# **HOLME HALE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MONTHLY UPDATES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CORVID – 19 EMERGENCY / SUSPENSION OF MEETINGS**

**Report from 6th April to 1st May 2020**

* Audit 2019/2020 – received confirmation that the time for audits to be submitted has been extended – in brief this means - *The publication date for final, audited, accounts for local councils will move from 30 September to 30 November 2020.*
* Internal audit – cancelled original face to face meeting with internal auditor.
* Received confirmation on the 6th April from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government that 1. Enables all local authority meetings before May 2021 can be held if remotely if this is necessary – *it was agreed by Holme Hale Parish Councillors that this was not necessary at this time and will be reviewed at a later date.* 2. Postponement until 6th May 2021 local by-elections and other polls, either scheduled or which would otherwise arise before that date.
* Vat claim for £349.75 made on the 21st April
* Notification received of a temporary mortuary that will be set up at Scottow Enterprise Park and bereavement leaflet issued explaining what to do during this difficult time.
* Completed year end audit figures and sent these and the cash spread sheet to Mr Frank Cherry who is able to complete this via email (Society of Local Council Clerks advised that this was possible for smaller authorities as long as there is a web site where payments that have been agreed at meetings is accessible for inspection along with our Financial regulations) This should be ready to be signed off by the Chairman when we are able to meet.

**Cheques/ Payments approved- No payments for this month they will appear in the May update**

**Brief Planning updates**

**3PL/2020/0175/HOU 20 Cook Road**

Demolition of existing sun room and construction of kitchen/dining room extension, bedroom/study extension, enlarged balcony and extension of existing garage for domestic use.

**Approved 30/3/2020**

**Vattenfall –** Letter to be sent to Breckand Planning department – letter to be co-ordinated with other Parish Councils, Cllr Pearson has drafted a letter and is speaking to other Parish Councils.

**3PL/2020/0352/F Hunters Lodge, Hale Road**

New menage area with field shelters.

**Received 21st April – comments by 13th May**

22/4/20 Clearer and better location plans were requested from Planning and these have since been supplied

No objections received from the Parish Council.

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**Highways updates**

* Pothole re-appeared in Church Lane along with another in same area – *reported to Highways again 1/4/2020 and they have come back to say that this has been prioritised for repair.*
* Pot hole outside the entrance to Yaxley Meadow- *reported on the 16/3 and have been marked up for repair*
* Pot holes in Bradenham Road – *reported on the 16/3 and have been marked up for repair*
* Western edge Cooks Road – Subsidence – *Highways have said that this is programmed but at the moment they have a reduced capacity for works due to issues with the supply chain, materials and the reduced gang capability, they also said - please be assured they will get to it when they can.*
* Flooding in Cook Road / St Andrews Close – letters to Highways to complain and letter to residents asking that they complain. *Cllr Scarlett has since informed me that he saw 3rd party (i.e. non-Highways) contractors attempting to jet the drainage system in question during the last week of March. They were raising manhole covers & attempting to do it properly, but he fears this approach is likely to achieved little. Whilst it shows willing on the part of Highways, he fears it may only allow them to tick a box and delay further complaints from us. Given the current dry weather forecast, it will not be known if the works have been successful for some time to come.*
* Road Closures in Holme Hale during January and February – *email sent to Highways pointing out that during Jan/Feb the C117 from Necton to Holme Hale was closed at the same time as the road closure from Holme Hale to Ashill. This meant that traffic could not flow in either direction. One closure at a time would have been quite enough as the need for full closure was over the top.*

O**ther matters outstanding**

* Muddy footpath - Eastern entrance to the footpath in Church Road – meeting between TTSR and Cllr McBrien to discuss putting wood chippings down – *suggested in my last update that this is put off whilst people are being asked to stay home.*

**Volunteer updates from Cllr McBrien**

**The following update was received for Cllr McBrien on the 6th April**

* We now have a total of 15 volunteers who do not fall into any of the government ‘at-risk’ categories for Covid-19. Most of these have already participated in responding to requests for assistance. I think this is a good size core group to handle requests over the next 2-3 months of the lockdown.
* We have had a total of 20 requests for assistance to date. These have been mainly for shopping, collecting prescriptions or topping up pay-as-go electricity keys. A couple of recent calls from self-isolating residents have been concerns about running out of cash to pay for supplies and therefore nervous asking for assistance. All requests are logged on a spreadsheet along with details of who responds. Protocols to keep residents and volunteers safe during deliveries have been implemented.
* I am currently in email correspondence with Community Aid Norfolk (CAN) about registering our Volunteer group as a 'Good Neighbourhood Support Team', which will enable us to be covered by their public liability insurance, in addition to accessing advice on best practice for volunteer groups in dealing with requests. I have also registered as a NHS community volunteer and with Voluntary Norfolk, in both cases so we can access their resources and advice for our Holme Hale Volunteer group. In addition the NHS Volunteer registration will hopefully let us know if any of 1.4 million people identified as most vulnerable are in our Parish. Pauline has also registered us with the Breckland District Council Community Hub, who have already contacted me to request assisting a person in Necton.

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**Volunteer update continued**

* As the Lockdown is likely to continue for at least another 2 months I intend to do another leaflet drop in the next couple of days (*all done and sent out)*, with help from some of our volunteers. This will let residents know we now have an established volunteer group in Holme Hale who can assist ‘at-risk’ category residents in these difficult times so they can minimise shopping trips and unnecessary risk of exposure. The leaflet will also let residents know that we can help with basic food supply if cash is a current problem, either due to not being able to get out to a cash machine or because income to the household has stopped due to being laid-off. This is of course facilitated by the grant we received from Norfolk Community Foundation. Pauline and I are also investigating other methods to facilitate payment of shopping (e.g. pre-pad debit cards).

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