

HOLME HALE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 7th April 2025 in the Tony Evans Centre, Holme Hale Village Hall.

Present: Mr Andy Scarlett (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mr Gerald Tranter (Fuel Allotment Trust and PCC Treasurer), Rev'd Stephen Thorp and five members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mrs Jane Barley (Chair of Governors, Necton School) and Cllr West.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th April 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Reports.

a) Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr Andy Scarlett.

The Chairman presented his report and a copy is attached.

A member of the public questioned the mitigation plan from RWE/Vattenfall and the Chairman said that there had been a Breckland Design Review Panel with details being agreed between RWE and Breckland.

A member of the public said that the Necton site had increased considerably in size from the initial plans and there was a danger the proposed solar farms would go the same way.

The Chairman reported on the Action Group put together by George Freeman, MP, representing parishes affected by the proposed solar farms and which was also hoping to include the SW Norfolk MP. The Group is addressing concerns regarding the high number of solar farms being put forward in the local area.

b) Holme Hale Fuel Allotment Trust – Mr Gerald Tranter.

Mr Tranter presented his report and a copy is attached.

He went on to say that the Trust was concerned that eligible families in the village are not submitting applications and the Chairman confirmed that information from the Diocese reported that a surprising 20% of the village was under 20 years of age. The Trust are considering having a Stand at the Summer Fair in order to reach more people.

c) St Andrew's Church – Rev'd Stephen Thorp.

The Rev'd Thorp then presented his report and a copy is attached.

d) Holme Hale Playing Field Trust.

In the absence of a representative from the Trust, there was no report.

e) Necton Primary School.

On behalf of Mrs Barley, the Chairman presented the report and a copy is attached.

f) County Councillor – Cllr Fabian Eagle.

In the absence of the County Cllr, there was no report.

g) District Councillor – Cllr Nigel Wilkin.

In the absence of the District Cllr, there was no report.

4. Open Forum - an opportunity for residents of the parish to express their views on matters of interest or concern relating to the village and to suggest ideas for the future.

Cllr McBrien reported on the ongoing restoration of the phone box, which has had its first coat of paint.

A member of the public queried the cost of pothole repairs on Browns Lane, which had been filled but quickly deteriorated again. This is due to the method currently employed by Highways to repair potholes.

The Chairman encouraged everyone to report any potholes as soon as they were spotted. He also reported that a number of road closures are imminent, due to works by Open Reach, Anglian Water etc.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Holme Hale Parish AGM – 7th April 2025

Chairman's Report

Welcome

- Review of Parish Council activities – April 2024 – March 2025

Parish Council Composition

- Busy year for the Parish Council - Acknowledge and thank both the Councillors & the Clerk for the time and involvement made on the behalf of the Parish and yourselves
- HHPC permitted to have seven Councillors: started the year with six.
- Council reached full complement in Nov-Dec 2024 (*with addition of Mrs Jayne Johnson*) – Subsequently replaced by the return of Mr Julian Pearson in March 2025. Unfortunately do not currently have any representation from Station Road.
- Dr Andy Scarlett re-elected as Chairman: Mr Neville McBrien elected as Vice-Chairman. Thanks due to Mr Wendy McNeil for serving as Vice-Chairman during 2023-24.

PC Activities – 2024-25:

Planning

- Reviewed & commented on numerous Planning Applications
- **Planning Enforcement** – Monitored & reported on unauthorised development in the Parish
- **Input to Breckland Local (Housing) Plan** – Is proposing 14,000 extra homes within the District without significant new services or infrastructure. Now to be further increased by Central Government Planning reforms. Breckland issued recent new Call for possible development sites.
- **Vattenfall – RWE:** Permission granted for construction of three Norfolk Offshore Windfarm converter substation buildings at Necton / Fransham: work now in progress.

Highways

- Monitored condition & reported on issues for repair
- SAM II speed sign in active use in Cook Rd & Station Rd
- Graffiti in Village – By Public Footpath and on Openreach cabinets in School & Church Road – Thanks to Cllr Andy West for removing graffiti where possible.

Village Assets

- Village Gates & signage finally installed in intended location at Erneford Bridge
- Provision of additional Village Benches has been under investigation – partially restricted by Breckland re. provision of site(s)
- School Rd Bus Shelter – Renovation – Thanks to Cllr Simon Joll + volunteers for organising & implementing this
- Roadside Nature Reserve – Lower Road – Has been designated but roadside verge cutting regime will remain unchanged.

Solar Farms

- Dramatic increase in planning applications for solar farms throughout Norfolk
 - Over 20,000 acres currently declared & more likely to follow
- Two very large developments proposed in the local area – notified in September 2024:
 - High Grove (*Scarning – Beachamwell – Saham Hills triangle*) - ~4000 acres
 - The Drovers (*Swaffham – South Acre – West Acre*) - ~ 2500 acres
- HHPC activities Sept'24 – Mar'25
 - Participation in Non-Statutory Consultation (*High Grove & the Drovers*)
 - Participation in Co-Design Workshop (*The Drovers*)
 - Involvement on Solar Farm Steering Group – organised by George Freeman MP
 - Participation in other Local meetings (*Bradenham, Swaffham & Ashill*)
 - Hosted 'Village Meeting in Holme Hale (*January 2025*) – Advertised in Moonraker & on HHPC website & Facebook pages. Invitation leaflets distributed to every household prior to meeting
- Clerk created a dedicated page on HHPC website to provide links to sources of relevant information.
- Expect to continue to participate in local meetings on this subject
- Expect to have future involvement in Planning Inspectorate Statutory Consultation & discussions concerning granting of a Development Consent Order (DCO)
- Remain concerned regarding the likely cumulative impact of these & other similar developments on rural mid-Norfolk & Holme Hale parish.

Andy Scarlett

7th April 2025



Holme Hale Fuel Allotment Trust

Report for Village AGM 07 04 2025

Date	HOLME HALE FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST			ACCOUNTS 2024
	Bank	Reason	In	Out
01 01 2024	Co op		£5,026	
	CCLA		£63,872	
	Redwood		£20,000	
				<u>£88,898</u>
23 11 2024	Co op	10 Cheques		£3,000.00
09 02 2024	Redwood	Interest	£600	
31 12 2024	CCLA	Interest	£3,273	
				<u>£89,771</u>
31 12 2024	Co op		£2,626	
	CCLA		£67,144	
	Redwood		£20,000	
				<u>£89,770</u>

The report is based on financial year ending 31 12 2024.

Due to the axing of the fuel allowance by the government the trustees were expecting more applicants than applied. The trust paid out £3000 during the year to ten applicants who responded to the advert in Moonraker.

Putting on my treasurer hat for a moment you can see that income exceeded out goings by £800+pounds which some might say is a plus.

But not really as the trust is here for the people of the village and the trustees do worry that there might be people in the village perhaps with families, running to hospital appointments etc that are finding it very hard financially but feel they cannot apply for help. I say to them, please do, that is what the trust is here for, do not feel it is a hand out, it is to help people over a sticky period in there lives. It is accepted that living in a village is more expensive than a town.

On that same note the trust would welcome applications from local organisations that support the village and people that live in it.

All enquires are treated in strict confidence. Please contact: The Secretary HHFAT Fern View Cook Road Holme Hale IP25 7DJ.



The Necton Benefice

Holme Hale Parish Council
c/o Tony Evans Centre
Holme Hale Village Hall

The Revd Canon Stephen Thorp
Rural Dean: Breckland Deanery
The Rectory, 7 School Road
Necton, Swaffham PE37 8HT
01760 722021
slthorp@outlook.com

Report of St Andrew's Parish Church to Holme Hale Parish Council for 2024

7th April 2025

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all those whose hard work, time, dedication and commitment keeps St Andrew's open for public worship and available to serve the community throughout the year (and dare I say 'not just on Sundays'). It's a massive undertaking and a massive achievement! I would especially like to thank all the members of my PCC (Parochial Church Council) whose encouragement and support of me personally in the ministry has been much appreciated, but most notably my churchwardens Mr Andrew Scarlett and Mr Gary Smith, alongside Mr Geoff Tranter my PCC Treasurer whose wisdom, practical knowledge and common sense has always been extremely helpful as we navigate the inevitable challenges that sometimes come our way. Apart from our regular Sunday worship, we have marked Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday, with the church wonderfully decorated for harvest. In terms of the occasional offices, things have been rather quiet as we only had one funeral during 2024, but this was nicely balanced with an infant baptism or christening as it is traditionally known. We have also hosted the united Benefice service twice this last year. I would therefore like to thank all the members of my Worship Team who help lead services across the Necton Benefice including St Andrew's Holme Hale, especially my Licenced Lay Ministers Mrs Susan March & Mrs Jackie Cook, and also The Revd Canon Michael Paddison, a retired priest who is able to help me when it comes to providing Holy Communion.

I am pleased to report that we were able to pay 90% of our Parish Share this year, being £9000, of the £70,420 asked of us as a Benefice. We ultimately paid collectively £62,308 which was 88% of the request. In terms of the fabric of our parish church we have been able to completely refurbish and rearrange our small kitchen which has improved things considerably and will aid us as we host our various services and fund-raising events.

As I have said in previous years we don't have a formal 'Friends of St Andrew's' here at Holme Hale, but we do have friends, and we are immensely grateful to them for all that they do helping to raise funds up at Holme Hale Hall by the selling of refreshments. This is a major undertaking and I would like to thank Mrs Claire Louise Cherry for all her help arranging and sorting this, as well of course Mr Simon & Mrs Delia Brook for making their wonderful garden and home available to us. All of this, alongside other fundraising efforts, such as those up here at the Pavilion for Christmas etc and the collections of recycled bottle and glass are much appreciated. But this coming organisation which we will certainly need to do because unfortunately we are facing some major work in 2025 which involves replacing rainwater goods on our south side, the southern wall buttresses and interior repair of the southern side pew platforms and replastering of the wall. This project is in the order of £120,000 which will require us not only to fund raise but apply for grants we won't be able to do this without them.

During the year Bishop Graham visited our benefice for an evening service which was held at Necton which was the culmination of his Deanery Pilgrimage last year. The evening service was well represented by folk from Holme Hale.

Last year, I was invited to have a sabbatical break and I would like to thank all those who helped with the smooth running of the church while I was away. Unfortunately, this period coincided with death of my mother in the autumn and I would like to thank everyone for their kindness at this sad time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Thorp', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Thorp: Rector of The Necton Benefice
*All Saints Necton, St Andrew's Holme Hale,
St Andrew's North Pickenham, All Saints South Pickenham
with St Mary's Houghton on the Hill*



Belong, believe, thrive, achieve.
Rooted in Christ, we learn, grow and flourish.

The Governing Board has continued to work collaboratively with the Head teacher and staff. Mrs Long and her staff have continued to develop and provide learning and educational opportunities to enable the children to develop educationally, spiritually and to flourish. There is a continuing passion to develop and embed the core values of Respect, Attitude and Peace across the curriculum and within the school's Vision and Christian ethos. The school had its SIAMS inspection in November 2024. The SIAMS report was overwhelmingly positive:

The report said, "The school is living up to its foundation as a church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish". Collective worship is integral to the spiritual life of the school, and takes place for the majority of the week.

It is difficult to repeat all the positive comments about the school, but here are some examples of the strengths:

1. A "culture of inclusion and welcome, engendered by the vision, drives provision. This includes for pupils with SEND and/or who are vulnerable. It has a positive impact on pupils and their families."
2. "Spiritual development is a golden thread through the curriculum. Opportunities are presented for pupils and adults to question and reflect. This enables them to develop their own beliefs, and recognise the wonder of the word around them"

The Inspector also said that "the school's culture of nurture stems from the vision of the mustard seed. Growing strong and supportive relationships ensure adults and pupils feel valued and accepted who they are".

Paul Dunning (Diocesan Director of Education) wrote to the school congratulating Mrs Long and the school community on the positive report. He again listed positive aspects in the report. Amongst this was "the aspect demonstrating the high priority placed on RE, and that it is included in the induction of new staff, ensuring that the expectations for RE in the church school are known and fulfilled."

Another very positive step has seen the Little Oakes Nursery school grow from strength to strength. This has been a resounding success and as the year has gone on numbers have increased term by term. It has been lovely to see the younger children being involved in school life at this early age and responding to involvement in the school as well as the nursery. It has been a wonderful addition to the school. The SRB (Special Resource base for speech & language) will hopefully open later this year. This will be a purpose-built building and will be run through the school.

Once again thanks must go to Mrs Long and her very strong and dedicated team of staff for the continued growth and development of the school both spiritually and educationally.

Jane Barley

Chair of Governors