

HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2014 MEETING

Three members of the public were welcomed, together with Gary Hibberd and Kevin Hart from the Norfolk wildlife Trust at Holme Dunes, who had asked to come and speak at the meeting.

The meeting was told that a project had been put together and funding obtained to improve the site at Holme Dunes for Natterjack toads on specific sites. There were nitrate issues on the land which in turn created grass issues with the bare ground on the dunes now having grown over. There would be some turf stripping and scraping of the nutrient rich turf. In order to support the project the NWT want conservation grazing by Dartmoor or Exmoor ponies (no more than eight) or a flying flock of sheep, together with ditch restoration between the paddocks and the bungalows. Information was sought on the proposed fencing of the paddocks when the meeting was told it was hoped to install two stand wire fencing with sheep netting. The meeting was also informed that common land could not be fenced permanently although it could have temporary electric fencing with the consent of the common right holders which the NWT are not in favour of as it creates problems with the ponies. Permanent fencing with access points was also considered unacceptable by common rights holders.

It was also explained that limited amounts of excess sand would be taken from near the track and Natural England had given permission for this to be deposited below the high water mark. Councillors queried this decision as sand deposited by the tidal surge in Hunstanton had had to be disposed of as contaminated waste. Finally, it was confirmed that most of the work would be re-profiling but an extra pond would be made relatively close to the track and there would be some restoration of the old sea bank.

During the period set aside for public participation one parishioner expressed concern that there had been no opportunity for residents of Broadwater Road to discuss the developments and that there may be removal of bird habitats. It was confirmed that the big hawthorns would not be removed, nor will a lot of the brambles although the area does require management with a variety of habitats and the funding for Natterjack toads was providing an opportunity to obtain maximum diversity. It was acknowledged that communication with the NWT was a concern to be addressed together with the issue of the paddocks.

The Borough Councillor reported she sat on the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) where it had been reported that there was a problem with nitrates in the land and this had been raised at the Wells European Marine sites (EMS) meeting. The IDB would be taking over responsibility for some of the upland water and upper reaches. This made sense as it affected the drainage but it was not yet clear if any additional funding would be available. A Notice of Entry had been received for maintenance in the drain to the East of the land owned by the Parish Council that had previously been allotments.

The Borough Councillor also reported on big changes in the rubbish collections from the 1st October. A far greater range of items will be accepted in the green bins including a whole variety of plastic and also glass. There will be general publicity and leaflets distributed to every household. Probably some of the bottle banks will start to disappear, mostly those that are not commercial enterprises.

Finally, the Borough Councillor confirmed that the Local Development Framework (LDF) was still not ready for final publication but confirmed there was a rural exception site proposed at Old Hunstanton for 15 houses for local people.

Various planning applications were considered including replacement properties in Main Road and Kirkgate. Concerns were expressed regarding the size of properties being built in the village although size cannot be used as a valid objection. The Borough Councillor said it was becoming an issue all along the North Norfolk coast.

Various village matters were discussed including footpaths, highways issues, bench maintenance and speeding motorbikes. The issue of pond maintenance was raised and it was confirmed the pond was part highways and part private.

Congratulations were given to the Village Hall Committee on the success of the Centenary Tea which more than 90 villagers had attended. Other maintenance issues relating to the Village Hall were also dealt with.

A resolution was then passed to exclude the press and public while a decision was made regarding the casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor and following a secret ballot, Mrs. Margaret Easton was chosen for co-option. Two parishioners had expressed an interest.

Under Finance, the Clerk confirmed that the 2013/14 Report and Accounts had been returned by the external auditors with no comments or recommendations although queries had been raised and dealt with in correspondence concerning the Asset Register and Standing Orders. The first quarter Accounts, Budget Monitoring and Cheque List had been circulated and no queries raised. Payments included the Clerk's salary and tax, grass cutting, external auditors' fees, a new filing cabinet and step ladders for the Village Hall.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 14th October 2014** at 7.30 pm, in the Village Hall Meeting Room. Members of the public are welcome to attend and put their comments and questions to Councillors during 'Public Participation'.

Christina Jones

Clerk to Holme-next-the-Sea Parish Council