

HOLTON

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in Holton Village Hall.

There were 29 persons present including 2 Parish Councillors and the Clerk.

Councillor Robert Barter chaired the Parish Meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Brian Pridmore (Parish Council Chairman) and Councillor Allan East.

2.. **The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting** were presented.

3. **Holton Parish Council Annual Report:**

Robert Barter gave a report on behalf of the Parish Council outlining the work of the Council over the year, thanking all the village organisations and those behind the scenes who maintain all that is good about village life.

The Parish Council continue to monitor the situation regarding development at the Brookes site dealing with the Reserved Matters current application and developments with the access arrangements. The Council are working with the Church and Richard Hunt to provide an extension to the churchyard and with Wheatley Park School to maintain access arrangements for Holton pupils.

The Parish Council are installing play equipment in the Orchard and in the next week or so the projects will be completed and ready for use.

The Parish Council Accounts are published on the website.

The Chairman's report and accounts are attached.

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes and the Annual Report.**

None.

The Parish Council Report and the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes were approved and adopted.

Proposed: Dave Holmes

Seconded: Chris Roerig

All Agreed

5. **District County/County Councillor**

Tim Bearder gave a report on District and County business and was thanked for his help over the year.

6. Oxforde Brookes University Campus Holton.

Jerry Woods (Director of Estates and Campus Services) and Mark Tugwell (Deputy Director of Estates) for Oxford Brookes gave an overview of 'where we are now'. Crest Nicholson PLC have purchased the Holton Campus and Brookes plan to vacate the site by summer 2024 when their Engineering building is completed in Headington. The east/west entrance scheme is their preferred option and negotiations are ongoing between Brookes, River Learning Trust and Oxfordshire County Council over the easement on the link road.

A reserved matters application is currently being processed on the east/west scheme on the approved planning application and a planning application is being considered on the east/east access scheme.

The Brookes representatives then gave time over to answer questions from the audience.

7. Annual Report – Chairman Holton Village Hall Management Committee

J P Farrow gave the report of the Holton Village Hall Management Committee. Thanks to the work of the Management Committee the hall is in an excellent state of repair and financially sound and offers regular events for the village. Hall bookings and hirings provide a steady income along with fund raising events and the welcome assistance from County and District Council grants. A copy of the report is attached.

8. Dr Rogers Trust

The Rogers Trust report was presented by Carol Johnston. Copy attached.

9. Victoria Reading Room Trust

The Victoria Reading Room Trust accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 were presented and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

The Victoria Reading Room Trust is a extremely small charity £3000.00 plus interest and the Charity Board is being contacted as to the way forward and possible merging of the Trust with the Village Hall Trust of which it is the sole beneficiary.

10. Holton Archives

Jan Marlowe had set up a display from the Holton Archives and gave a talk on the Archives and how to access the collection on Facebook and through the open day exhibitions held in the Hall.

11. OPEN FORUM

A resident of Barns Close in Holton questioned the Parish Council on their negotiating with the school on access for Holton school children over what is a private lane. Mick Blowfield questioned that the Parish Council had the right to consider the usage of the lane without contacting the residents of the lane. Carol Johnston considered that Holton residents had a right to use the lane and access the school grounds and now that the gap in the school boundary has been filled with a locked gate she is unable to gain access. This locked gate is for Holton

school children to enter the school site by means of a keypad access code thus avoiding the village roads.

The question was asked about the safeguarding of the pupils which was the reason the school secured their boundaries and most of the people present agreed that the school pupils' safety and site security was paramount.

Verges were discussed and it was agreed that the verges should be cut now rather than later as the vision splays and areas of verge were so overgrown. The contractors to be asked to make a June cut and within reason leave the areas of wild flowers where possible to maintain our policy of re-wilding areas to improve and encourage the habitat and diversity of flora and fauna in the village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.24 pm.