

Holt Town Council

The minutes of the Holt Town Council Meeting, held at 7pm on Monday 8th January 2024 at the Meeting Room of Holt Playing Fields Association, Woodfield Road, Holt.

Attendees: Cllr Tribe (Mayor), Phil Wright (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Martin Batey, Cllr Ray Moore, Cllr Maggie Prior, Cllr Sue Barham, Cllr Chris Bishop, Cllr Bryan Payne, Cllr Rodney Smith, Cllr Sandy Roper and Town Clerk Gemma Harrison.

7 Members of the public present.

1. Welcome.

1.1 Cllr Tribe welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Simon Williams (Work commitment).
Apologies were accepted.

2.2 County Cllr Eric Vardy sent his apologies.

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 Batey stated that he had an interest in Item Number 12 (Planning).

3.2 Cllr Moore stated he was a member of Holt Playing Fields and therefore has an interest in item 10.

3.3 Cllr Roper stated she was a member of the Owl Skate Park Committee.

4. Police Matters.

4.1 PC Graham Gower-Smith gave his report via the Clerk. Cllrs raised concerns about the planters in Bull Alley which keep getting pushed over. Clerk to liaise with Graham. GH

5. Announcements by Mayor.

5.1 Cllr Tribe circulated her report prior to the meeting which can be seen at Appendix A.

6. Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (circulated prior to the meeting)

6.1 The minutes of the meeting dated Monday 11th December were circulated prior to the meeting. They were PROPOSED by Cllr Batey and SECONDED Cllr Roper and AGREED by all.

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

- Heath Farm Allotments – The water is connected. Clerk to arrange for the allotment committee to meet to discuss allocation and allotment policies.
- Speeding Nightjar Road – Graham Gower-Smith confirmed that a speeding van has been requested. The Town Council's SAM2 will be installed on Nightjar Road shortly.
- Bank Hub – Cllr Batey stated that Holt is being considered as the first town to receive a Bank Hub. Bank Hubs enable customers to pay money in and take money out something that would be welcomed by residents.
- Cemetery Extension – No update. Clerk to keep trying to contact landowner.
GH
- Post box – The Municipal Committee will lead on providing a post box in the White Lion Street area of town.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Limited to 15 Mins (3 Minutes per person)

The accident on the roundabout at Heath Farm which took place last year was raised. It was confirmed that Lovells had agreed to repair the fencing and are responsible for the land adjacent to the roundabout. Clerk to chase the accident report from NCC Highways. GH

Speeding issues were also raised it was confirmed that HTC were working with the Police to monitor speeding along Nightjar Road.

Trees on Nightjar Road – Cllr Tribe and the Clerk will raise tree planting with Lovells.

A resident confirmed that NCC Highways have agreed to put in two wooden cycle bollards on the cycle track.

A member of the public raised a question regarding the now expired planning application PF/20/3064 for signage. Clerk to investigate. GH

Timothy Schofield attended the meeting as a representative of the landowner of the old Thaxter's site. Tim stated that the site would be cleared, levelled, and fencing repaired. Planning permission for a temporary car park was being explored by the landowner, with the hope that if all was well it would be open for use ahead of the main summer season.

5 members of the public left the meeting

8. Reports;

- **Norfolk County Council** – County Cllr Eric Vardy's report was circulated in advance of the meeting and can be seen in full at Appendix B. Cllr Prior stated that Holt is not getting sufficient support regarding problems and ongoing concerns from residents. Cllr Prior stated it was unclear where Holt is featuring in the decision making at higher authorities.
- **North Norfolk District Council** – Martin Batey gave his report and stated the ongoing concerns with homelessness at NNDC and the financial pressures this is having on the council, which could result in a loss of services. The Local Plan Hearings will be held in January and February. Orsted will be bringing large vehicles through the town on A148. More details can be found on the Orsted website.
- **Love Holt** – No report.
- **Greening Holt** - Report circulated prior to the meeting and can be seen in full at Appendix C.
- **Skate Park Committee** – Report circulated and can be seen at Appendix D. The Playing Fields Association have given their support for the skate park. Fundraising is going well, and the Christmas Party was a success.

9. Streetlights

9.1 Norfolk County Council has declined HTC's request for additional streetlighting on Letheringsett Hill and Thornage Road. There is the opportunity to appeal the decision by demonstrating the need for the lighting, this is done by providing crime or accident data to support the request. Clerk to ensure County Cllr Eric Vardy is aware of the process and the disappointment of HTC of not getting the required approval. GH

10. Playing Fields

10.1 Cllrs raised concerns regarding the deed of dedication. Clerk to go back to the Fields in Trust to ask for this to be removed. GH

11. Employment Land

11.1 Clerk to ask Rob Young to reconsider starter units for Holt and request that a further update is sought for any interest by companies to locate their premises in Holt. GH

12. Planning (Report circulated prior to the meeting)

12.1 The planning report was circulated prior to the meeting and is available on the Holt Town Council website. There were no planning applications for consideration this month. The report was AGREED by all present.

12.2 Cllr Prior requested permission to approach the NNDC Planning and Planning Enforcement Teams regarding the narrow pavement on Peacock, and particularly the location of recently built brick wall. This was AGREED by all present. **MP**

13. Finance (circulated prior to the meeting)

13.1 The payments of £22814.18 and receipts of £10837.91 were circulated prior to the meeting. They were PROPOSED by Cllr Batey and SECONDED by Cllr Wright and AGREED by all. Clerk to arrange for the payments to be made. **GH**

13.2 The quote (£1950) for a column replacement for the light column No.65 on Peacock Lane was AGREED.

13.3 The quote (£2950) for a new light column on Fish Hill was AGREED. It was noted that the funding would come from the remaining MTI grant funding received from NNDC.

13.4 The above two quotes were PROPOSED by Cllr Smith and SECONDED by Cllr Payne and AGREED by all.

14. Correspondence

14.1 None reported.

15. Council Award Scheme

15.1 Cllr Wright PROPOSED renewing the Council Award Scheme and paying the associated admin costs to do so, this was Seconded by Cllr Batey and AGREED by all. **GH**

16. Agree items for the next Agenda.

FIT Transfer of Playing Fields to HTC.

17. Agree date and time of next meeting.

17.1 Town Council Meeting Monday 12th February 2024 at 7pm at Holt Playing Fields.

Meeting ended 8.25pm

Appendix A - Mayors Report

A busy festive month in our town....

I attended and switched on the care home lights December 1st, made most welcome and got to meet residents, relatives, as well as those that worked there.

By request, I read one of the 9 lessons at St Andrew's service. Great to see youth councillor chair Daisy Burn also there reading a lesson too.

Christmas day I went along to the Community Centre to help Karen and any volunteers. What an amazing time we all had! The team had turned up from Weybourne, Sheringham, West Runton, having seen help wanted advertised. Good to see our Sue there, good to spend some time working alongside each other too. It was hard to realise that nobody had met anybody before. I asked the man who had elected to go on washing up duties had he ever operated a commercial dishwasher before - he said no, first time for everything. We all sat and ate our meal together, I think we plated up for around 50 people. I delivered some meals out to people who could not get in to the centre. Very sobering, one lady had a few tears on her doorstep and we shared a moment of support and love at what can often be such a difficult time for some.

Thank you all for a great positive progressive council this past year, we have a number of things coming to fruition - playing fields, Vision, and I am sure we shall all continue in our own quarters to support this great town going forward.

Appendix B – County Cllr Eric Vardy's Report

Twenty-seven brand new gritters to join Norfolk's fleet

Twenty-seven brand new gritters will be taking to the roads for the first time later this winter in a £3,238,000 boost to the annual push to help keep Norfolk moving safely during the winter months.

The news comes as crews completed their first gritting runs of the season at the weekend, treating routes in the west, inland north and south and east coast areas of the county.

Norfolk's fleet of 58 winter vehicles treat 2,200 miles of roads on each full 3-hour gritting run. All A and B-class roads and some C-class roads are treated with a focus on commuter and major bus routes and as far as is possible one route into all villages. Our salt domes are fully stocked, crews are ready to go, and our experienced highway team are keeping a close eye on weather sensors and detailed specialist forecasts that that help inform where and when gritting will be taking place.

To help keep people moving around safely this winter, however they choose to travel, we'll again be providing information and advice on social media with the hashtag #NorfolkWinter.

Find more information on our website here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/winter

SHORT BREAKS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Proposals to increase the range of short breaks for children with disabilities and open them up to siblings and other family members are to be discussed by councillors tomorrow.

Norfolk County Council wants to change how it supports children with disabilities, by funding short breaks that best meet children's needs, are closer to their homes and can support their wider family.

It follows consultation over the summer, which looked at moving from a model that assigns a specific budget to a family, based on a child's disability, to a new approach that would look at a child's needs and work with their family to find the right activities to help them flourish.

The budget for short breaks will continue to be £3.5m per year and the council has pledged that children will not have their activities reduced. The approach, which is also used by other local authorities, is much more focused on children's outcomes and interests, rather than their disability. It also means the council has greater flexibility to buy services for multiple children from some activity providers, meaning that more children could benefit from a break.

The council wants to expand the activities it buys for families, to offer more options and flexibility. This might mean changes in some of the funding parents receive to buy activities directly, but the value of the package of breaks will remain the same, or increase.

Part of the council's strategy is also to support existing activity providers to support children with disabilities, where it is appropriate for the needs of the child, so that they can access fun inclusive activities in their own community alongside their peers.

The proposals and the feedback from public consultation will be discussed by the council's People and Communities Select Committee when it meets on 17 November.

Cllr Fran Whymark, Chairman of the People and Communities Select Committee, said: "Short breaks provide fun activities for children and respite for their families. We know that they are a real lifeline for families, which is why it's important that we get any changes to what we are offering right and why we consulted with families who use the service before implementing any changes.

"I welcome any proposal which focuses on looking at what is best for individual children, and their families, and which provides greater choice and more local activities, particularly given the rural nature of Norfolk."

Norfolk County Council ran a consultation with families between 27 June and 2 August and had more than 200 responses, 43% of people agreed or strongly agreed with a change in the assessment process and 31% disagreed or strongly disagreed. The remainder didn't answer, didn't agree or disagree, or didn't know. Eighty-two percent agreed or strongly agreed that activities should be opened up to family members, including siblings.

If agreed, the changes would apply to new children accessing short breaks from April 2024. Other children would move to the new model gradually, as their package comes up for review.

County Deal for Norfolk update for a directly elected Leader.

At a full council meeting on 12 December 2023, Councillors accepted a £600 million devolution deal for Norfolk. The deal will also mean that decisions can be taken in Norfolk, for Norfolk.

The council voted to accept a county deal devolution agreement with the Government to transfer significant funding, powers and decisions to Norfolk.

Government funding will start transferring to Norfolk next summer if councillors vote in July 2024 to stage the first election for a leader in May 2025.

The full council agreed the following recommendations:

Council:

- Recognises the work carried out during 2023 to consult with the public, inform Members and prepare plans in relation to the 'in-principle' County Deal brought to Council in January this year
- Commends the work undertaken by the Leader and Officers to secure additional benefits for the Norfolk County Deal and resolves that the Deal should be accepted
- Agrees that the election for the Directly Elected Leader should be held alongside the county council elections in May 2025 to enable the widest possible engagement with the electorate
- Agrees that the resolution adopting the new governance arrangements should be brought to the Full Council meeting on 23 July 2024 to facilitate that election date

Appendix C – Greening Holt Report

We managed to get a slice in the Chronicle asking central town residents and businesses to contact us if they would be prepared to have a swift nest box installed. Paul from Bird Ventures has agreed to continue to make and fit, assuming the location is suitable.

We also were able to advertise our upcoming three winter talks, in conjunction with Eco Church. This is something Trish has been taking forward and working together with them. The first is - Finding Out About Holt's Green Edges - Tony Leech. Thursday 18 January 6.30 - 8pm.

Church Meeting Room, St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Holt NR25 6BB.

ALL WELCOME - FREE EVENT

Each event will include refreshments and opportunities to connect and share ideas for yourself and nature.

I am chasing up those concerned to try to get the waterbutts purchased for last summer installed, finally.

We are in discussions with Lovells to see some slices of good practice be incorporated in their developments, noticeably wild areas instead of short mown, fruit bearing trees where possible, nature-inspired gifts included in their new owners' welcome packs.

We are working with Gemma to move forward the Green Wheel initiative. I believe the first section will involve signposting from town centre to the country park via Lovells new site? We hope to help with artwork, map, plans for next phase.

We will be helping St Andrews re-stock their bees, one lost to wasp attack mid-autumn (I lost one on my allotment plot too). It was a particularly vicious year for wasps, the mild weather meant they didn't die off, or go into hibernation, but remained active - and hungry. They were an issue reported by many beekeepers.

Greening Holt's donation helped to kick start the hives for the church, it is understood that they are now responsible for any costs going forward.

St Andrew's has a donation they wish to put towards a new nucleus for the hive. Norman and I continue to oversee and maintain.

We look forward to seeing the new planting at Fish Hill really take off this spring, we hope other areas of town will take enthusiasm and consider any improvements they may wish to make in their own spaces.

I shall be emailing Eric's county contact again regarding possible space/places for any new planting projects.

Thank you for allowing us to update you throughout this year,
Sarah and Trish.

Appendix D – Owl Skate Park Report



January 2024

I'm pleased to report that at the HPFA Committee meeting held on 18th December 2023 it was agreed that we could now go ahead with our HOS initiative and is written into the minutes. We have done our best to allay fears over possible vandalism and antisocial behaviour to football and other equipment expressed by the HPFA. To this end I contacted PC Graham Gower-Smith, The Reef and Tim Adams asking for an honest reply as to whether the skateparks in Sheringham and Cromer had caused an increase in vandalism and other antisocial behaviour. Graham reported that the two beat officers in those towns said there had been no problems connected with the skatepark users. Tim said there will be teething problems which are a sign of the times but there had been no antisocial behaviour and that although skatepark users had been accused of graffiti and paint spraying around the town this was found to be untrue and was,

in fact, a group of youngsters who were on a residential that had caused the trouble.

The manager of The Reef said the skatepark situated near there had proved an asset, especially on hot days when they sold lots of drinks and slushies! No antisocial behaviour at all and the skatepark users were considerate and looked after the skatepark.

This was presented to the HPFA and was acceptable to the majority. Thanks to Ray Moore for supporting HOS from the start and in the meeting.

We have asked that HOS now be affiliated to HPFA and it is on the Agenda for their next meeting.

An email from FIT confirmed that HPFA did not require their permission to have a skatepark built on site unless it was to lease the land, which is not the case so I would ask HTC to confirm that if they took over the Trusteeship then the HOS initiative could continue.

The free children's party hosted by HOS and Holt Community Centre was a really good community event with support from many organisations and individuals. HOS did a raffle, tombola and craft stall which raised £345 including donations for facepainting, and a further donation of £100 was given by a local business woman. It was hard work but very rewarding. The main focus was to give children a free party, but it also showed our community can come together when needed.

The first part of this year HOS committee members will be working towards getting charitable status and hopefully will recruit the requisite number of Trustees to enable this.