

HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7 PM ON TUESDAY 12TH MAY 2015

PRESENT: 4 Parish Councillors
7 Members of the Public
Parish Clerk

1. MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

The Chairman, Councillor Young, opened the meeting, welcomed those who had attended and read the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2014. These were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2014 MEETING.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman's Report was circulated to all those present and is attached. Councillor Young wanted to particularly thank Councillor David Myles for all his years on the Parish Council and as Chairman and everyone had been sad to see him go. He also said that Councillor Needham was unable to be at the meeting as he had recently undergone serious surgery and wished him a speedy recovery. He commented that the Parish Council spend a great deal of time dealing with Planning Applications and although it often feels it does not have a great deal of power, the Council continues to review Applications and is now questioning the monitoring of enforcement of any conditions attached. Work had been completed at Park Piece during the past year and it was felt the monolith and seating had been well received. There are on-going discussions concerning Common Rights raising important issues about common land. The Council welcomed the work done by the Environment Agency at the end of Beach Road and continue to work to maintain the relationship with that Agency, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Golf Club and others who may affect the life of the village. Councillor Young finally thanked the Councillors and the Parish Clerk for all their hard work over the previous year.

Concern was expressed regarding the pile of rubbish by the old tree on Park Piece which is apparently the remainder of the chippings used for the monolith. It was agreed this would be referred to the next Parish Council meeting.

A parishioner queried progress being made on the installation of additional seating on Park Piece at the access from Peddars Way as some people are unable to walk to the other benches. It was explained that two parishioners want to provide benches as memorials and it had been hoped that they could be made by the same supplier as those by the monolith but that this was not proving possible and 'off the shelf' benches were now being organised.

4. RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Responsible Finance Officer's (RFO) Report and Summary Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2015 was available for everyone at the meeting and a copy is attached. The RFO stated that the majority of the Council's income was generated by rents received from the Caravan Park and that Bank interest remained dismal at 0.5%. The installation of LED lighting had resulted in a substantial reduction in street lighting costs, some donations had been made to charities and some funds used for the benefit of the Village Hall. There is a large carry forward figure, some of which will be used for the refurbishment of the toilet and storage area at the Village Hall.

A query was raised regarding the recipients of charitable donations and the Clerk confirmed that donations had to be for the benefit, or potential benefit, of parishioners and the total in the financial year could not exceed the sum of approximately £7. for each of the 217 electors. It was agreed suggestions for charitable donations could be made to the Parish Council.

There was discussion of the large carry forward which would increase by approximately £10K per year without capital expenditure. A suggestion was made that the Parish Council may be in a position to purchase more land in the future to safeguard it for the village and that an approach may be made to a local landowner. A suggestion was also made that a 'Meet your Councillors' social evening may be held in the future to raise the profile of the Parish Council and obtain ideas from parishioners. It was agreed the funds need to be put to good use, possibly in a way to attract people to live in the village.

5. VILLAGE HALL REPORT.

The Village Hall report and accounts had been provided by Mary Burton but were delivered by Councillor Morley, one of the two Parish Council representatives on the Village Hall Committee which consists of seven members. Thanks were expressed to Robbie Burton as the current Chairman, and particularly to Mary Burton who deals with the finance and bookings. The main event last year had been the cream tea to celebrate the centenary of the laying of the stone which had been much enjoyed by everyone. The crockery and cutlery in

the Hall currently is only just adequate and there are plans for replacement. There is now no regular cleaner for the Hall but it is maintained by volunteers who are keeping it to the previous standard. The letting income has risen by £100. despite village and charity events being free and the donations have increased, largely from hirers and in particular from the Carpet Bowling group. The electricity expenditure has increased and needs to be investigated with tenants being reminded to check everything is turned off before leaving the building.

6. VILLAGE TRUST REPORT.

There was no-one present from the Village Trust but the Clerk had been provided with information by Mr. Geoff Renaut. The total of the two bank accounts currently stand at a total of £35,403.23p and no payments have been made in the last year. Those present were reminded that the funds were originally raised from the Car Park which was rented from the Golf Club. Any person in the village can make a request for grants or loans for income and/or capital but it was agreed the parameters of the Trust are not clearly understood.

7. THE HOLLEYS CHARITY REPORT.

Mr. Tony Foster Gave a report on behalf of the three Trustees, himself, Janet Foster and Linda Scott and thanked the previous Trustees for all their work. He stated that all the information is available on the Charity Commission website and it is not a requirement that detailed accounts be produced for public consumption. The Trustees make the decisions on when, how and to whom payments should be made but that the Charity is for 'the relief of the industrious poor' of the village. In the year prior to the current Trustees taking over no payments had been made so some catching up had been done this year with an income of approximately £570. and expenditure of £775. He confirmed there have been no costs incurred by the Trustees. From the outset it had been traditional that the benefits from the Charity were distributed just before Christmas and had originally been in the form of coal. Letters had now been sent out explaining the Charity's remit and it had been agreed that ad hoc payments could be made if required. Holleys Charity also now had a website with contact information and a considerable amount of time has been spent obtaining clarification of documentation although it has still not been possible to obtain a copy of the Tenancy Agreement relating to the land which provides the Charity income.

He was asked about the possibility of obtaining a rent review which had been raised when the new Trustees took over last year but the Trustees felt that the information available at the moment indicated that the agreement was in favour of the tenant and that the tenancy could be passed on through the family. It would be possible to pay for a professional investigation but it had been decided this was not efficient use of funds as any rental increase would only be minimal.

9. OPEN FORUM.

The issue of dog waste on and near the boardwalk was raised. Mr. Tony Foster agreed to contact the National Trails but it was agreed there would be issues regarding the access to, and collection of waste, even if a bin was installed, as the road is a private road so it would need negotiating.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their attendance and invited them to remain to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed.....*Kevin Felgate*..... Vice Chairman Date.....*10.05.16*.....