

# HOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at 7pm in Holton & Blyford Village Hall.

1. Chair welcomed all attendees to meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from Clerk, Elaine Day.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held in 2022 had been published and were duly approved and signed.
3. Chairmans report on behalf of the Parish Council:  
I would like to thank Richard Day for his hard work as Chair prior to my appointment.

In 2022/23, Holton Parish Council supported local organisations and the community with donations to Holton Airfield Museum, The Royal British Legion, and Suffolk Accident and Rescue service. Additionally, a significant donation was made to Holton Village Hall to support their essential foul drainage works. Whilst we have provided no financial support to date, the Council has supported the Save Holton Pits group in their application for Asset of Community Value and has an agenda item for the next full meeting to discuss financial support for this project.

The Parish Council have reviewed, assessed and responded to 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.

The Council has repaired and replaced the village clock mechanism, returning it to service.

We continue to monitor speeding within the village. In conjunction with volunteers vehicles exceeding the village weight restrictions are reported.

The Parish Council currently holds funds totalling £32,346.34 after payments totalling £2,549.71 were approved at the May Council Meeting

The Parish 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. Parish Council Financial report:

The Parish Council remains in a stable financial position. Of the current funds held, £23,800.00 is set aside as a specific reserve. (This reserve includes £1,321.00 held in respect of the disbanded Holton Post and will be retained for 5 years to fund re instatement of the publication, should volunteers be forthcoming. Community Infrastructure Levy receipts of £6,485.00 are also included. These must be allocated to projects to improve the infrastructure of the village within 5 years. Remaining funds of £15,994.00 are held pending replacement of playground equipment.)

The Parish Council are able to consider grant funding or finance for suitable projects within the village to improve its infrastructure, Parishioners are invited to contact the Clerk in the first instance for guidance should they have a proposal for consideration. A request to assist the campaign to save Holton Pits is to be discussed at the July meeting. This was scheduled for debate at the May meeting but was amended immediately prior to commencement and additional supporting information was requested as a result.

Full details of the financial position of the Parish Council can be found on the website together with all relevant statutory notices.

5. Open Forum/Questions:

Parishioners queried the storage of building materials on grass verge at the junction of Lodge Road and Bungay Road. Chair will attempt to find out who is responsible and request removal as:

- (i) Health and Safety issue.
- (ii) Visibility issue at road junction.
- (iii) Blocking entrance gate to village hall.

District Cllr. Beth Key-Holloway gave a summary report and will attend the July 2023 meeting of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed 7.20pm

Next meeting May 2024