

HOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7pm in Holton & Blyford Village Hall.

1. Parish Council Chairman opened meeting.
2. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held in 2025 were approved and duly signed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Chairman's Report:

Over the past year the Parish Council has continued to focus on community safety, responsible governance, and support for local organisations.

We have progressed several key highway and safety initiatives, including the installation of new speed warning devices on Beccles Road, Southwold Road and Bungay Road, repairs to damaged railings, and ongoing engagement with Suffolk County Council regarding road safety following the tragic incident on Bungay Road. The Council also supported improved visibility and maintenance works, including hedge cutting and repainting village railings through the Community Payback Team.

The Council adopted new and updated policy documents, including the Biodiversity Policy, Internal Control Procedures, and a new mandatory IT Policy. Risk assessments for the playground have been completed, with required maintenance works commissioned.

We have supported a number of local organisations and community facilities, providing donations to Holton Pits CIC, SARS, Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund, Halesworth & District Museum, the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, and the Halesworth Airfield Museum. We also continued to fund the annual service of the Holton Clock and maintain the village defibrillator.

The Council has reviewed and responded to a wide range of planning applications, ensuring that development within the parish is considered carefully and transparently. We have also engaged with district and county consultations on planning reform and local plan processes.

Finally, we have strengthened links with the Village Hall Management Committee and continued to ensure the Council operates with sound financial management, including setting the 2026/27 budget and precept.

Finally, thanks to Cllr Cackett for his service to the parish over many years.

4. Financial Report of Parish Council to 31/03/2026:

I am pleased to provide a summary of the Parish Council's financial position at the end of financial year 2025/2026.

The Parish Council's finances remain in a healthy position.

Funds currently held by the Parish Council total £54,297 of which £20,166 relates to Community infrastructure funds received from East Suffolk Council. £9,738 will be spent on permanent Speed warning devices for the Southwold Road and Beccles Road. We remain open to consider applications meeting the current criteria for community projects. Please contact either me or a Councillor for guidance on the application process.

Remaining funds are held in reserves as follows:

£1300 held in respect of Holton Post pending availability of volunteers to resurrect this.

£23000 Specific Reserve for Playground repair/replacement of equipment.

£5600 General reserve/emergency reserve.

Full accounting details are available on the Parish Council's website together with a summary of Parishioner's rights to inspect the records which are currently in the process of audit.

5. Open Forum/Questions:

There were no matters raised for the Public Forum.

Elaine Day

Clerk@holtonparishcouncil.gov.u

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