



Minutes of the Holt Town Meeting held on Thursday 5th May 2021 at 7pm at The Venue, Kerridge Way, Holt.

Attending: Cllr Rodney Smith (Mayor), Cllr Phil Wright (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Moore, Cllr Payne, Cllr Traynier, Cllr Prior, Cllr Philo and Cllr Tribe.

There were 20 members of the public present.

1. Welcome from the Holt Town Mayor

1.1 Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To agree the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held via Zoom on 5th May 2021.

2.1 The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting, they were PROPOSED as accurate and correct by Cllr Payne and SECONDED by Cllr Wright and AGREED by all.

3. To receive the Mayors Report

3.1 The Mayor gave his report which can be seen in full at Appendix A.

4. Presentation of the Holt Honours Award

4.1 Cllr Traynier introduced the Holt Honours Awards; the Town Council have received many nominations this year, Cllrs were looking to award those that have gone the extra mile in the last 12 months.

4.2 Awards were presented to;

- George Rudd - for volunteering at Spout Hills for over 20 years.
- John Jarvis - for entertaining social media followers through the pandemic.
- The Community Fridge – volunteers of the Community Fridge for collecting food for the fridge, (Ann, Sam, Mary, Caroline, Dorothy, Judith, Ann and Jan.
- Crows Green Grocers - for providing large donations of food for the Community Fridge.
- Denis Edge – For doing such a brilliant job litter picking throughout the town of Holt.

- Maureen Seekings – For recent efforts in fundraising for the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.

5. To receive an update on the Queens Jubilee Celebrations

5.1 Cllr Smith gave an update on the Jubilee celebrations which will be taking place throughout the town. A programme of events can be seen at Appendix B.

6. To receive an update regarding Greening Holt

6.1 Cllr Tribe gave an update. The full update can be seen at Appendix C.

Public Question Time

- A member of the public requested that the Memorial Gardens were opened for longer. A volunteer group was discussed to help by opening and closing the gardens.
- A member of the public asked how they can access the HTC updates if they don't have access to the internet. The clerk confirmed that quarterly reports feature in the Holt Chronicle and the minutes can be read in the Holt Library.
- A member of the public requested that the litter pick was an annual event which was done earlier in the year as overgrowth was an issue when litter picking the road verges.

7. The Holt Town Council Consultation

7.1 The Clerk reported that the recent consultation was a huge success with a return rate of just under 10%. The top projects as highlighted by members of the public were chosen as

- An additional supermarket for the town
- Improved traffic, congestion and parking
- Faster Broadband

Other projects members of the public wanted to see addressed included resolving many connectivity issues such as a pedestrian crossing over the A148, creating a footway to the Country Park along Norwich Road and a footpath / cycleway to the coast.

The results will be written up and published in the Holt Chronicle and online for all to see.

The meeting ended at 20.03

APPENDIX A

Mayors Report

1 The Town Council has had a very busy year and there is no let up. **Thanks must go to all councillors for their contribution and support in many ways helping the community that we are here to serve.**

2 Early in 2021 the town was still coming to grips with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Town Council initially provided support to many residents arranging for prescriptions and food to be delivered to those sheltering.

3 By Spring 2021 the Town Council returned to its day-to-day work and the office was re-opened along with the Tourist Information which is run by local volunteers. Whilst social distancing remained in place throughout the summer the Tourist Information remained popular and helped to provide information and advice to tourists and locals alike.

The Town Council would like to thank the volunteers for doing such an excellent job.

4 Spring 2021 saw a staff re-organisation with Paul Dulson moving from the Maintenance Team into the office, assisting the Clerk with administration support and Ben Philo becoming a full-time member of the Maintenance Team.

5 HTC welcomed David Owen and Tyler Canning from the Holt Youth Project to the team who all help to maintain many of the green spaces in and around the town.

In addition to the standard day to day maintenance work the team have worked hard to refurbish many of the benches in the town, with 3 new benches installed in the Memorial Gardens this year.

The railings at the Cemetery and the Great Fire of Holt sign on Shirehall Plain has been refurbished.

A tree survey and associated works has been carried out ensuring all trees on HTC land have been inspected and any dangerous trees made safe.

6 We have introduced areas for re-wilding at the cemetery and **HTC has worked with Greening Holt on proving sustainable planting in the town centre. Thanks to Sarah Tribe for putting together a team and direct link to the HTC.**

7 Our thanks to Ray Moore for completing the new re-numbering task for Street Lighting across the town. This makes reporting faults much easier.

8 In the last year HTC have applied for planning permission to modernise the Church Street Toilets introducing a disabled toilet and baby change facility. The work is expected to take place this Autumn, with remedial works due shortly to get the toilets opened ahead of the summer.

9 HTC has secured two parcels of land off Beresford Land, it has been agreed to use one of the sites for outdoor gym equipment, the equipment has been purchased and is in storage we are liaising with the contractor on potential installation dates.

10 The council has been busy planning for the forthcoming Jubilee events which you will hear about later this evening as an item on the agenda.

11 We need to thank Phil Wright and Brian Paine and the whole team of volunteers for all the excellent work they do on Spout Hills and Little Hills.

12 The council have also been working hard behind the scenes on the **Holt Vision 2022 update** which looks to create areas of public realm space in the town. **Currently we only have the Memorial Gardens which are open for part of the year, and we are looking into** the ongoing problem of car parking and congestion.

13 In the coming weeks we will be sharing the **2022 updated plans** with you and welcome any feedback on the proposals. **Our thanks to all councillors for spearheading and supporting that task.**

14 The Town Council is a huge supporter of **the Holt Hopper Bus** and are keen to see it succeed, we are delighted that **the new timetable will take in The Venue and the supermarket and has been adapted to coincide with the Poppy Line Stream Train Timetable** to ensure those visiting via the North Norfolk Railway can easily access the town.

15 The Town Council are in **the final stages of its Neighbourhood Plan** and hope to submit the final plan for examination shortly.

16 We are delighted to be **working with NCC on several Highway projects in the town**, including dropped kerbs and a new cycle parking project, whereby several cycle stands will be installed in the town to support more sustainable travel.

17 The town has received its own SAM2 which was funded by our NCC County Cllr Eric Vardy. The Sam2 is a flashing speed sign which can be installed in any one location for a maximum of 6 weeks at a time. The device records any speeding vehicles, we share all the data with the police so they can target their patrols accordingly.

18 Two Care Home applications have been passed one of which is under construction. These will provide for 132 beds in the homes and valued employment for the community.

19 We will hear this evening the results of the recent consultation, we were pleased with the response rate which was almost 10% of the population. **The results will guide our work for the year ahead and therefore we are grateful for every single person who responded.**

20 It is great to see you here this evening, it has been my pleasure to be your Mayor for the last year and I look forward to working with the other Cllrs in the year ahead to ensure Holt remains a great place to work and live.

APPENDIX B

Jubilee Timetable

Thursday 2nd June

2pm – Speeches at the War Memorial

2.15pm – Unveiling Commemorative Slate on Fish Hill

3pm – *Hot smoke and Danger* on the stage

7pm – 9pm *Third Degree* on the stage

9.15pm Community Choir in front of War Memorial

9.45pm Lighting of the Beacon (War Memorial)

followed by Fireworks

Friday 3rd June

6pm – 7pm Jubilee Civic Service St. Andrews Church

Saturday 4th June

10am Holt Library Film : A Stroll through Georgian Holt

Friends of Holt Library - Launch of the Fairy Doors

Sunday 5th June

12pm – 3pm

Big Community Lunch

(Bring a chair and a picnic)

APPENDIX C

Greening Holt

Greening Holt grew out of my successful TC bid to refresh the high street planters. In writing the bid I began thinking about various ways in which we, as a town, could start to address the green agenda.

GH is a community interest society we have three trustees me the town clerk and the vicar.

GH introduced Holt Cup to the town, the notion of starting a rental cup service for those cafes offering a takeaway beverage, spurred on by Shrewsbury who have a healthy scheme in place.

we received a donation of £1.5k from town residents and wildlife advocates Alastair and Julie Brown from which we have been able to kick-start a couple of new initiatives:

Holt Hives

we've placed two hives in the rewilded part of St Andrew's churchyard

and Holt Habitats

working with Bird Ventures, our wildlife shop in town, we've been installing habitats in/around town at key locations this spring, including the rugby club, scout hut, Memorial gardens and churchyard. Habitats include a kestrel nest box, insect homes and bat roosting boxes.

We had an Open Day fundraiser at Sarah's

Refreshments were supplied by Cross St Union Cafe. From the donations raised, we were aiming to add something to Cross St to acknowledge their generosity and, by kind permission of one of the Chapel apartment owners, we will be able to install a 4x pair nesting box for sparrows.

I enjoyed taking part in the annual litter pick. Lots of residents turned out and many said that they regularly pick up in their own areas of town.

and plans for 2022/23.....

Greening Holt will continue with Holt Habitats

1. out of the open day publicity has come a further £1k donation

which we are looking to spend by creating a swift nest tower (as seen at N&N) that can house up to 40 nesting pairs. Swifts are severely in decline across the UK due to new housebuilding practices, refurbishment of old buildings, less insects and climate change in general. We are looking to partner with Gresham's for this project, hoping

their D&T department might build the tower as a class project, and install on their grounds somewhere. Paul from Bird Ventures is overseeing the project.

2. rather like the famous filmed Kestrels on Norwich Cathedral spire, Sarah's is looking to sponsor an owl nesting box for the town, installing a camera, adding a live feed on TC, Love Holt and other town websites. We need a site that has wifi so Sarah's is looking to partner with Greshams and I have a meeting next week to both view the new Dyson building - and discuss.

3 possible plans to come up with a shopping list of habitats and prices so that anyone can choose to buy for the town - we will make and install

Jubilee Tree/s

we've identified two areas of town for a feature Jubilee tree. The top of Valley Lane, thanks to Bakers and Larners who's site it is, we are considering an ornamental Magnolia.

The second site is the top of Spout Hills, an oak has been chosen to replace one lost in the winter gales.

These commemorative plantings will be a collaboration between B&L's town council and GH

Jubilee planting up the town

GH on hand to provide advice to those who would like to get planted up for Jubilee - and beyond - Celebrating Jubilee throughout our town is a great reason to kick-start a commitment to greening our urban environment and great legacy to carry forward thereafter.

New planting Spout Hills

we're hoping to add cultivated and wild species of fruiting trees and bushes to a specific hedgeline on Spout Hills, we are working with the SH subcommittee group to do so.

Holt Vision focus group

I'm looking forward to representing GH at the 3 day workshop meet next week.

Greening Holt would like to thank the following people/groups who have been instrumental in GH projects in the last year.

Alistair and Julie Brown

Paul Laurie Bird Ventures

St Andrew's Church

Norman (the bee man)

Scouts

Town Council

District Council (highways)

Gresham's

Spout Hills Working Committee

Bakers and Larners

Cross St Union Cafe