. The Holmes Chapel Partnership organised the first 'Celebrating Holmes Chapel' show at the Community Centre which was very successful, and we look forward to the next one in September 2018. They also successfully organised the Christmas Market in December at which many local organisations and retailers were able to get us in the Christmas spirit. There is a project moving forward to create a 'Sensory Garden' in the village centre and we are pleased that the hard work on supporting a 'Dementia Friendly' village is showing success.

The Community Centre is now well established, and we are pleased to see that ES&R have now registered over 1,300 members for the Fitness & Gym facilities. The function room usage is growing, as is the use of the 'Taste for Life' Café/Bar. We were very pleased to see the new tarmac surface laid on the main drive in September, donated and laid by Highways England, who are leading the project to upgrade the M6. They also donated some additional Speed Indicator Devices to help monitor traffic on the A50 north and south of the village. The Skatepark has been well used over the year as well.

In August 2017 our Clerk, Nicola Clarke, resigned to take up a new full-time position as Clerk to Alsager Town council. This started us on a process to identify her replacement and Council was pleased to welcome Sue Davies as our new Clerk in late October. Our Administrative Assistant stepped into the breach in the intervening months and her assistance was invaluable in keeping the work of the Council moving forward.

Over the year, the council has been involved in many areas, delivering services to the village.

These include:

- Frequent liaison with CEC Highways covering many traffic and roads issues.
- Actively supporting users in the CEC Bus Review and consultation
- The Police and especially our new PCSO Liz Chesters.
- Liaison with Holmes Chapel Health Centre and all our schools.
- Consideration of many planning applications covering a wide range of requirements of residents and others.
- The first Community Resilience event to consider what we may need to do in the event of an emergency.
- The Conservation Task Group has completed a lot of work to aid the protection of this area of the village.
- The use of a 'Lengthsman' to help keep the village tidy. Thanks also need to go to the Village Volunteers for their work.
- Completion of the Croco Path improvements and the installation of a second Defibrillator

The next year will no doubt also bring many challenges and opportunities and the Council looks forward to continuing to serve the village residents and businesses.

Holmes Chapel Parish Council 2017/18

Income and Expenditure Account for Year up to 20 March 2018

31st March 2017		20 March 2018
	Operating Income	
188,436	Council Income	197,428
5,389	Grants & Donations	2,060
0	Village Maintenance	1,328
485	Dane Meadow Project	0
129,955	HC Community Centre Project	0
23,960	Youth Facilities Project	12,059
3,200	Neighbourhood Plan Project	0
0	Holmes Chapel Partnership	100
351,423	Total Income	212,975
	Running Costs	
37,071	Employees	30,774
4,479	Premises	3,767
3,749	Office Services	2,102
1,652	Communications	1,953
825	Members	376
9,244	Professional Services	13,086
1,563	Subscriptions	1,588
2,850	Grants & Donations	2,350
11,366	Village Services	14,325
8,423	Village Maintenance	5,284
0	HC Community Centre Revenue	75,893
8,925	Dane Meadow Project	0
232,467	HC Community Centre Project	9,960
31,306	Youth Facilities Project	25,203
4,124	Neighbourhood Plan Project	0
0	River Croco Path Project	20,245
5,148	Boundary Signs Project	0
840	Village Centre Improvements	1,307
1,059	Play Area Elm Drive Project	0
365,090	Total Expenditure	208,214
	General Fund Analysis	
105,593	Opening Balance	66,927
351,423	Plus : Income for Year	212,975
457,017		279,902
365,090	Less : Expenditure for Year	208,214
91,927		71,688
25,000	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	20,000
66,927	Closing Balance (20 March 2018)	51,688*

*Note: £35,000 of the closing balance is already earmarked for capital projects

www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk