

HOLME HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Holme Hale Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 6th July 2026 in the Tony Evans Centre, Holme Hale Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Andy Scarlett (Chair)
Cllr Andy West
Cllr Julian Pearson

Two Members of the Public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllrs McBrien, Joll and Broke were approved.

2. To receive any declarations of interest and consider any dispensations.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 5th May 2026.

Cllr Pearson proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Scarlett and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. To note the one councillor vacancy and consider the co-option of a new member.

Council noted that a new member may now be co-opted and with a notice in the next edition of Moonraker, it was hoped a volunteer would come forward in time for the next meeting.

5. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

In the absence of both councillors, there was no report. Cllr Kher had earlier emailed a written report.

6. Open Forum for Public Participation (max 15 minutes).

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- Who is responsible for the River Wissey which is clogged up with reeds etc? The Chairman confirmed it was an Environment Agency issue and the member of the public was advised to contact them.
- There are a lot of deer on the Holme Hale to Swaffham road. The Chairman said the population has increased and this is likely to continue when they are displaced by the proposed solar farms.

- The surface of Church Lane is extremely bad, the recent surface dressing is of poor quality and potholes were not repaired beforehand. Council continues to report highway issues to County.

7. Planning Matters

a) To consider any new planning applications.

Council considered the amended plans which addressed the majority of the concerns previously raised by Council and agreed to comment that Council was satisfied the majority of their concerns had been noted and addressed.

- PL/2026/0349/OMIN – Crossways Farm, 4 Yaxley Meadow - application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Proposed 6 No Dwellings with access reserved (amended).

b) To note any planning decisions (information only).

Council noted that no decisions have been made on the following applications.

- 3PL/2025/1941/PAAF – Old Nags Head, 5 Church Road – application to determine if prior permission is required for the erection of a timber framed farm office.
- PL/2025/1618/FMIM – 34 Station Road – change of use from agricultural field to mixed use agricultural/storage/sui generis for enclosed dog walking facility with associated parking.

c) To receive an update on enforcement matters.

Council noted that the Brown's Lane contravention notice expired on the 18th May 2026 and an update will be requested. There has been no response from Breckland regarding the other matter and an update will be requested.

d) To receive an update regarding the Breckland Local Plan.

Council noted that the next consultation is due to run from the 31st July to 16th September 2026.

8. To receive an update in respect of the proposed High Grove Solar Farm; and other solar farm matters.

The Chairman reported that The Drovers application is with the Planning Inspectorate and progressing through the procedure. Hearing dates are set for September, with the site visit taking place on the 10th September. There have been a number of setbacks and the site has been scaled down in size. A meeting with The Drovers and High Grove representatives and Sporle & Castle Acre representatives is taking place to consider the cumulative impact of the two proposals and the Chairman will be attending that meeting.

In respect of High Grove, no date has been confirmed for a grid connection, nor the location of the sub-station, which will be shared with Regenerate. The application is unlikely to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate before Spring 2027.

9. Highway Matters

a) To receive updates on highway faults previously reported and to receive any new reports.

Council noted the following updates:

- Road drains, asphalt surround too high with steel work showing nr St Andrews Close, – the road surface around three drains has deteriorated badly and this will be reported to Highways again.
- Corner of Church Road and School Road – overgrown hedge obstructing post box – the hedge has been cut back.
- Coping stones damaged on parapet of Necton Road bridge –reported to Highways and supposedly repaired but no action appears to have been taken so has been reported again.
- School Road from Top Cross – numerous potholes along this stretch alongside the playing field will be reported to Highways.
- Bradenham Road/Church Lane – many potholes reappeared after top dressing have been reported to Highways and programmed for repair.
- Broken fingerpost sign at School Road/Cook Road junction is broken and will be repaired by Highways.
- Low bridge signs on Ashill Road were illegible and now resolved by Highways.
- All road signs are dirty and need to be cleaned: reported to Highways and cleaned.
- 40mph before the bridge on Necton Road was obscured by hedge and has now been cleared.
- Pothole near Station Road/Ashill Road junction, before bridge, will be reported to Highways.

10. Council Assets - to receive an update in respect of the Station Road Notice Board.

Cllr Scarlett and Pearson will soon be commencing the repair.

11. To receive a report regarding the funding requirements for the Holme Hale Playing Field Trust.

In the absence of a representative of the Trust, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

12. To receive an update regarding the grass cutting contract.

Council noted that the contractors had agreed to review the surcharge at the end of the cutting season and it was hoped, given the rapid fall in fuel costs, that no surcharge would be applied.

13. Finance and Governance

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2027.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

b) To consider approval of the following payments and to note any receipts.

Cllr Pearson proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr West and unanimously agreed by Council. There were no receipts to note.

PAYMENTS

Clerk (Salary & Office Allowance) – June	£319.55 (SO)
HMRC – PAYE	£0.80
Parish Council Insurance Renewal	£569.99
Clerk (Salary & Office Allowance) – July	£319.55 (SO)
HMRC – PAYE	£0.80
Grass Contractors (1 of 4)	£619.18
Grass Cutting – Village Green (01/12/2025 – 01/06/2026)	£45.02
Grass Contractors (2 of 4)	£619.18
Bank Charges (x 2)	£14.00

14. To consider any correspondence received.

The Chairman referred to an email received from a Station Road resident regarding a commercial speed detection device. Council noted that there are two VAS signs, and the SAM II is regularly sited on the road too so the next step should be a Speedwatch Team, which will need six residents to volunteer. In respect of Cook Road speeding, Council noted that the SAM II sign is being used and is effective in both directions.

15. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items for the next agenda.

16. To confirm the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 7th September 2026 in the Tony Evans Centre, Holme Hale Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.39pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

HOLME HALE PARISH COUNCIL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2027 FINANCIAL REPORT - JULY 2026						
BUDGET UPDATE	Actual	Budget	To	%		
	2025/26	2026/27	date	Spend		
PAYMENTS*					Balance at 01.04.2026	9,230.25
Admin	1,214	1,524	688	45%	Plus Receipts at 31.05.2026	5,230.64
Salary	3,639	3,909	1,241	32%	Less Payments at 31.05.2026	<u>2,136.39</u>
Permissive Pathway	649	680	-	0%	TOTAL	12,324.50
Grass Cutting	2,052	2,158	1,077	50%		
Street Lights	420	450	429	95%	Bank Balance at 31.05.2026	
Grants/Donations	1,050	1,220	-	0%	Unity Current Account	2,653.02
Projects	593	150	362	241%	Unity Savings Account	<u>9,671.48</u>
TOTAL	9,617	10,091	3,797	38%	TOTAL	12,324.50
				Received	Less outstanding payments	0.00
RECEIPTS					Plus outstanding deposits	0.00
Precept	9,000	9500	4,750	50%	TOTAL	12,324.50
Bank Interest	168	50	-			
Grants	-	0	-			
HMRC Refund	104.34	0				
TOTAL	104	9,550	4,750	50%		
	9,272					
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		-541	953			
*includes payments as listed on agenda.						
Amounts shown above do not include VAT.						