

**HOLMWOOD PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 09 JANUARY 2025**

**Present:** Mr Keith Carter Chairman  
Mrs Mary Mansell  
Mr Ian Fairbrother  
Mrs Rachel Snook  
Mr Leslie Lester  
Mr Robert Jordan  
Mrs Jan Russell Parish Clerk

**Apologies:** Mr James Afford, Parish Council Vice Chairman. Surrey County Councillor Stephen Cooksey. District Councillors Rosemary Hobbs, Claire Malcomson and Clayton Wellman.

**1. MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2024.**

The Council agreed the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting to be a true representation of the meeting and were approved by all Councillors. Proposed by Councillor Fairbrother and seconded by Councillor Lester.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM 28 SEPTEMBER 2024.**

**Defibrillator and CPR Training:** The Chairman managed to arrange a training evening at a cost of £300.00. All Councillors agreed to the cost and unanimously agreed this should be accepted. This was proposed by Councillor Jordan and seconded by Councillor Fairbrother. The event will take place in Holmwood Village Hall, date to be confirmed. Information on date and time will be advertised throughout the village once confirmed.

**3. VILLAGE HALL.**

Councillor Mansell asked if a breakdown on the Village Hall accounts has been received from the Trustees yet. The trustees have been asked to provide a financial statement by the end of February.

Councillor Lester confirmed the hall floor has now received two coats of varnish and new batteries have been installed to the central heating thermostat.

**4. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**

The inspection report regarding playground equipment has been received and circulated to all Councillors. The safety surfacing was highlighted as a cause for concern. The Parish Council has recently addressed this issue, with an order placed to have all affected areas resurfaced. Information regarding a start date will be requested and advertised.<sup>1</sup>

The Clerk was asked to contact the National Trust and ask them to deal with the tree branch. The National Trust will also be asked if they have now managed to find the information regarding the fund held by them to maintain the Vanderbilt Memorial.

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<sup>1</sup> An installation date of 24 to 26 March has been proposed. Once confirmation is received, information will be posted in the playground.

## **5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- MO/2019/1641 - Carpel House, Horsham Road, South Holmwood. Importation of material to increase level to unused land to create benefit and to cover exposed sewer pipe. Refused by Mole Valley District Council. Appeal Lodged. Mole Valley and Holmwood Parish Council responded to PINS. REFUSED (AND DISMISSED ON APPEAL). PINS appeal and submission.

## **6. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:**

The Councillors agreed that the Contract for the 2025 season submitted by Clovers Grounds Maintenance should be accepted. The Clerk will send an official letter to Clovers formally accepting the quotation.

## **7. ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER - POWER AND PARTNERSHIP: FOUNDATIONS FOR GROWTH:**

English Devolution is now being widely debated and information for guidance has been requested from Surrey ALC, Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council. Councillor Mansell asked if there was any information available on whether the May elections will take place in 2025. The Clerk will make enquiries and circulate any information.<sup>2</sup>

## **8. PARISH COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Councillor Jordan mentioned that other Parish Councils were using social media to keep residents up to date with Council business and events. This media platform is more appealing to younger residents. It was agreed that Councillor Jordan would try and connect with South Holmwood and South Holmwood Village Community Groups as Holmwood Parish Council and use them as a messenger for any notifications the Parish Council thinks is appropriate for Holmwood local community. It was also suggested that the half-yearly newsletter should continue as not all residents used this media platform.

## **9. INFORMATION HCI DATA WEBSITE ACCOUNT:**

The information held by HCI has been updated to reflect current Parish Council information.

## **10. FINANCE**

- **Update on NatWest Reserve Account.**

Councillors were advised that the NatWest account was closed on the 1 January 2025 and all funds transferred to the Unity Trust account.

- **Confirmation of 2025/2026 Precept**

The 2025/2026 Precept request has been signed and submitted to Mole Valley District Council and acknowledged.

- **Financial Statement and bank reconciliation:**

The bank analysis had been circulated to all Councillors.

Bank Balances:

Unity Trust Current Account £257.42

Unity Trust Reserve Account £20,091.11.

Councillor Mansell referred to the bank charges being incurred. Councillors were reminded that they had all be made aware of these charges before agreeing to transfer to online banking.

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<sup>2</sup> Devolution will be a topic discussed at the Clerk's Forum, 21 January 2025. Further information will be shared.

- **Pass Invoices for Payment:**

There were no invoices to pass for payment at the meeting.

All Councillors agreed that the accumulated VAT should be reclaimed at the end of February 2025 to ensure the refund is received before the end of the current financial year.

## **11. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The Council will meet again on 13 March 2025 at 7:00pm,

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Chairman informed the Councillors that Surrey ALC has invited each Parish Council to submit one 50-word nomination for an outstanding Councillor to be a guest at one of the King's Royal Garden Parties in 2025. The successful Councillor will be representing the Parish and Town Sector on behalf of Surrey.

The Chairman nominated Councillor Mansell as Holmwood's representative, to which all Councillors unanimously agreed. The submission will be forwarded, and it is sincerely hoped Councillor Mansell will be selected as Surrey's successful nominee.