



Minutes of the Holt Town Council Meeting held on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7pm at the Playing Fields meeting room, Woodfield Road.

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

2 members of the public present.

County and District Cllr Eric Vardy was also present.

1. Welcome

1.1 Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to the guest speaker Derek Hayes.

1.2 Cllr Smith extended on behalf of the council a thank you to the Town Clerk for the professional way the Clerk has conducted the business of the council through the past 18 months and continues to do so in a responsible and professional manner. Thanks also to councillors for responding in the same manner.

1.3 Cllr Smith also extended a thank you to the Maintenance Team who do an excellent job across the town and the feedback received is extremely positive for all the work that they do.

2. Apologies for absence.

2.1 Cllr Philo gave his apologies (work commitments). Apologies accepted.

2.2 It was noted that District Cllr Georgie Perry- Warnes gave her apologies and Cllr Wilson will be arriving later in the meeting.

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 None received.

4. Police Matters

4.1 No report received. It was noted that the Mayor was aware of an attempted break in on Town Close.

5. Announcements by Mayor

5.1 Cllr Smith reported that he attended the official start of the rebuilding of the new Budgens store. Both Cllr Smith and Cllr Payne attended the opening of the new Dyson Building at Gresham's.

6. Guest Speaker: Derek Hayes - The Norfolk Orbital Railway

6.1 Derek Hayes gave Cllrs an update on the Norfolk Orbital Railway. The presentation has significance for the town of Holt as the committee have recently purchased some land in the town to help secure the railways future. It is also hoped that Holt will have a new train station more central to the town under the proposals. The notes from the presentation can be seen at Appendix A.

6.2 The Town Council welcomed the proposals and offered their support to the project, Cllrs asked to be kept updated on any further progress made and agreed to attend future meetings if it would be of any use to the Committee.

7. Agree the Minutes of Town Council Meeting dated Monday 8th November 2021

7.1 An amendment was made to the November Minutes at 8.3 stating that "*a lengthy discussion took place regarding the parking problems, which seemed to affect Kerridge Way and the outer ring of the town. With many residents struggling to park near to their properties and vehicles mounting the pavements.*" GH

7.2 The minutes along with the amendment were PROPOSED by Cllr Payne and SECONDED by Cllr Traynier and AGREED by all.

8. Matters Arising (for information and not included on the main Agenda).

8.1 Industrial Land in Holt – contact has been made with the landowner who is looking into the proposal raised by HTC. A meeting will be arranged in the New Year once the landowner has consulted interested parties. GH

8.2 The Queens Jubilee – a new website has been created and due to go live at the beginning of next year. Another meeting will be arranged for January. GH

9. Reports; To be Circulated in advance of the meeting

- Norfolk County Council Report –All the bids are now in for Holt Hall and the outcome will be announced on 7th January. The full NCC report can be seen at Appendix B.
- North Norfolk District Council – Full report can be seen at Appendix C. Cllr Vardy thanked Cllr Wilson for his presentation to NNDC Cabinet members, a similar meeting will be held with NCC in the New Year, before a wider public consultation which will be held in the summer.
- Cllr Moore asked a question regarding Changing Places in Holt. Cllr Moore stated changing places are used most by those that visit a town rather than residents of the town. Cllr Moore stated that NNDC have committed to spending £500,000 on two new Changing Places but questions the justification of spending the money in North Walsham ahead of Holt. An argument could be made that North Walsham is not a tourist town and as such many people use the town for the shops, many of which have their own toilet facilities. Holt attracts visitors all year round and only have one set of operational toilets in the town, which desperately need some work. The Church Street toilets are currently closed as HTC will be paying for these to be refurbished. These toilets were purchased by HTC from NNDC in order to keep the toilets open. Cllr Moore stated it shouldn't be down to Holt residents to fund a new Changing Places through their precept when it would be the visitors and businesses who would benefit and asks for NNDC to consider providing a Changing Places for the town, as they benefit from the high car park revenue and higher business rates in the town and some reinvestment would be welcomed. Cllr Vardy and Cllr Prior and Cllr Roper all agree with Cllr Moore's statement. Cllr Vardy agreed to raise the issue with senior officers at NNDC.
- Love Holt – Cllr Wilson gave the report which stated that The Feathers have changed hands. The recent NNDC meeting was a success there is a planned Workshop with Allied and Morrison pre -consultation next year. The next stage is to consult NCC. There is a parking planning application in for 48 spaces, this proposal looks to increase zone 2 parking by 12% which is significant. The

Playing Fields are waiting for full control of the playing fields to be given back by FIT. Once this has been done free parking for traders can be offered Monday to Friday. A Park and ride from North Norfolk railway is also being explored. Love Holt are working on 2022 strategy and would welcome any input into the strategy. **ALL**

- Greening Holt - No report.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Cllr Williams reported that a number of local residents were not happy about the markets. The markets are causing significant disruption in the town. Many residents are frustrated at the road closures as they affect access to their properties and travel through town is disrupted with congestion and traffic. Some shops that were open on a Sunday have stated their trade has suffered. Those that aren't happy feel their concerns are not being addressed. Cllr Williams suggested moving the markets into the yards as an alternative to the road closures. Cllr Prior agreed with Cllr Williams and has received similar complaints. The clerk circulated prior to the meeting two emails which were received with regards to the problems the markets had caused, these were again shared with Cllrs. Cllr Wilson thanked Cllrs for bringing the issues to his attention and for HTC for holding Love Holt to account. The markets have been a victim of their own success and it was AGREED a meeting should be held in the New Year with the Safety and Advisory Body to look at the issues raised. Unfortunately, with the Budgens car park still closed there is additional car parking pressure on the town. Cllr Wilson stated he was keen to learn from any mistakes made and AGREED to work with all stakeholders to ensure any disruption next year is kept to a minimum. It was AGREED to put the item on the next Agenda for further discussion. **RS/IW/GH**

10. Finance

10.1 The payments, receipts and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Payne queried the payment for the recently purchased SAM2 which HTC have paid for but will be reimbursed by NCC. Clerk noted to chase the payment. The payments were PROPOSED by Cllr Curley and SECONDED by Cllr Traynier and AGREED by all. **GH**

10.2 The Clerk held a Budget meeting with Cllr Smith, Cllr Wright, Cllr Payne and Cllr Moore to look at the 22/23 budget. The budget was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The suggested Precept included in the Budget is £147,366 which is £79.62 per Band D property. This is a rise of 3.73% from last year (21/22 £76.76 per Band D property). The Budget was PROPOSED by Cllr Curley and SECONDED by Cllr Wilson and AGREED by all. The Clerk noted to ask for the number of new properties build within the town in 2021. GH

10.3 The request from Bakers and Larners for a donation towards the community art project at Budgens was discussed. Cllr Payne and Cllr Prior did not support the request. Cllr Prior PROPOSED not to award the money, Cllr Payne SECONDED the proposal and there were no other objections. The motion was not passed.

10.4 It was noted to include the grant request received by the Social Club (for replacement windows) on the next Agenda. GH

11. Planning (all applications and report circulated prior to the meeting)

11.1 Point of Order. The Clerk asked Cllrs whether they were happy to exceed the two-hour maximum meeting time (as stated in the Standing Orders). It was AGREED by everyone present to continue with the meeting.

11.2 The November planning report was circulated prior to the meeting along with two further late planning applications.

11.3 PF/21/3267 Booker Cash and Carry. It was AGREED to support the application, in particular the noise survey which detailed how noise levels could be improved.

11.4 PF/21/ 3226 Lee's Terrace. Cllrs raised concerns on overdevelopment, the area was very tight, there is no parking offered and as such it was AGREED to OBJECT to the proposals.

11.5 The above planning report and additional comments were PROPOSED by Cllr Wright and SECONDED by Cllr Batey and AGREED BY all. GH

12. Neighbourhood Plan

12.1 Cllr Prior gave an update on the Holt Neighbourhood Plan. The Finishing Committee have revisited the document, the document needs to be compliant with the Emerging Local Plan. The Town Council have been awarded some further funding

from Locality to get some support with the final updates. Cllr Payne PROPOSED to use the funding to appoint planning consultant Oneill Homer, this was SECONDED by Cllr Batey and AGREED by all. **MP/GH**

13.Land off Swann Grove

13.1 The contamination survey was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Tribe suggested setting up a meeting with NCC to encourage NCC to do something environmentally friendly with the land, such as planting for wildlife and habitat. This was PROPOSED by Cllr Prior, SECONDED by Cllr Batey and AGREED by all. Clerk to arrange a meeting for the New Year. **GH**

14. COVID Award

14.1 It was AGREED to install the blue plaque (awarded to HTC on behalf of the community's resilience to Covid) by the front door on Nelson House. **GH**

15. Street Lighting Scheme Hopkins Homes

15.1 The Hopkin Homes Street lighting scheme which was circulated prior to the meeting, was AGREED by all. It was also AGREED to move the existing streetlight on Hempstead Road backwards as per email circulated and to ask Hopkins Homes to replace SOX with LED. **GH**

16. Correspondence

16.1 Love Holt Christmas Market. Item discussed earlier in the meeting.

17. Agree date and time of next meeting Monday 10th January at 7pm location TBC.

MEETING ENDED 21.14

APPENDIX A

Norfolk Orbital Railway

Achievements and future plans

Overview of the project

The Trust's aim is to bring a public transport service using modern trains back to parts of Norfolk which suffered badly from the closures of the 1960's. It will be pleased to see heritage services also running over its lines but its principal goal is to provide the very thing for which railways were created: transport to take people safely and efficiently from A to B for work and leisure. The Trust is also investigating the opportunities for transporting freight by rail. The environmental benefits of rail travel are of major importance to the Trust, in line with modern thinking about global warming.

All activities relating to the Norfolk Orbital Railway (NOR) project are being undertaken by The Melton Constable Trust, which is a registered charity.

The construction of the Western arm of the NOR will link the North Norfolk Railway (NNR) at High Kelling to Fakenham, where it will join the Mid Norfolk Railway (MNR) which is extending its railway between Wymondham and Dereham through to Fakenham.

This, combined with the existing Eastern arm (the Bittern Line between Norwich and Sheringham), will create a modern rail transport system which will link many of the towns and villages in North Norfolk.

Achievements

Activities and successes to date

An engineering and environmental impact study of the whole route has been undertaken by W S Atkins, which is a respected civil engineering consultancy. This demonstrates that it is possible to construct the railway on the proposed route.

A study has been undertaken by Peter Brett Associates to assess the traffic potential using Network Rail methodology. This demonstrated that the Western arm of the NOR would be as successful as the Eastern arm, with revenues covering operating costs.

The Trust is advised and assisted by a railway civil engineer of great experience.

Former trackbed has been purchased at High Kelling and Fakenham, including two bridges at Pudding Norton, which will enable the railway to cross the River Wensum.

The Trust has owned one key section of trackbed at High Kelling for some time. The recent purchase of an additional section of trackbed at High Kelling was also vital, because there is no other route by which the railway could be extended.

We have a written agreement with the NNR which includes operation of modern trains from the national system at selected hours, and an agreement with the MNR which empowers the Trust to negotiate land purchases to enable the extension of their railway into Fakenham.

People from all over the country have donated and given other support, as have the NCC and Parish Councils, and National Lottery Heritage funding has been received for repairs and maintenance of the Trust's bridges at Pudding Norton.

The Trust's objectives are in line with government policy (reversing Beeching) and the Parliamentary Group's report on public transport on heritage railways.

Strategic objectives

Over-riding strategy

The construction of the full orbital route is a long term project. The Trust is proceeding by achievable stages, and expenditure will thus be phased.

The Trust will not need to buy and run its own trains. Its aim is for our line to host services operated by the main line train franchisee.

The reconstruction of the railway will be subject to the standards and requirements of the Office for Rail and Road and will have to be authorised through the legal process of a Transport and Works Order.

Short to medium term

The first priorities are to acquire the routes into Holt and Fakenham, obtain the necessary official permissions and then to begin the construction of the railway over those routes.

This has been done before and is being done again. The NNR extended its line from Weybourne to High Kelling in the 1980's, and the MNR is currently making good progress in extending its line from Dereham to County School on the way to Fakenham.

The Trust needs to build support by local and national government and others with power and influence. Preventing the infilling or demolition of bridge 1711 on the Fakenham route, by Highways England is an example of the strong involvement of MPs Jerome Mayhew and George Freeman, with support by Duncan Baker.

Holt

There is a margin of land on the North side of the Holt by-pass belonging to Norfolk County Council (NCC) which can accommodate the railway. Some years ago NCC offered the Trust this land at little or no cost, although this decision would need to be ratified. Our expert railway engineer has demonstrated that there are adequate clearances to accommodate the railway, and the Trust is currently working to provide the design details required by the relevant authorities.

The Holt by-pass is an existing transport corridor, so there is an advantage of having the railway there. Occasional trains will be hardly noticeable among all the existing traffic.

Taking cars off the road will have significant social, safety, economic and environmental benefits. In Holt this will, for example, help to relieve parking problems, help to develop tourism and local businesses.

The Trust is investigating the possible location of a site in Holt for the railway station. We will be guided in the choice of site by the Holt Town Council and local needs.

Fakenham and surrounding area

Fakenham Town Council is helping us to find a station site in Fakenham, where we have worked with community groups and schools, including the Fakenham Area Conservation Team who are maintaining our site.

The Trust is in discussions with Great Ryburgh Maltings, Network Rail, GB Railfreight and the MNR to investigate the viability of reinstating the rail line back to the Maltings, which would remove a substantial flow of lorry traffic from the area.

Appendix B

Economy

Chances Project

Chances, a £4.9m Norfolk County Council project, co-funded by the European Social Fund, is reaching out to people in Norfolk who have recently lost their jobs or are long-term unemployed who may face barriers to finding work. It aims to help them get back into employment through new opportunities for support and training.

Launched in April 2021, the project has already supported nearly 300 participants on their journey to find employment.

The Norfolk County Council-led Chances for Work and Chances Healthy Living projects are being run by partners Voluntary Norfolk, Citizens Advice Norfolk, Citizens Advice Diss, Thetford and District, and Future Projects. There are local advocates based in each of the seven Norfolk district areas, who work to provide personalised one-to-one support.

Depending on the needs of the individual, the support could include help to identify skills gaps and finding suitable training and qualifications, support to access services to boost health and wellbeing, or finding ways to overcome barriers such as transport or accessing childcare. Support for those with physical or learning disabilities could also include providing help to access services, or assistance from a mental health specialist or disability support specialist who will be working closely with the Chances team.

The project which officially started in April 2021 will run until September 2023.

Individuals who are keen to find out more are welcome to contact the project team directly – for contact details and further information see www.norfolk.gov.uk/chances

Support for Norfolk Entrepreneurs

The Business & IP Centre Norfolk, managed by Norfolk County Council's Library and Information Service, is offering a free six-week online programme that will take budding business owners on a journey from 'Bedroom to Business'.

Over the past 18 months, many people have had to find alternative sources of income, including considering setting up their own business. This programme will help aspiring business owners develop their idea and provide the tools needed to get started.

Bedroom to Business is being delivered by MENTA Business Support and consists of six two-hour workshops with a chance for questions and one-to-one coaching sessions after each workshop.

Starting on Friday 5 November, the six workshops will run weekly and cover topics including: pros and cons of being self-employed; identifying any additional skills needed; developing a business plan; business funding; registering your business.

Workshops will be limited to a maximum of 10 people to allow participants to get the most out of the sessions. If anyone is unable to attend this programme, Bedroom to Business will run again starting in January.

Participants will need to live, work or study in Norfolk or close to a Norfolk library to be eligible for this programme.

For more information and to register, visit [Bedroom to Business](#) or www.bipcnnorfolk.eventbrite.com.

APPENDIX C

District Councillor's Report

Councillor Perry-Warnes

Councillor Vardy

NORFOLK WARM HOMES

North Norfolk District Council, as part of the Norfolk Warm Homes Consortium, has been successful in a bid for £3.85 million of Government grant to provide energy efficiency improvement works to homes occupied by low-income households.

The government grant has a dual purpose, to reduce fuel poverty and to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

Norfolk Warm Homes will use the grant to provide thermal insulation and low carbon heating to replace oil and gas heating systems. Households are eligible if they live in a home with an EPC of D or below and have a gross household income of less than £30,000.

The scheme is open to owner-occupiers and landlords of privately rented housing.

In most cases, eligible owner-occupiers will not need to pay anything towards the costs, landlords will pay a minimum of 1/3rd of the cost of works.

For further information contact NNDC Help Hub