

**HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2026 AT 7-00PM AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT.**

**PRESENT: Councillors: Mr S Lewis, Mrs G Jones, Ms A Shone Mr  
D Munnerley, Mr J Hughes, Mr D Bithell, Mr A Jones Mr G Mitchell, Clerk**

**APOLOGIES: Councillors Mr J Cubitt, Mr J Pridding, Mr D Powell  
Councillor M Morris**

**The meeting was formally opened by the Vice Chairman, Mr S Lewis. There were no reports of a recent death of either a Holt resident or a person with Holt connections.**

**POLICE REPORT: The Clerk had distributed the Police Report for December which showed no reported incidents for the month for Holt; it was mentioned that a report for November had not been received so the Clerk will contact the local PCSO to get that sent out.**

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: There was one requested amendment from the minutes of the November meeting; Mr S Lewis had asked if the gaps in the hawthorn hedge in front of the Hillfield Public Open Space, adjoining Francis Lane could be infilled with new saplings. There was no other request for an amendment and accordingly, the minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record**

**Proposed Mrs G Jones, seconded Ms A Shone, agreed by all.**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**1.COMMUNITY GARDENERS AND OTHER RELATED NEWS: The Clerk advised that December is usually a quiet month for the Gardening group; the Clerk said that he had received a letter from the Secretary of the Community Gardeners requesting that arrangements are put in place for the holly hedge of the "Peace Garden" to be cut and that it should happen before the beginning of March , as per RSPB recommendations. Arrangements are already in place for the hedge leading up to the Cemetery to be cut, so the Clerk will ask that the hedges either side of the Cemetery gates, and the Bier House are also cut.**

**2. ALLOTMENTS: The Clerk advised that no photos had been taken up to that point, but will be done before the next meeting.**

**3. JOINT MEETING WITH FARNDON PC: The Clerk reported that it is hoped to have another meeting in the next couple of months. At present there has been no planning applications received for further development in Farndon, but this may change in the near future.**

**Consultations regarding the lowering of the speed limit on the A534 from the Brickyards corner, past the junctions with Holt and Farndon/Shocklach are ongoing, but it is hoped that the reduced speed limit will be in place soon.**

**4. PA SYSTEM: The new PA system was used successfully by the Gardening Group at the Artisan Market at the end of November.**

**5. AUDIT AND WEBSITE; The Clerk advised that the External Audit Opinion, the 2025 Annual Report, the Section 6 Report, and all Meeting Minutes are now on the Community Council website.**

6. The Clerk had been advised by Streetscene at WCBBC that as Holt was a 20mph area, the lights on the Give Way sign on the exit of Dee Park and the lights on the signs on the upper part of Dee Lane would not be replaced,

#### **ITEM 2: CORRESPONDENCE:**

7. The only correspondence received had been from NatWest Bank advising that following the recent reduction in the Bank of England interest rates, the interest rate on the Liquidity 95 Day account was reducing to 2.5% from 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026, and the Business Reserve to 0.85% from 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

#### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

- a) Proposed Replacement of Doors and Windows and Replacement Flat Roof with Insertion of Rooflight at Rossdene, Castle Street, Holt.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

#### **ITEM 3: AGENDA**

8. Budget Approval and Precept Setting 2026-26: Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had distributed his notes of how he had worked out the suggested Precept increase, with estimates for income and expenditure for the following year.

**Expenditure:** The Clerk had used the CPIH inflation rate of 3.5% (November increase 2025) to estimate increases in expenditure, although it was stressed that this figure should be considered only as a guide, as many factors, such as increases in the minimum wage, fuel costs, Vehicle Excise duties and changes from previous UK Government Budgets may have a bearing on contractor costs. Total expenditure for 2026-27 was estimated by the Clerk as approx. £41,665, plus S137 and S19 Grants approx. £5500 and in addition, arrears to EDF, when the invoices are sorted, which may be around £2000.

**Income:** The Clerk advised that he had not recommended any increases to any Holt CC charges for the period 2026-27, as most charges had been increased last April 2025. Aside from the Precept, the rest of Holt CC income is variable, such as the bowling green, toilet doors, cemetery fees and bank interest. As such, the Clerk had estimated that income for the year would be in the region of £50,000.

After a discussion, it was proposed by Mr A Jones and seconded by Mr D Munnerley, agreed by all that the budget figures would be accepted, with a new Precept increase notified to WCBBC of £1330, total Precept for Holt CC for 2026-27 of £39370.

9. Finances: The Clerk had distributed the Finance Sheet and Finance Narrative for November and December, months 8&9. Income for November was £439.28 and expenditure was £16,606.16; Income comprised of Bank Interest £214.28 and Burials £225. Expenditure included salary and wages, General Admin £2649.67, Cemetery and Allotments £251.75, Street Lights Power (EDF) £11.39, Muga £12550 (increase height of sides), Capital Expenditure (PA System) £539.

Income for December was £13040.59, which comprised of £12680 (3<sup>rd</sup> Precept payment), Bank Interest £214.59 and Toilet Doors £146. Expenditure was £5667.55 which included Salary and Wages, General and Admin £314.33, Toilets and Village General £271.94, Hillfield POS £169.60, S137 Grants £2180 and S19 Grant of £1750.

Proposed by Mr A Jones, seconded by Mr D Munnerley that the Finance Report be accepted, agreed by all

#### ITEM 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr D Bithell asked if Streetscene could be asked when the barriers and chevrons on the Brickyards Corner were being repaired and replaced; also, it had been commented that since the A534 had been resurfaced around the Brickyards Corner, the surface seemed to be more smooth, and the reduced grip may have been a cause of some accidents. Mr Bithell also asked if the Police could be contacted to ask why the owner of the car parked partially on the pavement at the pull-in in front of Dee Villas had not been visited. The Clerk advised he would contact WCBC to see if a sign could be put up advising vehicle owners that any vehicle obstructing the pavement could result in a fine for the owner.

Mr S Lewis had been contacted by a resident who had contacted the CC website but had not had a reply; the Clerk said that he would get the website checked.

Mr Lewis also advised that the hedge by the turn in to Smithfield, off Smithfield Street was in need of cutting back as it was overgrown and encroaching onto the pavement.

Accounts: approved for payments for November and December 2025

#### PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER

3206 – Avow, Salary, Wage, Charge	£943.97
3207 – Kenyon Hall Committee, S19 Grant, Hall Hire October and November, Refreshments for Remembrance Sunday	£1840.80
3208 – St Chads Church, S137 Grant	£350.00
3209 – Holt CP School, S137 Grant	£1000.00
3210 – Holt Cool Cats, S137 Grant	£200.00
3211 – Holt Under 5's S137 Grant	£600.00
3212 – Monument Landscapes, Grass Cut Castle, November	£277.64
3213 – J&L Garden Services, POS Maintenance, October	£169.60

#### PROPOSED PAYMENTS JANUARY 2026

3214 – Wales Air Ambulance, S137 Grant	£200.00
3215 – Avow, Salary, Wage, Charge	£943.97
3216 – Nightingale House, S137 Grant	£200.00
3217 – WCBC, Half Yearly Charge, Inspection/Maintain Play Areas	£2035.80
3218 – EDF Customers Ltd, Street Lights Energy	£1.20

NEXT MEETING OF HOLT COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE KENYON HALL, HOLT ON TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7-00PM



