



**Holt Parish Council**

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Lisa Goodwin 01258 840935  
Stone Cottage, Hinton Martell, Wimborne, Dorset. BH21 7HE  
E-Mail: [holtparishcouncil@homecall.co.uk](mailto:holtparishcouncil@homecall.co.uk)  
[www.holtparishcouncil.btck.co.uk](http://www.holtparishcouncil.btck.co.uk)

**Special Open Meeting  
HOLT HEATH GRAZING  
5<sup>th</sup> April 2011  
7:30pm Holt Parish Hall**

**Present:**

Holt Parish Council.  
National Trust – David Roberts, Peter Samson, Richard Booth.  
Grazier – Paul Loudon.  
Commoners Association – Richard Frost.  
Dorset Police – Sergeant Tim Travers.  
Dorset County Council – Mike Winter and Andrew Bradley.  
British Horse Society – Carol Shoopman.  
98 Members of Public.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mrs Janet Wallace welcomed those present and introduced representatives.

The meeting has been called to address the concerns of local residents regarding the effect the introduction of grazing livestock has had on the local community. The noise disturbance of the cattle grids, the recent collisions of livestock and vehicles resulting in 3 fatalities, 2 accidents involving privately owned horses becoming trapped in grids, the speed of traffic and other related issues.

**Members of the public were asked to speak on the following agenda items;**

1. Cattle Grids
2. Highway Safety Improvements (ditches/collars/signage/scrub clearance).
3. Accident Response involving Livestock.
4. Access Gates
5. Winter Grazing
6. Effect on Heath by works to Canford Bottom Roundabout.

**The Meeting concluded that the Parish Council will formally ask the following representatives;**

**Dorset County Council;**

1. To check grid dimensions (for animal safety).
2. To complete grid noise tests/checks.
3. To consider solutions to reduce grid noise (damping).
4. To consider additional signage or roundels to reduce traffic speed over grids.
5. To check angle of County signs to prevent 'dazzling' drivers at night.
6. To report back to the Parish Council so that members of public can be informed of progress.
7. To complete a full impact assessment on the effects on the local area when works commence at Canford Bottom Roundabout.

**The National Trust:**

1. To monitor gorse cutting beside highway.
2. To monitor Hen Harriers.
3. To increase public awareness of livestock.
4. To alter angle of National Trust signs to prevent 'dazzling' drivers at night.
5. To put contact numbers in local car parking areas.
6. To repair any deep ruts in bridleways.
7. To remove cattle from Heath during winter months (Oct-Mar) for both safety of livestock and drivers.
8. To ensure livestock management is in the best interests of animal welfare.
9. To consider the provision of mounting blocks by access gates.
10. To replace the metal gate at Paradise.
11. To Report back to the Parish Council so that members of public can be informed of progress.

**Grazier:**

1. To ensure Dorset Police have relevant contact numbers in an emergency.

**MEETING CONCLUSION;**

Local people feel very strongly about the above issues and how the grazing scheme has affected the quality of their daily life. A proposal was made that the grazing areas should be fenced and the cattle grids removed. Following a show of hands, the majority of those present agreed with the proposal to alter the fencing and it was agreed unanimously that the cattle grids should be removed.