



Minutes of the Virtual Holt Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7pm via the platform Zoom.

Attending: Cllr Rodney Smith (Mayor), Cllr Phil Wright (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Ray Moore, Cllr Bryan Payne, Cllr Liz Traynier, Cllr Martin Batey, Cllr Maggie Prior, Cllr Simon Williams, Cllr Melandra Curley, Cllr Iain Wilson, Cllr Sarah Tribe and Town Clerk Gemma Harrison.

County Cllr Sarah Butikofer was present.

1 member of the public were present.

1. Welcome and to consider apologies

1.1 Apologies received from Cllr Ben Philo and District Cllr Georgie Perry-Warnes.

2. Declarations and Dispensation Requests by Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below

None received.

3. Receive the Chairman's Annual Report

3.1 The full report can be seen at Appendix A.

4. Receive Accounts for the year to 31st March 2021

4.1 Clerk read the end of year finance summary to Cllrs which can be seen at Appendix B.

5. Public Opportunity for Questions to Councillors

None asked.

Meeting ended at 7.15pm

APPENDIX A

MAYORS REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLT TOWN COUNCIL

The past 18 months through the Covid-19 global pandemic period has presented the Holt Town Council and its team with several challenging issues.

I would like to extend my thanks to the team for their commitment, dedication and the professionalism displayed throughout and to be able to report that collectively we have managed to achieve several key tasks despite the challenges faced.

During the past year we have lost two key members of the Holt Town Council. From the maintenance team we have lost Terry Lawrence after a long illness and we also lost Glynis Williamson the Holt Town Council Financial Manager also through illness. Both individuals were key members of our team. Our thoughts go out to their families.

Covid-19 Marshals, provided by the North Norfolk District Council have circulated across the town regularly to check that traders and the community have adhered to government guidelines. Their feedback is that everyone has responded positively during this unusual period. This is reflected in the fact that Holt has been one of the lowest Covid areas in the whole country.

Holt Town Council offered help and support for the vulnerable and those in need during the first lockdown in 2020, we delivered food packages and prescriptions 6 days a week and supported over 150 families. Later in 2020 we gave grant funding to the Holt Caring Society to carry out prescription runs on our behalf.

Holt Town Council during the year gave grant funding to many community groups in the town who were making a difference during Covid19; Holt Youth Project £2750 Treehouse Café £2750 Owl Playgroup £1000, Holt Caring Society £500, The Venue £1000, Little Lambs £ 250.

Thanks must go to council members for their agreement to provide these grants to help these community groups who provide support, and continue to do so, in this critical time for the benefit of those who are vulnerable in our society.

The Budgens fire during this period was a massive blow to the whole community. The town council provided key support to Budgens, along with the North Norfolk District Council and other organisations, during the critical period to continue support across our community.

It was proposed, and supported by the Town Council, that a Holt Hero's Certificate be presented to those traders in the town who were allowed to remain open to support our community and in so doing had placed themselves and their staff into a vulnerable situation during the pandemic. Certificates were also awarded to local organisations and volunteers who went above and beyond to help others during the last year.

A picnic area is being created at Spout Hills with benches on order and kindly donated by Cllr Philo and his wife Claudia. Our thanks must go to the Spout Hills sub-committee and the volunteers who provide vital support to maintain this 14-acre area to an extremely high standard. Spout Hills has been an oasis of peace and tranquillity much enjoyed by many during the pandemic period. The Holt Town Council is committed to making sure that resident and visitors can make full use and enjoy that incredibly special place. Thank you to all the team at Spout Hills who have worked hard whenever restrictions allow to ensure Spout Hills and Little Hills is well maintained.

Holt Town Council have carried out the required inspection, repairs and have replaced several new items at the George IV Peacocks Playing Field. This area for the younger generation has been greatly used and appreciated by families.

A long serving member of the Maintenance Team Paul Dulson will be retiring in May, Holt Town Council wishes to extend its thanks to Paul for all his hard work and commitment, especially during the first lockdown when he worked independently throughout and took on extra hours to ensure the job was done. Paul will be greatly missed by the whole team at Holt Town Council, and we wish him all the very best for the future. The need to replace and strengthen the Holt Town Council maintenance team means that we have recruited an apprentice and a senior member. Their combined task is to ensure the town always looks its best. Waste management, litter picking and emptying Holt Town Council bins, the regular maintenance of pathways and other areas across the town are just a few of their regular schedule of tasks.

A Market Town Initiative was applied for and won to provide several new planters across the town, and to provide sustainable planting. The planters are now all in place and have been planted up and look fantastic, a huge thank you to Sarah Tribe, her group and Ben Philo for all their effort on this project. Greening Holt has been established as a separate group through the dedication and commitment of a member of the council. Our support to that group should be encouraged to make Holt a more sustainable and greener town, especially as the District Council along with other Councils have declared a Climate Change Emergency.

A Market Town Initiative, Yellow Brick Road, was applied for and secured to provide several changes in the town to help those in wheelchairs and with impaired vision to navigate safely through the town. A tour around the town had previously taken place with Highways and the Treehouse Café, to identify key points of concern. Delayed due to the Covid-19 restrictions Highways are now programming the improvement to be carried out in the next few weeks.

Apart from the Memorial Gardens Holt suffers from a lack of Public Realm space. In line with concepts previously advanced through 'A Vision for Holt' in 2012 and other reports. A Market Town Initiative was applied for and secured to provide a Public Realm area in Fish Hill, Star Plain and Bull Alley. Covid-19 limitations and building work in progress in these locations have delayed progress, but we can report that a full topographical survey has taken place, and architects drawing, and concept will be available shortly as a key step toward providing the town with

additional permanent Public Realm space. The opportunity for local groups, and others will then also be available to make occasional use of Star Plain for exhibition, markets, etc. on designated Sundays.

As part of their normal responsibility, Holt Town Council during the year surveyed, removed and pollarded several dangerous trees from Peacock Playing Fields, Little Hills, and Spout Hills. This is vital and ongoing work that the town council regularly must undertake.

Going forward we are looking to undertake a major toilet refurbishment in Church Street to bring it up to modern day standards and a new play and exercise area off Beresford Road is being planned.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the re-opening of the Tourist Information Office is scheduled to open on the 17th May.

Holt Town Council is seeking funding for a new SAM 2 to be purchased to monitor the speed of traffic on Cromer Road and the results monitored by the police. Speeding in the town has been a major concern for many residents.

A revised Car Home application for land off Hempstead Road was received, reviewed, and supported by the Holt Town Council. Full approval has now been given to the application by North Norfolk District Council. This will secure new and welcomed employment for people from the community as well as providing vital accommodation to those in the locality that require special support.

A second Care Home application was also given full approval by Holt Town Council and the outcome of that application is still pending.

A Hopper Bus time schedule to support the local community is currently being reviewed and the anticipated start date for a Hopper Bus service to and from key location across the town is scheduled to commence in September 2021.

Holt Hall. Holt Town Council fully supported an application to designate Holt Hall as an Asset of Community Value. As a result, and along with other applications, Holt Hall has been withheld from general sale for a period pending action by the Friends of Holt Hall, who have created a Crowd Funding web site, to consider and review all options as an alternative to the sale by Norfolk County Council of this valuable community asset. Other bids to secure Holt Hall for the benefits of the community are possible.

We welcome a new member to Holt Town Council, Cllr Sandra Roper and look forward to working with her as a full member of our team from the middle of May.

Looking forward there is always much to do on behalf of the whole community we represent. Despite the setback and ongoing issues resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic we look forward to reviewing and implementing changes designed to make the town of Holt the incredibly special place that it is.

APPENDIX B – Finance Summary

CAR PARK		
	Receipts 20/21	Payments 20/21
Permits	£8,988.00	
Easements	£366.15	
Business Rates		£1859.83
Total	£9,354.15	£1859.83
TOTAL	£7494.32	
CEMETERY		
Memorials	£866.75	
Interments	£2,839.00	
Exclusive Right	£1,842.00	
Grave Digging	£800.00	
Business Rates		£1172.65
Refuse		£792.70
Total	£6,347.75	£3315.35
TOTAL	£3032.40	

TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR 2020/21 - 376 payments made £189,920.30

TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR 2020/21 - 99 receipts received £181,641.2