

Holt Town Council

Annual Town Meeting dated 22nd April 2026.

Holt Community Centre, Kerridge Way, Holt, NR25 6DN

Attendees: Cllr Sarah Tribe (Mayor), Cllr Phil Wright (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Ray Moore, Cllr Chris Bishop, Cllr Bryan Payne, Cllr Anita Jones and Cllr Simon Williams.

10 members of the public were present

1. Welcome from the Holt Town Mayor.

1.1 Cllr Sarah Tribe welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To agree the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 28th April 2025.

2.1 The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and PROPOSED as accurate and correct by Cllr Simon Williams and SECONDED by Cllr Philip Wright and AGREED by all.

2. To receive the Mayors Report for the year 25/26

2.1 The Mayors Report was read by Cllr Tribe, and a copy can be seen in Appendix A.

2.2 Cllr Tribe announced that Holt United Football Club will be playing in the Premier Division next year after winning their league this year. Cllr Tribe extended her congratulations to the team from everyone at Holt Town Council.

Public Question Time

To receive questions from the electors

- A member of the public asked whether there were any plans to adjust the parking arrangements due to the increased traffic on Kelling Road. It was noted that NCC Highways will be monitoring it as part of the Holt Hall redevelopment.
- A member of the public stated that visibility is an issue on Kelling Road due to the parked cars. It was suggested that alternative parking for traders was needed. Cllrs agreed to promote further the free parking at Holt Playing Fields.

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- A member of the public suggested station road car park to be enlarged by creating another level. Cllrs stated that this had been explored before by NNDC.
- A member of the public asked about the new school build and NCC's stance on the new school site. Cllrs stated they were very supportive of the new school, but NCC had paused the build due to falling school numbers. Cllr Tribe asked for some information to be shared on the HTC website to provide residents with a summary of where we are and an overview of what HTC have done to date.
- A member of the public stated the new bus shelter, community orchard, chapel yard refurbishment and the longer opening hours for the Memorial Gardens were all welcomed additions to the town and thanked the Town Council.
- A member of the public asked for an update on the development of the Police Station site. Cllrs stated that they objected to the site and it has recently been lost at appeal. Cllrs expect that another application will be made in due course.

3. Consultation and Surgery Update

3.1 The Clerk gave an update on the Spring Surgery, the Resident Survey and the Parent consultation on school choices. The Resident Survey and Parent Survey are still live and residents are encouraged to respond to them. Paper copies are available at Nelson House and online access to the surveys can be found on the HTC's social media pages.

3.2 A full report on both consultations will be shared at June's HTC meeting and also available in the Holt Chronicle and in the Holt Library.

3.3 Cllr Tribe thanked Gemma, Paul and Jamie for their hard work in setting up the Annual Meeting and throughout the year. Cllr Tribe extended her thanks to fellow Cllrs for a successful year on the council.

The meeting ended at 19.05pm

Appendix A

Annual Report 25/26

Chapel Yard Refurbishment

The biggest project HTC have achieved this year is the refurbishment of Chapel Yard. The Town Council worked alongside the local businesses and landowner to secure grant funding from North Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council to deliver the much-needed improvements. The project was also part funded by tenants, the landowner and landlords. The money put forward allowed for the yard to be resurfaced, a bench and planters to be installed and additional signage, banners and a café carrier to be purchased. The yard has been transformed with businesses already reporting improved footfall since its reopening earlier this month.

Volunteers

We would like to thank the many regular volunteers who make up a working party on the Spout Hills every Wednesday morning and on the last Saturday of every month. The group maintain the site for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. It is the hidden gem of Holt, and we are very lucky to have such a talented group of volunteers looking after the site on behalf of the Town Council.

The Town Council would like to also extend thanks to the 19 volunteers who currently run the Tourist Information Centre. They have helped over 4000 visitors some travelling as far as New Zealand to visit us. We are now opening the Tourist Information Centre on a Saturday morning 10am – 12.30pm and have welcomed two new volunteers, Linda and Sheila to the team.

Holt Town Council Grants

Each year we allocate some money to community groups to help with local projects. This has always been greatly appreciated as grants have become increasingly difficult to find. The recipients of the grant awards in 25/26 were:

- Holt Playing Fields Association - £300 towards CCTV
- Holt Community Centre - £250 towards entertainment lighting
- Glaven Valley Caring Society - £200 towards new chess club
- Tree House Café - £300 towards the new Treehouse Sewing Bee
- Holt Bowls Club - £250 towards kitchen improvements
- Owl Skate Park - £250 towards the new skate park
- Holt Allotment Society - £250 towards a community orchard
- Holt Brownies - £250 towards running costs
- Holt Rainbows - £250 towards running costs

The Holt Town Grants have been launched for 26/27, and application forms are available from the HTC website, paper copies are available this evening and from the Tourist Information at Nelson House.

Youth Council

The Holt Youth Council continue to meet regularly to push forward ideas from our younger residents. The Council been working with Flagship Homes to improve the small park on Lodge Close. They have also been working on producing an Open Spaces Leaflet, promoting the green spaces and parks to younger people in the town.

Team news

This year HTC have said a fond farewell to Ben Philo who has been working with the HTC Maintenance Team since 2021. We have recruited a new Town Ranger, Jamie Barnes, who has been with us from 1st March. Both Jamie and the Town Clerk are now full time with offices in Nelson House in the centre of town. The Town Clerk is supported by the Office Manager who is part time.

HTC also employs two custodians to open, close and clean the Church Street Toilets and open and close the Memorial Gardens. Both of which are open 7 days a week 8.30am – 4pm.

New Bus Shelter – North Norfolk Railway

Some of you may have noticed the new bus shelter which has been installed outside the North Norfolk Railway. This has been purchased and installed using central government funding, the project has been managed by Norfolk County Council. The shelter will have real time bus information and space to promote Holt. We know in peak season the train can bring up to 300 passengers into the station but only a relatively small proportion make it into the town. The new larger shelter we hope will encourage those visiting the railway into town.

Supporting Residents

HTC have been in regular contact with Norfolk County Council to better understand the decision making behind the delay with the new Holt Primary School. HTC Cllrs will continue to lobby for the new school to be built.

HTC are also supporting the proposal for a cheaper supermarket to be built in the town. Both planning application for Lidl and Aldi are with NNDC for determination.

Consultations

HTC currently have two live consultations.

One is for parents to better understand what is important to them when choosing a Primary School. If you have a baby or child aged 11 or younger and live in the Holt Primary Catchment, please do take the opportunity to fill in the questionnaire. Results will be shared with NCC and Holt Primary School.

The second consultation is a resident survey seeking views on what can be done to improve Holt for its residents.

Both surveys can be filled in online, or paper copies are also available this evening or from Nelson House.

Church Street Toilets

We continue to receive positive feedback regarding the Church Street Toilets. The modern toilet block is cleaned daily. As part of the ongoing maintenance, they are due to be repainted this Spring.

Community Policing

HTC continue to work closely with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. We understand there has been some anti-social behaviour in the town over recent weeks and we are pleased PC Graham Gower-Smith was able to join us this evening to speak to residents. Cllrs highly value the Neighbourhood Policing Team and thank them and especially PC Graham Gower-Smith for all his help and support in the last year. Residents are reminded to report any crime to the Police via 101 or in an emergency via 999.

Engagement

In March we hosted our second annual invited North Norfolk mayors meet, hugely beneficial to meet in person and share similar and individual things from our respective towns. Dialogue between us is key in helping one another and also the ability to join together to tackle some of our general themes on block. Subjects discussed included free town centre parking and dwell time, town events (Christmas lights, Easter windows, 1940's) Sunday trading, Holt's Youth Council. It was agreed we would make this a double annual event. Our next meeting was then set for September.

We held our first Spring Surgery during the second week of April, an opportunity to come and meet your council, learn about how a small town governs itself, and the

work undertaken by Councillors of your behalf. Alongside the Residents Survey consultation (mentioned above) the week-long drop in surgery gave residents the chance to ask questions, discuss views, seek help. A rotation of Councillors and our town clerk were available every day.