

ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2015/16

What's happening in your town



MAYOR'S REPORT 2015-16

During May 2015, along with the General Election we held a full Town Council election. The election saw four Councillors step down and thus with a new Council elected we warmly welcomed four new faces around the table. Each is well known in the town and brings a range of talents with them. I

welcome Graham Chapman, Roger Percival, Paul Reed and Rodney Smith to their positions.

At our AGM, our former Mayor, Bryan Payne stood down from his position after eight years of outstanding service and I was elected as Mayor to serve the town. My immediate pledge was to work closely, collaborate and support the many wonderful groups and organisations that make up the special town that is Holt.

As such we have followed up our pledge and already seen a 'family day' to support Holt's 1940's weekend at the Peacock lane playground. The event was fantastically attended with family fun for all.

We are well on the way with developing a 'Holt Owl trail' working with NNDC, the Holt Society and Chamber of Trade. What a fantastic attraction this will be to residents and visitors to the town, being able to follow a plaque trail around the town and learn about the historic buildings along the way.

Our latest initiative is to work with the Town's WI and along with their 80th anniversary celebrations look to refresh the town sign outside Barclays Bank.

You may have already subscribed to our electronic newsletter that has been a new project this year. Not only can subscribers keep up to date with bite sized pieces of information about what's going on in the town but this is another example of us wanting to connect and be closely linked to the community.

Our Neighbourhood Plan has continued to develop through the year and as you will recall we are one of the front runners in Norfolk to be

developing a plan. We are currently preparing a 'Character Appraisal', one of the constituent documents for the plan and hope to have this finished in the next few months, before we engage with the community again. We welcome residents to help us and 'have a say in how their town will look in the future'.

With so much positivity in the town, it was disappointing to learn in January that NNDC would not invest any of their funds in a suitable car park scheme for the town. Their rationale essentially was based on potentially three new car parks that were coming to the town would dilute any investment they made. As such they were unwilling to invest District money in Holt at this time. Holt Town Council refuted much of their reasoning and we continue to evaluate long term solutions to ease the parking problems.

Whilst so much could be written about what's happened during the year, mention must be given to our budget meeting and some of the fresh ideas that were passed for the future. Of particular note was our strategy to try and improve the presentation of the town. With cut backs in County services we have decided to invest in a town maintenance person – someone able to carry out essential maintenance for the town, such as grass verge cutting in the summer and other essential tasks throughout the year. We also decided to invest in ensuring the town centre is kept looking beautiful with future plans to enter the Anglia in Bloom competition. For this we welcome volunteers who would help us.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the support of fellow Councillors and their dedication to supporting the town. In particular I would like to thank my Vice, Bryan Payne for his help and guidance throughout the year. Last and by no means least our friendly office team, led by Elaine our tireless Clerk without whom much of this wouldn't happen. You are always warmly welcome at our monthly meetings and we look forward to helping you in anyway possible.

THE COUNCIL

In May 2015 on the same day as the General Election, the townspeople of Holt voted for a new Town Council. 13 Councillors were elected and in May the Council elected Duncan Baker as the new Mayor. The Councillors are as follows:

John Allison, Duncan Baker, Martin Batey, Graham Chapman, Michael Hill, Colin Hipperson, Ray Moore, Bryan Payne, Roger Percival, Maggie Prior, Paul Reed, Rodney Smith, and Liz Traynier.

All councillors can be contacted via the Town Council office but their details are on the noticeboard in town and on the website.



HOLT HONOURS AWARD

Each year Holt Town Council awards people in the community who have positively contributed to the life of Holt. Last year's worthy winners were:

Dick Copas for work at the Holt Youth Project and the church.

The Holt Community Hub – conservation group for work at Holt Country Park.

Fiona Joliffe for general contribution to Holt life including

work at the church and Spout Common.

Simon Gresham for his work on Holt Christmas lights.

This year's awards will be presented at the Annual Towns meeting on 6th April. We already have several nominations and it will be exciting to see who obtains the awards this year.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

After the elections in May the Town Council has agreed to continue with the Neighbourhood plan. We hope to have a draft plan later in the year and

to hold another consultation event. We are always looking to volunteers from the community to help us complete the plan which will safeguard Holt for the future.



BENCHES

We have several benches around town that have been donated in memory of loved ones. We are thinking of replacing a seat near the bypass. If you are looking for a special way to remember someone this is an ideal solution. If you are interested in this give the Clerk a ring on 01263 712149 or email holttowncouncil@gmail.com

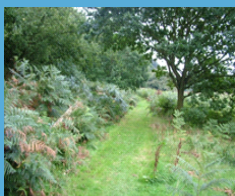
ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING

WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2016, 7.00pm

At Holt Community Centre

Presentations by guest speakers on Holt – a dementia friendly town & Anglia in Bloom Project.

Community Honours Award – Questions to Councillors. All very welcome.



OPEN GREEN SPACES

Holt is fortunate in having some great green open spaces. Jewel in the crown is Spouts Common and Little Hills. A group of volunteers including a couple of dedicated town councillors join once a month in clearing, raking and cutting to keep this area special for the

people of Holt. A smaller group including the deputy mayor, meet once a week to further this work. The volunteer numbers are dwindling and they need help, if you have just a few hours to spare the team would love to meet you and tell you what you could do to help.

Give the Town Clerk a ring on 01263 712149 or email on holttowncouncil@gmail.com.

During the year the Town council discovered that land at Letheringsett Meadows had been registered as common land in 1968, the Town Council is responsible for the general maintenance of this area, so another jewel discovered in the year!



Newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Town Council have, since January 2016, been trialling a monthly emailed newsletter.

People subscribe to this and it arrives in their in box once a month.

If you haven't signed up yet this is the address:

<http://www.holttowncouncil.org/2016/01/new-town-council-newsletter-by-email-subscribe-now/>

HOLT TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

Each year Holt Town Council allocates grants to community groups in Holt. The grants are usually awarded in June and this year the recipients were:



Holt Community Cafe	£ 500.00
Holt Playing Field Association	£1,000.00
HAPG	£ 50.00
Invictus Explorer Scouts	£ 300.00
Holt Bowls Club	£ 150.00
Holt Friday Club	£ 500.00
Holt 1960s Club	£ 500.00



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Town Council has decided to celebrate this momentous occasion by the purchasing and lighting of a beacon. On 21st April the beacon will be placed near Shirehall Plain and will be lit early evening.

We are hoping that there will be some stalls near the beacon so that people can have a wander before and after the lighting.

If you are interested in a stall please email holttowncouncil@gmail.com putting BEACON in the header



THE OWL HERITAGE TRAIL

The Town Council is working with the Chamber and the Holt Society to create an Owl heritage trail. This will be a route around the town, highlighting points of interest with plaques. It is hoped this will be completed this year and be supported by a leaflet with accompanying QR codes that can be read by mobile devices.

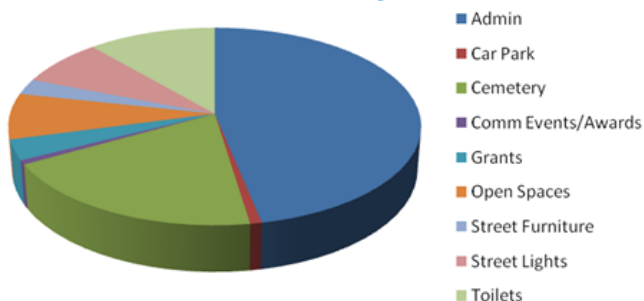
INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The Town Council met in December to decide the budget for 2016/7. It was agreed not to increase the Town Council precept and to employ a full time and a part time maintenance person. It is hoped that this will mean a speedy response to any problems that may occur.

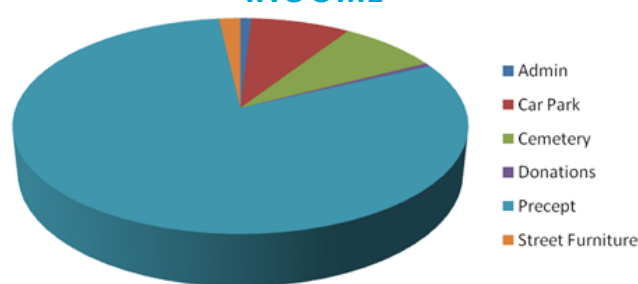
The admin figure includes the costs payable to NNDC for the Town Council elections in May 2015, these were £ 2569.95.

The charts below show the estimated income and expenditure for year 2015/6, as they have been produced before the year end.

EXPENDITURE



INCOME



BREAKING NEWS ON CAR PARKS

At last some good news on the car parking situation.

At the last Town Council meeting of the council year on Monday 14th March, the Council has agreed to go forward with a car park in Cley Road. This will be mainly funded by S106 payments from the H01 development. It is envisaged to have permit car parking and will be aimed at people working in the town centre and requiring long term car parking, provision will also be made for short term parking for visitors to the cemetery. The work is starting on a legal agreement with the owners and it is hoped that the car park might be up and running by summer.

There is also good news on the Gresham's car park, permission has now been granted and this will provide 60-64 spaces for the public, it may take a few months for the official road order to come through but Gresham's are hoping to build the car park and maybe open it for free until the orders come through.

HOLT TOWN COUNCIL

The Council meets on the second Monday of each month. The public are welcome to this meeting and are given an opportunity to speak at an allocated time. All meetings are advertised on the noticeboard in town and on our website.

The Town Council office, in the Community Centre on Kerridge Way, is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9.00-12.00. You will always find a friendly welcome here and the staff will be pleased to help you or direct you to someone who can.

Financial matters, minutes and lots of information about the Town Council can be found on the website www.holttowncouncil.org



1940s WEEKEND

It seems a long time ago but back in the hot days of Summer Holt was transformed into a 1940s town. The whole town joined in the spirit and the town council arranged a 1940s games afternoon for the town. Great fun was had and participants were encouraged to dress up in 1940s style. The throwing of sponges at the Mayor was a great success! The frivolity was followed by fish and chips served from a van. A great if not exhausting day was had by all.



T. 01263 712149 E. holttowncouncil@gmail.com

www.holttowncouncil.org