

HOLTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 8 pm at
Holton St Mary Village Hall

Present:

Parish Council (PC); Chair, Jan Cheng (JC), Oliver Greene (OG), Mark Anderson (MA), Claire Rowan (CR), Matt Toone (MT), Mike Hay (MH)

District Councillor: John Ward (JW)

County Councillor: Georgia Hall (GH)

In attendance:

Members of the Public: 0

22.75 Chairman's welcome, accept Councillors apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Sally Thurlow (ST) and Faye Hall (FH) Parish Clerk. Claire Rowan (CR) will take the minutes of the meeting in the clerk's absence.

22.76 To accept members declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's code of Conduct

None. All Councillors live within the village

22.77 Minutes

The minutes of Parish Council meeting on the 09.11.22 and Extraordinary PC Planning Meeting on 12.12.22 had not been received by all councillors. It was agreed that they should be circulated after the meeting and agreed via email and signed off at the next meeting.

22.78 Public Form and receive reports from the District and County Councillors

Reports from District and County Councillors were circulated previously and are available on HSM website.

JW highlighted that a link was provided in his report to the Babergh end of term report, which contained a lot of valuable information in an attractive visual format. For costs reasons, the report to be available online, with hard copies available at Shotley, Hadleigh and Sudbury Libraries.

JW point advised that the first Babergh open meetings would be held on Feb 1st, 2023 at East Bergholt and invited all to attend. JW to be at that meeting along with Babergh CEO.



JW mentioned the naming of the new bin lorries and explained that bin lorries need replacing every 7 years due to wear and tear. Naming them encourages participation of the community, notably children, who can spot their named lorries in circulation. No costs are involved in the naming.

JW highlighted that all voters will be required to show Photo ID in future – to commence as of May local council elections. JW confirmed that a communication campaign would start soon to raise awareness and requested PC support to spread the word. He will find out what enforcement procedures will be implemented in the case of incorrect ID.

GH highlighted that there was a link her report to the Criteria for Suffolk Warm Spaces, so should we wish to register the hall as a Warm Space we know where to find details.

GH pointed out that the Devolution Deal for Suffolk will see the county receive more power and money and £480 million investment. Suffolk one of nine counties involved. There will be an 8-10 week consultation period when final details confirmed.

GH confirmed that the proposal is for Council Tax to rise by 3.99%, which equates to £60 million. £47 million to go to Adult Care as per a survey. Proposal will go to council for vote at next council meeting in February. JW explained that this would mean a £5.30 rise per year for an average Band D property.

JC asked about true figures for council income given an inflation rate of circa 10%. JW confirmed that despite Council Tax rise combined with the commitment by Government to give a 3% increase in core funding, income remains below that of inflation. The council is therefore reassessing fees and charges for discretionary services; however, Government has said that councils will need 'to dip into reserves'. Details to become clearer in next few weeks.

22.79 Planning

OG reported on the Extraordinary PC Planning Meeting on 12/12/22, which had become quite heated, with conversations between the owner of Brett Vale GC (the applicant of Planning Application no DC/22/04751), Chris Waters and other members of the public. It was noted that proceedings were calmed and all ended without issue. Council has written its objection and there is no further news.

OG also confirmed that there was no further news on the proposed community care and rehabilitation centre Ref: DC20/05590. The council awaits a date for when the application will go to committee at Babergh.

22.80 National Grid East Anglia Green Energy Enablement

OG to circulate an email received from Rosie Pearson of Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons Group. There was conflicting news on whether a proper consultation into an offshore option was going to be made in April. MT, the PC representative for the Pylon project will make contact with Frances Torrington to obtain an update on the situation regarding possible leaflet drops, protest walk and/or drop-in event. Next round of consultation to take place in September – although other news said possible April? CR urged that all councillors and villagers should enter any wildlife species sightings onto <https://irecord.org.uk/> or <https://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/>. This helps to create a national record of wildlife, which can help shape conservation and planning decisions.

22.82 King's Coronation

SALC is asking for events for the King's Coronation to be registered. There is talk of a village event. JC to contact Bob Holmes of the Social Club to obtain details of the event and see if he is agreeable to register it with SALC. JC to explore the Lighting of the Beacon with the Social Club and report back for next meeting, when PC to consider who to invite to light the beacon.

JC requested that CR as Millennium Green (MG) Representative on the council let the MG Trustees know that ST is pursuing the plaque to commemorate Eileen XXXX lighting the Beacon for the Queen's Jubilee last year. ST is awaiting facts from Eileen and needed to check uniformity of engraving/font etc before finalising production of the plaque.



22.66 Finance

No accounts received ahead of the meeting, so PC agreed that decisions on the accounts be made at the next meeting in time for the financial year end.

All agreed that the Precept application was correct at £7371 and JC signed. Clerk to action. Precept form amended as a budget error was noted and re-signed by the Chair on the 09.02.23. Precept request amended to £7154.

It was Resolved that the following payments be received and approved:

30.11.22	SO	Clerks Salary November	£325
30.11.22	BACS	Clerks Salary tax rebate	£28.80
30.12.22	SO	Clerks Salary December	£325
16.01.23	BACS	Village Hall Hire 12.12.22	£20
16.01.23	BACS	Village Hall Hire 09.01.23	£20

22.83 Correspondence and Clerk's Report

Millennium Green Committee – council to express its disappointment at the email from the MG regarding Play Equipment on the Green. JC to draft a response and circulate.

Litter on Acacia Road/Notley Enterprise Park and proposal of two-village approach with Raydon. It was decided that as this is outside the jurisdiction of the council, no action would be taken.

Hedge/tree maintenance in churchyard – It was resolved that the PC would continue to take responsibility for cutting the grass in the churchyard as it was a public-footpath, and hedge trimming on an ad hoc basis. JC to instruct Clerk on response.

22.84 Village infrastructure including CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

Generator for Village Hall – ST to report back – PC to await her feedback; pending developments with the Village Hall.

Village Hall – JC advised councillors that one-off Jubilee Funding Capital Grants of 20% or a maximum of £75K of the capital cost were available that would be suitable for investment in improvements to the Village Hall. The deadline for the first stage of Applications for the Grants was Jan 20th, with the capital investment project to be completed by March 2025. MT has researched improvements to the Village Hall and outlined that a capital cost of roughly £150k was likely. He outlined highlights for the improvements such a slight extension, changes to windows and storage, a new kitchen and upgraded toilets, a new roof, boosted insulation via attractive outer panels to improve the aesthetics of the outside of the building and solar panels on the SW elevation, which would ultimately also provide income for the Village Hall.

It was noted that we had registered for help from ProHelp to provide a feasibility study, but there is a long lead time.

Clerk to check whether CIL money can be spent on a feasibility study. MT suggested that an 'off the cuff' figure of possibly £4-5k would be required for a feasibility study – to include good plans and estimated construction costs. JC to request locality budget of JW and GH to cover a feasibility study.

22.85 Highways

Quiet Lanes - MA has researched the Quiet Lane proposal by Raydon PC and reported that as it was not a single-track lane and had high traffic levels it would not be eligible. He noted that Sandpits Lane was refused Quiet Lane status as traffic levels were too high.



MA reported that he and MH had successfully put in place the Quite Lane signs for Stubbins Lane.

Speeding and other road issues - MA had pursued the additional road signage for the A1070 through Holton St Mary with Highways. Response was the number of 30mph signs in the village were deemed adequate and as there is no school, playground nor sheltered housing in the village, no Parent/Child signs were considered necessary.

MH reported that he had personally written and hand delivered Christmas Cards to Notley Enterprise Park haulage companies to thank them for their consideration when driving through the village.

Footpaths & Pavements – MH reported that he had spoken to Richard Noels (RN) regarding replacing the styles in RN's sheep field to easier self-closing gates. RN in agreement in principle. Funding was discussed and was not thought to be possible as it was private land. JC to contact JW as Babergh is responsible for footpaths and the sheep field is part of a public footpath that allows residents a circular walk around the village.

(NB in minutes from last meeting - MH proposed removing the styles around Richard Noels fields and replacing them with gates in order to create a potential circular walk. **PC all in agreement to explore this idea and agree that CIL funds could be used – MH to contact Richard Noels.**)

22.86 Alternative fuel payment

James Cartlidge's letter with regards to how parishioners can claim the alternative fuel payment were discussed. As payment was to take the form of a £200 rebate on electricity bills in February, PC agreed to wait until next meeting and monitor if rebates had been made.

22.87 Reported shooting incident on public footpath

Anecdotal information was shared. It was resolved that as the PC has no jurisdiction over such matters and insufficient facts were available, no action would be taken. It was noted that this was a police matter.

22.88 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

Items for the next agenda:

- Budget
- Village Hall refurb
- Kings Coronation

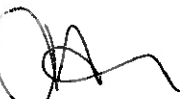
22.89 Next meeting

Confirmed the next meeting will be on the 8th of March 2023

Meeting closed at 2200hrs

Signed:

Date:


8/3/23