

HOLTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Held on Wednesday 12th July 2023

8pm at Holton St Mary Village Hall

Minutes

Present:

Parish Council: Oliver Greene (OG) Chairman, Claire Rowan (CR) Vice Chair, Mark Anderson (MA) and Faye Hall (FH) Clerk.

County Councillor Georgia Hall (GH)

District Councillor John Ward (JW)

Members of the Public: 3

01.07.23 Chairman's welcome, accept councillor's apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence received from Mike Hay.

02.07.23 To accept members declarations of interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

None

03.07.23 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th May 2023 were approved and signed as an accurate record by the Chairman – all in agreement.

04.07.23 Public Forum

Reports from District and County Councillors were circulated previously and are available on HSM website, noticeboards and District/County Council websites.

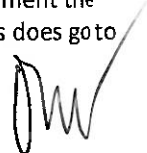
GH wanted to highlight from her report that a package of support has been created for pre-payment meter customers in Suffolk who are struggling with their energy bills.

MA raised reducing the speed limit to 40mph from East Bergholt to Holton and to Raydon and advised that East Bergholt, Raydon and Brantham are looking to come together to look at speed reductions. He also asked GH about the 20s plenty scheme and asked what level of support the scheme had received so far. GH advised that some villages are going with the scheme but that 20mph was not enforceable it's just a advisory speed.

A Member of the public raised that whilst pulling out from the A12 slip road onto the B1070 he did not see a car coming and had a near miss. At 60mph along the B1070 at that junction there is no time for a car to slow down in an incident like this so accidents can happen.

JW highlighted that the Tour of Britain is coming through Holton on the 7th of September. There is a Pylon consultation event at Copdock Village Hall is on the 19th of July which is hosted by National Grid. Babergh are in the process of putting a response together to comment on the second non statutory consultation and will reinforce that they want a strategic offshore grid. JW wanted to promote Neighbourhood Plans – 14 Parishes have adopted and 24 are in progress, once adopted they are part of Baberghs planning policy.

JW gave an update on the planning application mentioned in **05.07.23** – Care and Rehabilitation Centre at Holton Hall Farm. This planning application is likely to go to planning committee before the end of September. There have been a number of objections from statutory consultees which at the moment the applicant has not been able to resolve and they have been given more time to look at this. If this does go to



planning committee then the Parish Council will get 3 mins to speak and JW will get 5 mins to speak about this application.

JW also gave an update on the planning application for Brett Vale Golf Club, Raydon mentioned in **05.07.23** – this is also likely to go to planning committee maybe by the end of August / beginning of September but there are serious problems with this application so the chances of this going to committee with anything other than recommendation for refusal is very slight. This application does not conform with any of the planning policies.

A Member of public raised that it was becoming more difficult to come out of their drive onto the B1070 due to increased traffic. Traffic is coming round the corner fast and they would like a sign coming from Raydon to state concealed entrance – JW advised to contact Suffolk Highways and also GH direct.

05.07.23 Planning

Planning updates on the Care and Rehabilitation Centre at Holton Hall Farm and planning application at Brett Vale Golf Club – see agenda item **04.07.23**

Planning application – **DC/23/02389** Proposal: Application for Permission in Principle. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Permission in Principle) (Amendment) Order 2017 - Erection of a single, detached dwelling and garage. Location: Rogers Field, Hadleigh Road, Holton St Mary, Colchester Suffolk CO7 6NS.

Planning department would not extend the submit comments date passed the 3rd of July as it's due to be determined on the 6th of July. – Update Application has been refused.

Planning application - DC/23/03026

Proposal: Householder Application - Erection of extension and conversion of first floor of garage to form bedroom / home office including external staircase and alterations to openings

Location: Lark Hall, Sandpits Lane, Holton St Mary, Colchester Suffolk CO7 6NH

The Chairman advised that this application was previously made under DC/23/00183 and DC/23/00184 to which the Parish Council objected due to issues of light pollution.

The applicant was present at the meeting and advised that the difference between the previous application and the current one was that they have now removed the solar panels as it is a listed building and removed one of the roof lights so there will now be 2 and a small one. The applicant wanted to highlight that the light would not be visible from the AONB which had been a concern raised and that they would go with recommendations made with regards to lighting. The proposed conversion of the garage would for most of the time be used as an office so used within normal office hours when it is light apart from a few months of the year but it will only be used until 5pm.

Councillors all in agreement to read through the full planning application and if there are no significant changes to the previous planning applications then to write and refer planning to previous objections made.

MA raised planning application **DC/23/02555** which has now gone past the date for comments but advised that this application had been missed by the Councillors and a planning meeting should have been held. Clerk to contact planning to see if comments can still be made.

06.07.23 Councillor Vacancies

Discuss the 3 vacancies for Councillor – no interest has been received.

A parishioner is interested in becoming a Councillor but cannot make Wednesday evenings, however would still be interested in being involved in the Parish Council – Councillors agreed to ask Sally for help with making an advertisement to recruit new Councillors to go in the Quartet, Facebook, website and for a leaflet drop. Clerk to contact Sally.

07.07.23 Appointments

To make the following appointments for the year:

Tree Warden – all in agreement that this role is not needed

Village Hall Management Committee representative – Clerk to confirm with Sally Thurlow that she is happy to give a report for Parish Council meetings.

Pylon lead – The Chairman has asked Francis Torrington to keep the Parish Council updated on this.

08.07.23 National Grid East Anglia Green Energy Enablement



JW advised that it is worth putting in a comment on the second non statutory consultation and that Babergh will be doing so.

A member of the public commented that he would support the offshore option but if National Grid do have to come inland then they would prefer the underground option which should go the west route where there is more space. The member of the public proposed that if National Grid took the underground west route option then an access road could be created between Notley Enterprise Park – coming off the Four Sisters and forking off right to Notley Enterprise Park (Map attached to the minutes). This would then take the existing lorries off the B1070 and away from the village.

JW advised that in AONB National grid will have to go underground, underground cables mean digging a trench approx 100 meters in width including working space meaning that temporary haul trunk roads will have to be created for this.

All in agreement for the Parish Council to submit a comment on the second non statutory consultation reiterating the position that the offshore option is the one to be employed. Clerk to circulate what has previously been submitted and then a formal letter to be drafted.

The Chairman formally congratulated JW on being re-elected.

09.07.23 Internal Audit

The Internal Audit for 2022-2023 was reviewed and noted.

10.07.23 Purchase of a new printer

The Chairman proposed an approved expenditure for the Clerk to purchase a new printer of £130, CR seconded and all in favour.

11.07.23 Correspondence and Clerk's Report

To note correspondence received since last meeting:

Email from a Parishioner with regards to a tree with 2 overhanging branches which hang over both carriageways of the B1070. Reported to Suffolk County Council ref:00407535 who have advised that they have been out to assess this issue but believe at this time it doesn't warrant remedial action but they will monitor. Noted.

Member of the public requested that the Parish Council consider mowing the verges in the village – Councillors noted this suggestion but the mowing of the verges is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council Highways and the Parish Council do not wish to take on any further responsibilities for grass cutting at the moment. The member of the public also wanted to raise that there is new debris that has been found at the Four Sisters junction which is presumed to be from an accident and wanted this logged with the Parish Council. The Councillors noted this but without any details they are unable to report this to Highways.

An email has been received from a member of the public with concerns over the footpath to Wenham which is overgrown and not accessible. They have contacted Suffolk County Council and were advised that it would be cut on the 03.06.23 which did not happen so they chased again and were advised that they would send a chase email to their contractor but still nothing has happened. Clerk to contact GH to see if she can assist and also the landowner.

12.07.23 Finance

To agree any changes to bank signatories – Clerk will chase Natwest for a change of signatories Form as former Councillors need to be removed.

Financial Report:

Bank Balances as at 30.06.23	Current Account	£ 6,587.84
	Reserve Account	£13,041.87
Receipts since last meeting	Interest	£24.96
Payments since last meeting		£650 Clerks Salary

a. It was resolved that the following payments be received and approved:

16.07.23	BACS	Village Hall Hire July	£20
16.07.23	BACS	SALC – Internal Audit Charge	£202.80
16.07.23	BACS	Kelvedon Lawn Mowing Services	£62.50



31.05.23	SO	Clerks Salary May	£325
30.06.23	SO	Clerks Salary June	£325

13.07.23 Replacing Bench in Church Square / Maintenance of the Pump

The Village Local History Recorder has advised that the bench in Church Square is a historic bench that swings over to a table and bench and has proposed that the Parish Council look to restore this bench instead of replacing it. The Parish Council have been advised that this bench was originally in the Holton St Mary school and there are photos around showing this. Councillors all in agreement to restore the bench and a quote has been obtained with an estimated cost of £40 to restore the bench and a additional charge if a new lock is required. Clerk to arrange.

A Parishioner has asked that as this is a historic bench would it be better if the bench was moved to Millennium Green to protect it from theft as being historic it must have some value – the Councillors discussed this but felt that it is already padlocked to the pump in Church Square for security and that moving it to the Millennium Green would not make it less likely to be stolen.

A Parishioner has contacted the Parish Council with an offer to repaint the pump and have advised that they have some Hammerite dark (forest) paint and would be happy to strip the pump and repaint. All in agreement for the Parishioner to go ahead with this and for thanks to be given.

14.07.23 Village Infrastructure including CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

CIL – update on proposals for use of funds and discuss if PC would like to make any further CIL application bids. No updates CR to attend Babergh CIL Project Development Training Session via Teams on Monday July 31st.

Village Hall Management Committee representative – email received asking the PC to consider the following actions:

1. Please could you approach Suffolk Highways to request a painted road marking "Disabled Parking" box outside the Village Hall - we will support this with signage on the hedge/front of the Hall to request no parking on footway or forecourt, and contact our regular users. This would apply except for loading. The Chairman thanked the Village Hall for their suggestion and proposed that the disabled bay be 1 car's length away from the village hall either to the left or the right otherwise it might block deliveries coming into the Village Hall. All in agreement for the Clerk to write to Suffolk County Council to ask if they are able to create a disabled space and revert.

2. The Social Club has offered £200 to put towards seating and a table for the forecourt. You may have noticed the last Sunday in May when the Bar was opened and had several tables out front, enjoying the sunny afternoon and music. Please would the PC consider using CIL money to enable the Village Hall to have more than one table and seat (maybe picnic style) that is accessible, and perhaps a parasol or two for shade.

Councillors discussed and agreed that there is CIL monies available and they would like a full proposal for this from the Village Hall Management Committee with 3 quotes for the Parish Council to discuss and review at the next meeting.

Millennium Green Representative – CR advised that there are trees that are failing and overhanging the green and they are obtaining quotes to have them cut back to make them safe. The Mesh that was put where the fire was lit is now engulfed in weeds – this is being worked on.

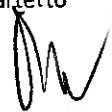
15.07.23 Highways

The proposal to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph in the half mile stretch of road between Holton and East Bergholt is still ongoing.

MA advised that we have received confirmation that the ANPR camera will be back in Holton in September. Road conditions - Work has been carried out on the raised man hole covers in Hadleigh Road so this will no longer cause issues.

It has been reported that there has been a near miss in the village about 2 weeks ago involving a cyclist and a Phillips lorry on the Raydon-bound (West) carriageway of the B1070 just after the entrance to Longacre in Holton St Mary. This has been reported to the lorry company as the driver did not stop and is pending investigation. MA advises that he will provide an update once known.

The 20s plenty scheme is being introduced and aims to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in certain places. MA proposed that the Parish Council should be involved in this scheme and all in agreement for this to be on the agenda for the next meeting to be discussed further. Clerk to put an entry into the Quartet to raise awareness of this scheme and encourage feedback ahead of next meeting.



Replacement of damaged village sign – This is in relation to the village sign from Raydon, MA has inspected and advised that the sign is bent and damaged on one side but does not look urgent to be replaced. Issue has been reported on the Suffolk Highways reporting tool.

16.07.23 D-Day 80

D-Day 80 is being organised to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on the 6th of June next year. Local communities are being encouraged to take part by lighting a beacon.
The Chairman deferred this item to the next meeting.

17.07.23 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council


To agree items for next agenda:

20s plenty campaign
D Day
Pylons
Planning applications

18.07.23 Next meeting

13th September 2023 confirmed as next date for meeting

Meeting closed at 2154hrs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Zane', is written across the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T'.