Minutes of the Virtual Holt Town Council Meeting held on Monday 12th October at 7pm via the platform Zoom.

Attending: Cllr Rodney Smith (Mayor), Cllr Martin Batey, Cllr Ray Moore, Cllr Bryan Payne, Cllr Ben Philo, Cllr Liz Traynier, Cllr Maggie Prior, Cllr Williams, Cllr Sarah Tribe, Finance Officer Glynis Williamson and Town Clerk Gemma Harrison.

County Cllr Sarah Butikofer and District Cllrs Georgie Perry-Warnes and Duncan Baker were also present.

1 member of the public were present.

1. **Welcome**
   1.1. Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence**
   2.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Wright (unwell), Cllr Wilson (family commitment) and Cllr Curley (personal reasons). Apologies were all accepted.
3. **To consider requests for dispensations from the restriction of operating in the discussion or voting on a matter in which a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.**
   3.1. Cllr Philo declared an interest as he is currently employed by HTC as a temporary member of the Maintenance Team.
4. **Police Matters**
   4.1. PC Graham Gower-Smith attended the meeting and reported that things were generally quiet in the town. There have been several rural crimes such as diesel thefts and trailer theft and a small problem with local youths. Graham stated that he was able to be on duty throughout the Christmas Market weekend and asked for someone to contact him with further details. Graham shared the good news that Holt Police Station will be completed before Christmas.

5. **Guest Speaker – Mark Nolan not present.**
   5.1. Guest Speaker circulated plans prior to the meeting which were discussed by Cllrs, there were no questions for Mr Nolan and so it was agreed that he did not need to attend the meeting.
6. **Announcements by Mayor**
   6.1. The Mayor announced that HTC had commented in support on the planning application for a Temporary Supermarket on the Budgens car park. Due consideration is being given to adjacent traders. Once planning consent is granted by NNDC, construction is due to take place as quickly as possible to provide for a temporary solution for the benefit of the whole community. Budgens continue to deliver to many customers each week directly from their Aylsham store.
   6.2. A presentation by Bidwell's took place for councillors regarding the replacement permanent Budgens store. A planning application is expected to be submitted to NNDC shortly and the proposed timeline is;

16th October – Submit Planning Application to NNDC

30th October – NNDC validate application

Dec 20 – Planning Consent Granted

Feb 21 – Works to start on site

Mid Oct 21 – Build completed

Dec 21 – Store re-open by Christmas

7. **Agree the minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting dated 14th September 2020**
   7.1. Cllr Prior read a statement which she wanted to be included as an amendment to the minutes. This was AGREED by all Cllrs. The statement is included at Appendix A.
   7.2. The minutes (as amended) were PROPOSED by Cllr Moore and SECONDED by Cllr Traynier and AGREED by all.

8. **Matters Arising (for information and not included on the main Agenda).**
    8.1. Cllr Moore stated that Industrial land was not included on the Agenda this month as a meeting had been arranged with NNDC on 22nd October so there was no update. The Agenda item will be carrying forward in future Agendas until HTC get a solution.
9. **Reports**
    9.1. North Norfolk District Council Report. The NNDC report was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Baker added to the report by stating that the temporary store should be up and running before Christmas, NNDC have met with the architects with regards the permanent store application which will be submitted shortly. The Holt Owl Trail has seen 100 thousand website visitors which is fantastic and continues to be a huge success.
    9.2. Martin Batey joined the meeting at 19.21.
    9.3. Cllr Baker shared his concerns regarding the Government Planning White Paper and reiterated that both himself and Cllr Perry-Warnes were planning on attending the Gladman's Planning Inquiry which takes place on 20th October.
    9.4. Cllr Payne asked Cllr Baker a question about Holt being designated as a Principle Town. A letter was sent to NNDC some time ago requesting this designation and there has not been a reply. It was AGREED that the Clerk should find the original letter sent to NNDC and that Cllr Baker would help chase an answer.
    9.5. NCC are running the Stop hate initiative, encouraging hate crimes to get reported. NCC received over 1000 calls reporting fallen trees blocking roads and paths during the recent storms. Over 300 trees were down in North Norfolk, everyone agreed that Highways did a fantastic job at keeping everyone moving and re-opening the roads. NNDC are working with NCC to clear the sand debris at Walcott. Covid rates are increasing across the country, North Norfolk still have low rates, but they are rising. Cllr Butikofer confirmed that she would be speaking at the Gladman Site Planning Inquiry on 20th October.
    9.6. Love Holt – The Clerk read a report sent on behalf of Love Holt which stated that Love Holt would be hosting a Christmas Market from Saturday 14th November to Sunday 15th November 11am-5pm. All shops will be

encouraged to be lit up by the evening of 13th November. The ground floor conversion of Shirehall is taking place to create Make Holt, Hayes and Storr are moving to the old Natwest Bank and there is a new convenience store in Chapel Yard. Iberian Gourmet is fully open in Chapel Yard along with Amber Organics in Franklyns Yard. For the full up to date list of shops and available rentals please see the Love Holt website. www.loveholt.com

9.7. Greening Holt –Cllr Tribe gave an update on Greening Holt. They have visited Holt Primary School to discuss putting an orchard in their wild area. They have started working with several of the yards to discuss their space and what improvements can be done. Greening Holt is not just planting but also initiatives such as bike racks and water fountains. Greening Holt are keen to launch the Greening Holt reusable Cup, which will be a more sustainable than disposable cups.

Public question time

- A member of the public raised concerns about the desire for Holt to become a principle town and shared their disappointment about the care home on the roundabout not being supported by Cllrs. The Chairman stated that the points raised were noted and that Town Cllrs in principle were in favour of a care home but not at the location proposed. The Chairman stated that Cllrs had received a preliminary presentation by an alternative company wishing to submit a planning application for a care home in an alternative location in the town. A formal planning application is expected in due course.

10. Finance

10.1 The payments and receipts were circulated prior to the meeting. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Moore, SECONDED by Cllr Payne and AGREED by all the finances were approved.

10.2 The Budget note was circulated by the Finance Officer prior to the meeting. There were no questions from Cllrs.

10.3 The recent purchase of a leaf blower costing £416.25 was noted. The leaf blower was needed to help clear away leaf debris from the recent storms.

10.4 It was noted that the Clerk had attended a website accessibility training session with Josh.biz, Cllr Batey PROPOSED the spend of £185 to ensure the website is fully accessible, this was SECONDED by Cllr Moore and AGREED by all.

11. Planning

11.1 A planning report was drafted and circulated prior to the meeting.

11.2 Cllr Philo asked that staff area needed to be given some consideration as part of the Temporary Budgens Planning Application.

11.3 PF/17/1803 Land rear of 67 Hempstead Road was discussed and there was concerns regarding access off Hempstead Road. Originally access was proposed through the Lovell Estate and this is what Cllrs want to see delivered. Cllr Payne PROPOSED to accept the planning report but object to the PF/17/1803 planning application due to the access, this was SECONDED by Cllr Moore and AGREED by all.

11.4 It was AGREED that Cllr Smith, Cllr Wright, Cllr Payne, and Cllr Prior would form a working group to look at The Planning Government White Paper. Clerk to send further information out after the meeting.

12. NCC Parish Partnership

12.1 The Finance Officer has received quotes for the proposed Town Signs which would cost £1000 per sign, this included removing any old signage. Cllrs would need to decide what information they would like on the signs, feedback should be given to the Finance Officer. Cllr Smith PROPOSED a spend of £500 per sign, (50% of the cost if a successful NCC grant was awarded) this was SECONDED by Cllr Philo and AGREED by all.

13. Banking in the Town

13.1 The Town Council were disappointed to learn of the recent news that TSB would be leaving Holt. Clerk to write to TSB and raise concern about their departure. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Payne about attempting to attract new banks to the town such as Nationwide. Clerk to Write to CT Baker and ask that they consider installing a cash point in the new Budgens store.

14. Annual Play Inspection

14.1 The annual play inspection has been completed and several low risks and one medium risk has been identified. The Clerk circulated the inspection report and the quote from the play manufacturer prior to the meeting. Cllr Smith PROPOSED that we ask Playdale to carry out the repairs needed as per the quote circulated, this was SECONDED by Cllr Prior and AGREED by all.

14.2 The Clerk provided an update on the two proposed play areas off Beresford Road. NNDC still could not offer an update on the land transfer although the Clerk has asked for this to be chased by the NNDC Legal Team. The Clerk has met several play providers on site to gain quotes and design ideas and will share this in the first instance with the Play Committee. Clerk to send dates out for a meeting.

15 . Date and Time of next Meeting

15.1 The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday 9th November at 7pm.

15.2 Cllr Smith thanked the Maintenance Team for clearing the fallen trees and debris along the old railway line adjacent to Spout Hills.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Appendix A – Cllr Prior's Statement Amending the Minutes to the previous meeting.

<u>11.3</u> (14/9/20) Cllr Payne gave detailed summation regarding the school and the site, and considerable discussion took place between Town Councillors, not including Cllr Prior at this stage. This included a statement from Cllr Moore that a decision should be made this evening and not just noted and Cllr Payne reminded the Chair we also needed a decision as we have been asked by the Inspectorate to send a representative to the Gladman Hearing.
Cllr Payne and Cllr Wright both stated that a decision should be made as to whether or not Holt Town Council supported the current development, considering no planning reasons were evidenced to support a refusal.
Cllr Wright was asked if he would represent HTC at the Hearing
Cllr Prior requested to enter the debate at this stage and asked if we should not vote first as Cllr Wright would need our decision? Cllr Payne, Agreed
Questioned by the Chair on what exactly her proposal was she stated that, "What Cllr Wright needs to know is whether the Town Council is supporting or not supporting the development so that he can make his decision".
She followed, "We just need to decide, as a body, whether we support the Application as it stands now, in its complete form"
She was asked again by the Chair what her exact proposal was and replied
"I would like us to vote on whether we support or do not support the application as it stands now "
It was then explained by the Officers that an "either or" proposal could not be made.
Therefore, the wording was suggested by the Officers.

Cllr Prior had no objections to the precision of the wording as long as it served the actual purpose of her recommended proposal, which was:
1) that the Town Council voted on a final decision, one way or the other, based on all the current factual information, available to all Councillors, and
2) that the representative from HTC attending the Hearing would then know exactly what was to be taken forward from Holt Town Council.