

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Holt Town Council

20th May 2024 at 7pm at the St. Andrew's Church Meeting Room

Attendees: Cllr Sarah Tribe (Mayor), Cllr Phil Wright (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Simon Williams, Cllr Ray Moore, Cllr Anita Jones, Cllr Bryan Payne, Cllr Sandy Roper, Cllr Rodney Smith, Cllr Chris Bishop, Cllr Tony Pointer and Town Clerk Gemma Harrison.

8 members of the public present.

1. Welcome from Town Mayor

1.1 Cllr Tribe welcomed everyone to the meeting, an extra special welcome was made to the 8 members of the public.

2. To agree the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting Held on 24th April 2023.

2.1 The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and were PROPOSED by Cllr Williams and SECONDED by Cllr Roper and AGREED BY ALL.

3. To receive the Mayors Report.

3.1 Cllr Tribe gave the Annual Mayor Report, which can be seen in full at Appendix A.

4. Police Report

4.1 PC Graham Gower-Smith gave his report summarising criminal activity in the past year. Anti-Social behaviour in Holt continues to be a problem which Graham is tackling. It was noted that the recent anti-social behaviour at the allotments has now been resolved.

4.2 Members of the public asked PC Graham Gower-Smith questions regarding what could be done to tackle anti social behaviour from younger members of the community. It was noted that it was only one or two families in the town which were being a nuisance, the majority of youths are very well behaved.

Public Participation

- A resident asked that the Annual Town Meeting next year is advertised in the Holt Chronicle. The Clerk agreed to advertise the meeting more widely.
- A resident asked why the Memorial Gardens were not open on Sunday's. The Clerk responded that it was down to staffing and that trials using volunteer groups had not been successful.

5. Guest Speaker - Douglas Robb – Gresham's Headmaster

- 5.1 Douglas Robb gave an update on the recent Holt Hall planning proposal. It was noted that the proposal included a Study Centre which would be open to local schools and community groups to use. The planning process was complex with many assessments and studies needed to ensure the local heritage, environment and wildlife were being adequately protected.
- 5.2 It is hoped that planning permission will be granted in August 2024, with building work starting in January 2025 and the new Prep School being ready to open in September 2026.

6. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

- 6.1 The Mayor extended her thanks to Cllrs and staff for a successful year.
- 6.2 It was noted that the next Holt Town Council Meeting will be held on Monday 10th June at 7pm at Holt Playing Fields.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm

Appendix A – Mayor's Annual Report

Let me start by welcoming all our new Councillors.....

Anita, Sue, Chris and Tony

We have successfully completed the **Fish Hill Bull Alley project**, funded by a market town initiative grant.

Fish Hill has communal seating areas and planters along with Bull Alley.

After a temporary license received no objections, Bull Alley has also been closed to traffic, with drop bollards from the high street end to allow for emergency access.

A big thank you to all those involved in this project especially the retailers of Fish Hill who had the vision and time to see it through.

New cycle parking has been installed throughout the town to encourage residents and visitors to come into town on their bikes. The new cycle parking is very popular in the summer months.

The **Church Street Toilets** have been refurbished and due to be opened tomorrow (Tuesday 21st May). The toilets were handed over to HTC from NNDC in 2010 they were in a poor condition. The recent refurb (which was part funded by the NNDC Sustainable Communities Fund Grant), has included a new disabled toilet with baby change facilities, hot water, a new roof and automatic locks on the doors.

The **Holt Neighbourhood Plan** was adopted in August 2023 and creates new planning policy for consideration by NNDC when determining planning applications in Holt. A huge thank you to the Neighbourhood Plan Committee who worked hard over a number of years drafting the plan and a big thank you to everyone who turned out on the day to vote for it. Going forward it is likely the plan will be reviewed to include more policies such as identifying land for a cemetery extension.

The town now has a **Youth Council**, thanks to the endeavours of Councillor Sandy to get this initiative up and running. The Youth Council's first project was to install more **accessible play equipment** at George V Playing Field. The Youth Council visited Woodfield's School in Sheringham to gain a better understanding of what pieces of accessible play equipment exist, the Youth Cllrs all really enjoyed using the accessible roundabout. Earlier this year, with thanks to the Youth Council and Sandy for their hard work, and Paul for project managing the installation, an accessible roundabout was installed at George V Playing Field. The Youth

Council have also gone on to design postcards for the Tourist Information and have kindly agreed to donate any funds raised to the Owl Skate Park.

George V was the focal point to our **Coronation Celebrations**, HTC hosted a free event using funding from the National Lottery to celebrate His Majesty the King's Coronation. The Police, Fire Brigade and Scouts joined our celebrations. A huge thank you to the Owl Tea Rooms for supporting the event and lending us their trailer for serving drinks.

Last year also saw the planting of the **Community Orchard**, off Beresford Road, the orchard was planted in memory of the late Philip High who lived nearby. We hope to further extend the planting this autumn. The orchard and new seating has transformed the area making a relaxing area for local residents to enjoy.

Just over the road from the orchard is the new **Coronation Gym Park** which offers a full body work out without the monthly subscription costs of a gym. The equipment has proved very popular with residents.

The Town Council has also **re-surfaced Letheringsett Car Park**, a job in which the Council looks to do every 10 years. The car park over time develops potholes which can become problematic for the car park tenants aswell as those pedestrians visiting Spout Hills. Another big thank you to Paul Dulson for managing the project so efficiently.

This last year ...

A new role of **Town Ranger** has been devised, one that will give greater responsibility for the general running of the maintenance of our town but also the ability to push further into new areas that we can improve on.

We are now **live on social media**, posting regular updates on Instagram and Facebook about council meetings, minutes, events in our town.

Work on Spout Hills continues. Spring/summer activities include grass cutting, keeping the stream clear, bracken removal, cutting down broken branches and moving them to the log pile and removing excessive vegetation from the pond. A big thank you to the sub-committee for their continuing efforts.

A series of **wildflower walks** throughout May and June are being given by Vice Chairman Tony Leech.

"Over a period of several months, the Employment Land Committee and the Chair of the Holt Neighbourhood Plan Committee attended the staggered meetings held by NNDC in the organisation of the new North Norfolk Local Plan. We presented information relevant to

Holt's development and observed the larger picture of a plan for North Norfolk. We also had the opportunity to ascertain any impact or possible opportunities for Holt, and these were then conveyed to the Inspector. We await the new North Norfolk Local Plan in the very near future." (Cllrs Payne, Prior, Moore, Wright & Batey)

"There was Councillor representation at the initial meetings regarding a possible BID (Business Improvement District) proposal. It is early days, but may well prove to be of interest to our whole Community. There is more information gathering to be done, but HTC will be included in this as it is discussed. There will be future marketing from those involved in this project as and when it is appropriate. Do look out for it, as by responding with your views or suggestions you become actively involved."

And let's take a moment to look forward and consider this year's aims -

We are currently negotiating an extra **post box** for the town, to be cited near the tree on Star Plain.

The Municipal Committee is looking to start a scheme to **refurb existing benches** and add new. If you would like to gift the cost of one, they can be with a dedication or anonymous, please contact Councillor Chris via the HTC website.

We are in the process of taking back the ownership of our **town playing fields** from being held in trust. This has involved alot of paperwork and understanding but we are almost there.

Lovells new site on the bypass is enabling us to complete the first section of our proposed **Green Wheel** where we will be highlighting all our wonderful green public realm space around our town by way of maps and signage. Lovells are also looking to partner with Holt Country Park to allow managed access from the site into the park itself.

The past 12 months I have been delighted to represent both your council and the wider town at the following events;

- Holt Community Centre AGM
- Open Day for The Lawns
- Consultation regarding the future of Blakeney Surgery
- Community Centre Open Meeting
- USAF Lakenheath base tour
- NNDC meeting to talk about The Vision

- Defibrillator training
- Gresham's public-school exhibition
- Remembrance Sunday Parade
- Switching on the Care Home lights
- Attending the community meeting regarding bypass roundabout issues
Multiple meetings with Lovells concerning the Green Wheel and partnering with Greening Holt.
- St Georges day service at St Andrews
- Open evening at King's Court new Care Home
- Holt Caring AGM