

HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting held online on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 6pm.

There were 6 members of the Parish Council present, 9 parishioners, and Dave Watkins, Clerk to the Parish Council, taking Minutes. Mrs. Lynn Devereux, Chair of the Parish Council acted as Chair for the meeting.

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their interest and attendance.

1. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting

It was noted that due to the coronavirus pandemic last year's meeting did not take place.

2. Matters arising from the 2020 meeting:

As last year's meeting did not take place there were no matters arising.

3. Chair's Report on the year of the Parish Council: Report by Chair of the Parish Council n, Lynn Devereux (see attached)

The role of the Parish Council continues to be that of representing the views and interests of parishioners, to manage resources and a budget on behalf of the Parish and to act as a channel for consultation and communication with the Borough and County Councillors, our MP and with higher tier authorities.

In addition to the day-to-day role of managing the Parish Assets, the Parish Council continues to deal with issues of dog bins, drainage, planning, environment, and highways. New benches have been installed around the village and these will be supplemented by cycle racks and interpretation boards in the near future.

The effects of the pandemic have been felt in regard to parish business, the life of the community, the tourist economy, and the associated visitor pressures on our environment. Figures gathered by the Parish Council indicate that Holme Dunes attracted in excess of a quarter of a million visits last year.

The Parish Council had been an early adopter of the Zoom platform for continuing meetings which had also seen a positive increase in the number of members of the public attending and participating. The Chair thanked the parishioners for their efforts and sacrifices which had seen the virus kept under control.

The Parish Council continues to be financially very sound and as in previous years there will be no requirement for a precept this year.

The Parish Council continue to see a large number of planning applications for a parish of its size. Between January 2020 and the end of the financial year almost 30 planning applications were dealt with. Although many of these were for relatively modest improvements to people's homes there were some that fell into the category of Major Development. If permitted, these would have a significant impact on visitor pressure, traffic, and the environment which, if not protected, risks damaging the very thing that is fundamental in attracting both residents and visitors to Holme in the first place.

Although the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Referendum has been postponed until after the May 2021 local elections due to the pandemic, it was noted that the Borough Council have been using the NDP policies as material consideration in determining planning applications.

The Chair of the Parish Council also highlighted the effects of a very wet winter which had put a strain on the drainage network and seen areas of the village flooded. These extremes of weather and increased visitor pressure have also put a strain on sea defences, something the Environment Agency has said they will help address.

The Parish Council was delighted to have been successfully nominated for an award through the West Norfolk Heroes Scheme and to receive a special note of thanks from the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk for their work during a challenging year.

- 4. Responsible Financial Officer's Report from the Parish Council** : Report by Responsible Financial Officer, Dave Watkins (see attached).
Headline figures for the year were £37,700 for income and £23,800 for expenditure, resulting in a balance of £13,900 for the year.

In addition to the running costs of the Parish Council money was spent on a defibrillator, strimmer, new signage, and replacement benches.

The pandemic has seen both income and expenditure affected but the Parish Council continues with healthy balances in both its current and business saving accounts and therefore there is no requirement for a precept this year.

One of the major improvements to the financial management of the Parish Council's assets has been the adoption of online banking in May 2020.

- 5. Village Hall Committee Report:** Report by Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, Robert Burton
The Village Hall had seen a significant fall in receipts due to the lack of hall hire bookings and the hall has not been in use for community activities. However, a government-backed grant had been received to help compensate for this and a decision taken to use some of this money to install secondary glazing to improve the main hall environment for the benefit of the community.
- 6. Village Trust Report:** Report by Trustee, Robert Burton
No requests for support had been received and the Trust's balance at the end of year was £34,088
- 7. Holleys Charity Report:** Report by Chairman, Tony Foster (see attached).
The three current Trustees are Ann Rossington, Janet Foster, and Tony Foster.

The Charity is registered with The Charity Commission as No. 207554 'Benjamin Holley' with the working title of the "Holleys Charity" and its activities are listed as "For the relief of the industrious poor of the village of Holme-next-the-Sea".

The only source of income is from the rent paid for land owned by the Charity. In the financial year 1st April 2019 until 31st March 2020 the Charity's income was £570 and expenditure amounted to £525 and in the financial year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 the Charity's income was £570 and expenditure was £545. All of the expenditure was in the form of gifts to parishioners given at the discretion of the Trustees.

8. **Village Information Network Report:** Report by parishioner and VIN Manager Tony Foster (see attached).

The Village Information Network (the VIN) was set up on 22nd January 2016.

There are currently 180 email addresses registered to receive VIN messages and there have been 1,048 VIN messages sent. Of particular note is the VIN's coverage of matters connected with COVID-19 during the pandemic and a number of subscribers had been kind enough to express their appreciation for the enhanced service during this difficult time. During the last six months or so the VIN has experienced difficulties with some email providers where VIN messages have been identified as spam and 'bounced' or rejected. It would be really helpful if all VIN subscribers were to ensure that they mark VIN emails as 'safe' or 'not spam' or 'not junk'.

9. **Any other business noted to the Clerk**

None reported

10. **Open Forum**

The following items were raised by parishioners:

- The low frequency of road sweeping within the village
- The re-location of the dog waste bin from Marsh Lane to the north-end of Beach Road adjacent to the golf course
- Fire reported at 22 Eastgate
- Footpath access between 22 and 24 Eastgate

The Meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

Signed: *LS Devereux* Chair

Date: 10/5/22