

HOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7pm in Holton & Blyford Village Hall.

1. Parish Council Chairman welcomed 12 parishioners to meeting.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held in 2023 had been published and were duly approved and signed.

3. Chairmans Report:

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and clerk for their services to the Parish in 2023/4.

In 2023/4, Holton Parish Council supported local organisations and the community with donations to:

- Holton Airfield Museum,
- The Royal British Legion,
- Suffolk Accident and Rescue service.
- Halesworth Dementia Carers fund
- Holton Pits CIC

We have also funded and coordinated maintenance to the Play area and the village clock. The council organised the clearance of vegetation growth around the village in partnership with Community Payback.

We have responded to reports of inconsiderate driving, and excess speed in the village and provided details of the correct procedure for reporting these issues to the parishioners concerned, and also the wider parish via the community news.

The Parish Council have reviewed, assessed and responded to in excess of 10 planning applications received during the previous 12 months.

Councillors have recognised the strain that the current cost of living crisis is putting on household finances and voted to maintain the council precept charge at existing levels absorbing the impact of increased cost pressures on the Parish Council for the second year in succession.

We are working allocate CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies received and will be assigning these to suitable projects during 2024

Council are able to consider grants towards suitable projects to improve the infrastructure of the village and Parishioners are invited to contact any of the Parish Councillors or the Clerk in the first instance. Full details of the Parish Council's finances are published on our website together with all statutory notices. Access to records is available to Parishioners and the process for arranging this is also published.

4. Financial Report of Parish Council to 31/03/2024:

The financial position of the Parish Council remains relatively strong and as a result the precept charge to the Parish has not been increased. This has now been held for the last 3 years.

Funds currently held by the Parish Council total £53072 which is made up of £43200 held as specific reserves and £9100 held as a general reserve. Funds specifically set aside have been provisionally allocated to projects to improve the village infrastructure. In each case final approval will await receipt of full supporting information. The source of these funds was from Community Infrastructure charges levied on building projects within the Parish. These funds will be allocated within the next 5 years.

Allocation of funds during the past 12 months include the following donations.

Halesworth Dementia Carers £100, Holton Pits £700, British Legion Poppy Appeal £100, Airfield Museum £100, In addition the following costs were incurred, Playground repairs £700, Materials and equipment used for voluntary clearance of debris from the gull to prevent flooding £650 and village clock repair £1176.

This is an overview of the financial position of the Parish Council as 31/3/24. Accounts are in the process of finalisation and audit and will be made available on the Parish Council website within the prescribed timescales together with all other remaining statutory information.

5. Open Forum/Questions:

Parishioners voiced concern regarding a number of matters, speeding and inconsiderate driving, particularly in The Street were highlighted. The Parish Council had recently published guidance on how to report such instances, which is essential to bring matters to the attention of Suffolk County Council and Police. These guidelines were reiterated. In addition to this agreement was given to arrange an open meeting with County Cllr. Dunning to discuss what intervention/improvements could be made to mitigate risk. (Clerk will publicise agreed date)

A number of other concerns including flooding and failure to maintain streetlighting will also be raised.

The meeting was closed at 7.45pm with a request from the Parish Council to ensure all instances of speeding/traffic offences were reported in accordance with guidelines published. A suggestion was also made that consideration was given to a Community Speed Watch Team could be established in the village.

Elaine Day

Clerk@holtonparishcouncil.gov.uk