

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Holt Town Council

24th April 2023 at 7pm at the St. Andrew's Church Meeting Room

Attendees: Cllr Rodney Smith (Mayor), Cllr Phil Wright (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Ben Philo, Cllr Simon Williams, Cllr Ray Moore, Cllr Sarah Tribe, Cllr Bryan Payne, Cllr Maggie Prior, Cllr Sandy Roper, Cllr Melandra Curley and Town Clerk Gemma Harrison.

9 members of the public present

1. Welcome from Town Mayor

1.1 Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting, an extra special welcome was made to the 9 members of the public.

2. To agree the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting Held on 5th May 2022

2.1 The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and were PROPOSED by Cllr Phil Wright and Cllr Prior SECONDED the minutes which were AGREED BY ALL.

3. To receive the Mayors Report which can be seen in full at Appendix A.

3.1 Special thanks was extended to Cllr Traynier for her 20 years' service and Cllr Wilson and Cllr Curley for their dedication to HTC in the last 4 years.

4. Coronation Celebrations

4.1 The Clerk gave an update on the forthcoming Coronation Celebrations.

5. To receive an update on Greening Holt.

5.1 Cllr Tribe gave an update on Greening Holt. 34 people attended Greening Holt's first public meeting, 1 kestrel box, 2 beehives, 2 feature trees (collaboration with Adnams B&L and HTC) have been delivered in the last year. Greening Holt has installed 3 bat roosting boxes, 6 nesting holes and collaborated with The Feathers, to plant a fruting hedge on Spout Hills.

Public Question Time

- A member of the public raised concerns with regards PF/23/0537 and asked Cllrs what was being done to protect this area of green space adjacent to Spout Hills.
- A Question was asked about the difference between all the development plans, LDF, Emerging Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.

Clerk to ask NNDC whether they can clarify whether the site allocation adjacent to Spout Hills still stands when the new Local Plan is adopted. **GH**

6. Guest Speakers – Glimpses of Holt.

Tony Leech and Steve Benson gave an interesting talk on the history of Holt.

Appendix A – Mayor's Report

Holt Annual Report 22/23

This year has been an exceptionally busy year for Holt Town Council, and we are delighted to share with you some of our Highlights.

Jubilee Events and Funding

We look back on the jubilee celebrations fondly, last June the High Street came alive with local bands performing, we welcomed Lady Dannatt to the town who officially cut our Jubilee cake and unveiled the Jubilee Slates.



We secured 20 free fruiting trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project, thus creating our first community orchard located off Beresford Road. We also (in



partnership with Bakers and Larner's and Greening Holt) planted a Jubilee Magnolia Tree, there will be a long-lasting memory in the town of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's long reign.

Holt Fairy Trail

This year Holt Town Council partnered with Holt Library, Norwich Men's Shed and Holt Primary School to create the Fairy Trail around the town. Artwork from local school children has been turned into Fairy Doors and a walk leaflet shows the trail whereby you can visit all the doors and admire the children's work.



Gym Park

This year saw the opening of the new Gym Park on land off Beresford Road, with an official launch planned for the Summer.

Town Signage

New town signage has been installed on all entrance points to the town. This was partly grant funded by Norfolk County Council through their Parish Partnership

Scheme and goes some way to welcome visitors to the town and advertises some of the town's amenities.

Church Street Parking

The Town Council secured additional temporary parking down Church Street to off set parking lost due to the renovation works at the old carpet shop. The additional parking will be available until the end of the year.

Community Support Fund

The Town Council have been supporting, (along with St. Andrew's church, The Methodist Church, The Treehouse Café, Holt Housing, the Scouts, Holt Youth Project and other local stakeholders) the Holt Community Support Fund. This is a fund for local people to access, to help them with their energy costs. The Town Council were fortunate to be able to secure £10,000 of funding from The Norfolk Community Foundation which they donated to the fund. Residents who are struggling in the cost-of-living crisis are encouraged to access the fund through the North Norfolk Food Bank.

Neighbourhood Plan

Holt has finished writing its Neighbourhood Plan, the plan has gone through examination. A referendum is planned for late June whereby it will be voted on by residents, and if successful, will become fully adopted by NNDC.

Holt Youth Council

This year has also seen the creation of the Holt Youth Council, which is made up by 10 individuals representing the youth in the town. They have some exciting ideas and projects which we look forward to telling you about this year.



Defibrillators

Holt Town Council have added two new defibrillators to its portfolio, one new installation took place on the Harris and James building, and we adopted the Defib on The Sponge building. A new defib will be installed on the Budgens building (in memory of the late Peter McCallister), and The Playing Fields, to replace current defib which is out of action.

Looking to the Future

Holt Town Council continue to work on improving the public realm space in the centre of town and look forward to sharing the proposals from the Holt Vision 2023 with members of the public this autumn.

We have secured £15,000 from NNDC's Sustainable Communities Fund to refurbish the Church Street toilets; we look forward to bringing you a modern facility with a disabled toilet and hot running water.

We will also continue working on Holt's Green Wheel whereby we will be encouraging walking and cycling around the town and improved pedestrian access to Holt Country Park.

We look forward to receiving the new allotments on Heath Farm which are being transferred to us from Lovells.

I speak on behalf of the whole council when I say it has been a pleasure representing the community of Holt over the last year.

Cllr Rodney Smith

(Town Mayor)