

HOLTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Held on Wednesday 13th September 2023

8pm at Holton St Mary Village Hall

MINUTES

Present:

Parish Council: Oliver Greene (OG) Chairman, Mark Anderson (MA), Mike Hay (MH) and Faye Hall (FH) Clerk.

County Councillor Georgia Hall (GH)

District Councillor John Ward (JW)

Members of the Public: 4

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

Apologies for absence received from Claire Rowan.

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

None.

03.09.23 Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2023 were approved and signed as an accurate record by the Chairman – all in agreement.

04.09.23 Public Forum

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

County Cllr Georgia Hall (GH) highlighted from her report the No Cold Calling zone – a road can be nominated to have this. If you would like to nominate your road then please go onto the No Cold Calling page on the Suffolk County Council website.

District Cllr John Ward (JW) highlighted that they are pleased to be able to offer hybrid planning meetings on teams which avoids people having to travel into Ipswich. Update on Pylons – there was a meeting in Stratford St Mary which was well attended. James Cartledge MP answered a lot questions and it is going to be a slow process building up to a statutory consultation next year. The Tour of Britain came through Holton last week bringing the area to national attention. The leader of the Council Dave Busby has had to step down from his role due to illness so JW is now acting leader of the Council. The Chairman asked JW to send the PCs best wishes to Dave Busby.

A member of the public raised concerns about a stile on footpath number 9, the stile is a small piece of wire which has now been blocked by the landowner so dogs cannot get through so the footpath is no longer being walked. Concerns were raised that the footpath will be lost due to no dog walkers wearing it down. This is a public footpath on private land so the stile should be accessible to everyone. The Chairman proposed writing to the landowner to advise that this issue has been brought to the attention of the PC and that all public footpaths should be accessible to everyone and ask if they do something about this stile. MH to send a draft to the Chairman and then GH to be copied in on the email.

A member of the public also raised the Wenham footpath number 27 where the farmer has ploughed up to the hedge and ploughed the footpath up. This issue has already been reported on the Suffolk Highways reporting tool. As this is not a Holton footpath the PC asked the Clerk to report this to Wenham Parish Council.



Sally Longmate representing the Social club advised that on the 6th of June next year there will be a D-Day commemoration. Sally is trying to gauge interest in bringing various groups together in Holton St Mary to work together to put on a small commemorative event connecting with people that wouldn't normally engage in social events. Sally will email all groups in Holton.

Pylons - Sally Longmate advised that SALC are working with Suffolk County Council to create guides for Towns and Parish Councils which are called NSIPs – National Strategic Infrastructure Projects and these will be published around October. This will allow a Parish Council to have something that explains the process from start to finish and show what needs to be done at each stage giving them tools and guidance. The Chairman raised that the parish has very limited resources, PC at the moment is small and asked as a PC if we could employ a consultant to author proper responses to proposals. Sally advised that the guide will have information about setting up joint committees with other PCs and then roles could be allocated. MA raised that pylons are always on the PCs agenda but we don't get much interest from public attending PC meetings to engage.

05.09.23 Planning

Updates received on the following:

Care and Rehabilitation Centre at Holton Hall Farm – JW advised that this is going to the Planning Committee on the 15th of November and he will be allowed 5 mins to speak and a representative from the PC will be allowed 3 mins to speak. PC to decide who will attend this meeting.

Brett Vale Golf Club, Raydon – JW advised that new plans were submitted changing the lodges from 57 to 38 but the planning application still goes against planning policy. This application is going to the Planning Committee on the 1st of November.

06.09.23 Footpaths / Verges

A resident has emailed and raised the following – Suffolk County Council has just cut the verges between Glenhaven and Corpus Christi cottages but this was only on the road side part of the verge for one metre. Consequently, the grass on both sides of the tarmac footway has been left un-cut. In places the path is almost invisible and certainly difficult to use and particularly after rain. This was reported to Suffolk Highways who replied that at this time it does not warrant remedial action. The Farmer at Four Sisters kindly agreed to mow these verges.

County Cllr Geogia Hall (GH) advised that overgrown footpaths are a problem everywhere, if there are any issues then please use the online Highways reporting tool available on the Suffolk County Council website. Highways will come out and look at any issues and if they meet the criteria then they will carry out the work. GH advised that she will send the PC the Highways maintenance plan so we can see what the criteria are for works to be carried out.

A Parishioner has asked if the Parish Council would consider paying for the cutting of the 2 green triangles outside Roseacre due to the Council's infrequent and poor work in this area. PC agreed to instruct Kelvedon Lawn Mowing Services who already cut Church Square and the Churchyard to do this. Clerk to action.

07.09.23 Councillor Vacancies

The PC currently has 3 vacancies for Councillors, all in agreed to set up a working party for recruitment with Sally Longmate who has kindly offered to assist. The working party will meet on the 28th of September 2023 to plan a campaign.

08.09.23 National Grid East Anglia Green Energy Enablement - Pylons

See agenda item 04.09.23

09.09.23 Asset Register

The asset register was reviewed and all in agreement to approve. The laser printer and scanner to be disposed of by the Clerk due to a new printer/scanner being purchased.

10.09.23 Correspondence and Clerk's Report

To note correspondence received since last meeting:

Email received 31.08.23 with regards to a road traffic incident that occurred in the village on the 29th of June 2023 asking if this could be discussed and actioned by the Council. A 13 year old was forced off the road by a Phillips Brother articulated lorry whilst on his push bike doing his paper round at around 8am on that day. He was travelling on the Hadleigh Road towards the A12 when the lorry tried to overtake on the

blind curve opposite the turning for Roseacre in poor visibility conditions, an oncoming car meant the lorry had to pull in suddenly forcing the boy onto the pavement and off his bike. He was not hit by the lorry but suffered grazes and was very shaken. The lorry did not stop. The incident was reported to the and the father spoke with Phillips Brothers but requests the PC to contact Phillips Brothers about the incident.

MA will arrange a visit to Phillips Brothers to ask that their drivers not to overtake cyclists in the village.

11.09.23 Finance

All in agreement to remove Janice Cheng, Elizabeth Sims and Sally Thurlow as signatories on the account and for Mike Hay to be added onto the account as a signatory – Clerk to action.

Financial Report:

Bank Balances as at 31.08.23	Current Account	£ 4,853.71
	Reserve Account	£13,072.08
Receipts since last meeting	Interest	£30.21
Payments since last meeting		£1,764.13

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

31.07.23	SO	Clerks Salary July	£325
30.08.23	SO	Clerks Salary August	£325
01.08.23	BACS	Farming Support Solutions	£528.83
11.08.23	BACS	Farming Support Solutions	£300
18.09.23	BACS	Village Hall hire for 13.08.23	£20
18.09.23	BACS	Kelvedon Lawn Mowing – Grass cutting	£50
18.09.23	BACS	Chris Haste – Restoration materials for bench	£54.23
18.09.23	BACS	Babergh – election costs	£126.50
18.09.23	BACS	Faye Hall – purchase of printer	£122.09
18.09.23	BACS	Kelvedon Lawn Mowing – Grass cutting	£62.50

Agreed to transfer £828.83 from the reserve account to the current account. Payment of £828.83 was for the replacement of stiles for gates and agreement that CIL money would be used for this which is currently held in the reserve account. £828.83 is currently showing under the infrastructure budget heading but will be covered by CIL money.

The Clerk also noted that the CIL return form for 01.04.22 to 31.0.23 had been amended as box A and box B Were incorrect and a revised copy has been sent to Babergh and published on the website.

12.09.23 Village Infrastructure including CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

CIL – The PC discussed the following proposals that have been made by a Parishioner:

The Chairman opened the meeting up again to the public.

1. Replace the existing gravel surface on Church square with a surface that is accessible for disabled people. Gravel is the least accessible surface for people using wheelchairs or rollators. Hoggins is the surface of choice for the National Trust. there are pros and cons to this surface as it does require more maintenance than tarmac but is much cheaper. The Parishioner reiterated that public spaces should be accessible to disabled people. There is a disabled parking space in Church Square but the gravel surface is not suitable. It was pointed out that Church Square is not a public car park so there is no legal requirement to provide disabled parking facilities. The PC will look into this proposal further.
2. Offer the Village Hall Committee to pay for the removal of the hedge adjacent to the pavement and metal gates to provide disabled access and parking at the front of the village hall. The Chairman advised that the metal gates were put up for the Queens Coronation so he personally would not like these removed. It was agreed that this proposal will be left for the Village Hall Management Committee to consider as part of the feasibility study on changes to the Village Hall.
3. Little Lending Library in Church Square: The object would be to initially stock the library with children's books that children would be able to swap with other books when they visited. The Little Free Library concept was started by a non-profit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota and operates in over 120 countries their vision being a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every reader. The mobile library visits the Village at 0930hrs on school days so children can only access it

directly once a year in August. The Chairman proposed putting the library inside the Village Hall gates and will discuss the idea with the Village Hall Management Committee representative. All agreed to consider whether this is workable.

The PC thanked the Parishioner for the proposals received on what CIL money could be used for. Meeting now closed to the public.

Village Hall Management Committee representative (VHMCR)– The Chairman read out an email that had been received from Sally Thurlow – Sally advised that the VHMC are looking to make a significant application for CIL money for work on the Village Hall but at the moment they are not ready to do so. They do have agreement to commence the formal feasibility study with Roger Balmer using Matt Toone. The feasibility study isn't covered by CIL funding but is essential to provide the evidence to underpin applications for funding. The project group will meet with the architects on 2nd of October to go over the possibility of what is and is not feasible. The Committee's intentions are to be very open with the village about the options and plans once they have something more tangible to work with. The initial phase will address the accessibility of the building and is likely to be focused on the front of the building, lobby and toilets. They hope to provide another update at the next PCs meeting. No update received on the proposal for new seating and tables for outside the Village Hall.

The PC approached Suffolk Highways with regards to creating a disabled bay outside the Village Hall but were told that SCC do not approve installation of advisory disabled parking bays for general use in an area. Their policy only allows installation of ADPB's in residential areas where applicants have highlighted specific needs for one to be marked. For general use, a new TRO would be required for a mandatory disabled parking bay and as guidance the cost for this would be approx £6,500. PC all in agreement that this proposal is not viable but the option of a disabled parking space inside the Village Hall gates as proposed under agenda item 12.09.23 is something that should be further explored.

Millennium Green Representative – No update received.

13.09.23 Highways - Speeding, Road Condition and other road issues

A Parishioner emailed that many people believe that the ANPR cameras are not proving effective, not least because it is so rarely here. We cannot do much about the three 'Ps' that do reduce speeding – Pedestrians, Parking and Police. What we can do, and is to improve the street scene throughout the village. The purpose of this is to make it very clear to drivers that people live in this beautiful village and it is not simply a means of getting from A to B in the quickest possible time. The Parishioner would welcome the thoughts of the PC how this could be improved.

MA agreed that it is important to maintain how the village looks and the Green Gym do a good job helping with this. Average speed cameras have been looked into but were unable to be pursued due to not meeting the criteria. White picket fences at the start and end of the village might improve the street scene - MA will look into this again.

20s Plenty Campaign – A notice was put in the Quartet inviting the public along to tonight's meeting to express their views on this campaign but we have not had any response. Higham and Raydon are going to be involved in this campaign. It is a campaign to put forward to Suffolk Highways that we want our road to be a 20mph limit. MA proposed that the PC agree for Holton St Mary to join this campaign, MH seconded and all in favour. By signing up we then become a cluster with other villages who all want the same thing. Clerk to action.

Update on proposal from a Parishioner for a Petition to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph in the half mile stretch of road between East Bergholt and Holton St Mary – MA has spoken to Raydon PC and they want to make Raydon to Holton 40mph and Layham to Raydon 40mph. This joins up with the PCs thinking for Holton to East Bergholt making this 40mph. MA advised that a meeting needs to be arranged with Raydon PC, East Bergholt PC and possibly Brantham PC with us to get 3 or 4 villages together to be able to push Suffolk Highways on the reductions to 40mph.

14.09.23 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. All in agreement to discuss with the Village Hall Management Committee and the PC would offer to support any events financially.

15.09.23 Defibrillator

An email has been received advising that The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is inviting



- interested organisations to register expressions of interest for its Community Automated External Defibrillators Fund. To discuss if another Defibrillator is needed in the village.
The PC agreed to defer this to the next meeting.
Clerk to check how often the Defibrillator at the Village Hall gets inspected.

16.09.23 Remembrance Crosses

The PC discussed the planting of the 6 remembrance crosses for Remembrance Day and agreed to contact the participants from last year to see if they would like to take part again.

17.09.23 Kings Coronation Tree

The PC discussed where a tree could be planted – all in agreement to contact the Millennium Green if they have any ideas on where one can be placed.

18.09.23 Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council

Agreed the following items for the next agenda:

D-Day update

Remembrance Crosses – feedback

Planning updates

Discuss who will speak at the planning committee for the Care home application

National Grid

19.09.23 Next meeting

8th November 2023 confirmed as next date for meeting

Meeting closed at 2204hrs

Theresa Ware
8/11/2023