

## HOLME HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Holme Hale Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2026 in the Tony Evans Centre, Holme Hale Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Neville McBrien (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Simon Joll  
Cllr Julian Pearson  
Cllr Andy West  
Cllr Carolyn Belcher

Three Members of the Public  
District Cllr Nigel Wilkin  
County Cllr Kabeer Kher  
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

In the absence of Cllr Scarlett, Cllr McBrien took the chair.

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence.**

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

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

Cllr Pearson declared an interest in item 7b – PL/2025/1618/FMIM.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026.**

Cllr Pearson proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr West 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.**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Belcher to the meeting who then said a bit about herself and her reasons for wanting to join the Council. Cllr Pearson proposed that Mrs Belcher be co-opted onto the Council, this was seconded by Cllr West and unanimously agreed by Council. Cllr Belcher then joined the meeting and signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

### **5. To receive County/District Councillor reports.**

The County Cllr gave a brief update on the work he has carried out, as the Member for Business, Skills and Agriculture, in the first 100 days of the new county administration.

Locally, he has been working with District opposing the Brackenwoods expansion at Necton, which would be at real risk of flooding.

In response to a question, he confirmed that he was against solar on farm land, with car parks, rooftops etc, being the better option. He is also against wind farms but pro nuclear.

In response to a question, he referred to the 100 day report which set out what the new administration was doing to reduce the £828M county debt. The report is available online.

District Cllr Nigel Wilkin said that Local Government Reorganisation has been halted by Government.

In respect of Planning, the majority of decisions will be made by planning officers with ward members now unable to call controversial applications into Committee. This is due to changes made by Government. He understood that the County Council will object to the new Breckland Local Plan due to inadequate infrastructure.

In respect of solar farms, he attended the recent George Freeman meeting where Breckland was attacked due to the approval of the Beeston site, which had the support of the local parish council.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their reports.

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

The Chairman referred to correspondence received regarding speeding issues in Station Road and invited the member of the public to speak. The member of the public said that they had recorded 62,000 vehicles over 40 days, with 58% of vehicle passes exceeding the speed limit (30mph). The data was recorded using a device developed by the resident and marketed by a company owned by the resident. The resident stated that the figure which matters to Highways and Police is the 85th percentile, which was recorded on the resident's equipment at 38mph. The median speed recorded during the trial period was 31 mph. The resident stated the SAM II sign made no difference to speeding during the trial period, however, parked cars do slow down the traffic. The resident asked for consideration of other speed deterrent measures before there is a serious accident.

The Chairman noted that residents on Cook Road have commented that the SAM II sign has slowed traffic speed entering the village from that side. The Chairman said that the new Speedwatch Group recently set up with support of the parish council will likely be effective in slowing traffic and will collect verifiable data that can be forwarded to Police to caution speeding drivers. The data from the speed watch group will be important in supplying further evidence to assess the need to pursue any additional measures.

The Browns Lane junction onto Station Road was noted as of particular concern as visibility was not good and there had been comments regarding a number of near misses.

The Chairman also said that Station Road is likely to be a nominated the route for construction traffic to High Grove solar project, if this project goes ahead. If the project does go ahead the parish council would seek to request that highways install a new pavement in Station Road, funded by RWE.

## **7. Planning Matters**

### **a) To consider any new planning applications.**

There were no applications to consider.

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

Council noted the following applications remain pending.

- 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.
- PL/2026/1000/HOU – 2 White Houses, Browns Lane - proposed Single Storey Extension to Side and Erection of Porch to Front.

Council noted the following application has been approved.

- 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).

### **c) To receive an update on enforcement matters.**

There was no update in respect of the two enforcement matters, both of which are with the Breckland Enforcement team.

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

The D/Cllr had updated Council at item 5 above. Council also noted the current consultation and agreed no submission was necessary.

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

The Chairman read out a report from Cllr Scarlett, in summary:

- The Drovers: is progressing through the Planning Inspectorate Examination Process. The second round of Hearings plus Site Visits is due to take place in early-September.
- High Grove: Chairman (Cllr Scarlett) attended the meeting with Island Green power (The Drovers) and RWE (High Grove), which was very useful and focused on aspects of their system design and application process. The Chairman had been able to express Council's dissatisfaction that RWE will not re-engage with Council re potential scheme design scheme design modifications and mitigation measures.

The High Grove DCO submission is likely to be delayed at least until Spring 2027, simply because National Grid have yet to decide when and where they will build the 400kV substation.

Council approved a suggestion that a meeting be set up with two independent advisors who had assisted other local parish councils in this matter. The C/Clr requested an invitation to this meeting.

## **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 around three drains has deteriorated badly and two now resolved by Highways. Third reported once again and works now completed.
- Coping stones damaged on parapet of Necton Road bridge –reported to Highways and now repaired.
- Turn into School Road near Top Cross – numerous potholes along this stretch of road will be reported to Highways – action taken but no other works will take place.
- Bradenham Road/Church Lane – many potholes reappeared after top dressing have been reported to Highways and now repaired.
- Broken fingerpost sign at School Road/Cook Road junction is broken and will be repaired by Highways.
- Pothole near Station Road/Ashill Road junction, before bridge, reported to Highways and repaired.
- Ashill Road – faded 40mph sign – reported to Highways.
- Ashill Road, near Berry's Hall – roadside degradation will be reported to Highways.
- Cook Road, near Elm Farm – overgrown hedge – resident has confirmed he is waiting for contractors to cut the hedge.
- Ashill Rail Bridge – graffiti – will be reported to the Historical Railways Estate Department.
- The new 'not suitable for HGV vehicles' signage on Low Road, into Cook Road, needs to be moved as it situated too far in the hedge to be visible to traffic and needs moving to the other side of the road.

### **b) To confirm support of a local residents Speedwatch Group (Station Road) and consider any other measures to tackle speeding.**

This matter was discussed at item 6 above but Council reaffirmed their support for the Speedwatch Group.

### **c) To consider an application to the Parish Partnership Scheme.**

Council were advised to consider any ideas and share them with the Clerk/Council for consideration at the November meeting.

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

Council noted that works are still awaited.

## **11. To consider producing a Community Resilience Emergency Plan.**

Council agreed that a plan is essential, particularly given the recent extreme heat in summer, and the Clerk will update the old plan and then share with Council.

## 12. Finance and Governance

### a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

The financial report (attached) was noted. Council noted that the grass contractors surcharge will be considered at the end of the year, if requested by the contractors, although it was noted that not as many cuts would have been needed due to the dry summer.

### b) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.

Cllr West proposed that Mr Goreham be appointed as internal auditor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027 at a cost of £50, this was seconded by Cllr Pearson and unanimously agreed by Council.

### c) To consider approval of the following payments and to note any receipts

Cllr Joll proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Belcher and unanimously agreed by Council. The receipt was noted.

#### PAYMENTS

|                                               |              |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| CPRE (Annual Subscription)                    | £60.00 (DD)  |
| Clerk (Salary & Office Allowance) – August    | £319.55 (SO) |
| HMRC – PAYE                                   | £0.80        |
| Clerk (Salary & Office Allowance) – September | £319.75 (SO) |
| HMRC – PAYE                                   | £0.60        |
| Grass Contractors (3 of 4)                    | £619.18      |
| Bank Charges (x 2)                            | £14.00       |

#### RECEIPTS

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Bank Interest | £43.07 |
|---------------|--------|

## 13. To consider any correspondence received.

There was no correspondence to consider.

## 14. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

Fly-tipping was considered but the local landowner confirmed it would be removed once time permitted and no new item was required.

## 15. To confirm the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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 8.50pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOLME HALE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2027**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2026**

| <b>BUDGET UPDATE</b>   | <b>Actual<br/>2025/26</b> | <b>Budget<br/>2026/27</b> | <b>To<br/>date</b> | <b>%<br/>Spend</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>PAYMENTS*</b>       |                           |                           |                    |                    |
| Admin                  | 1,214                     | 1,524                     | 775                | 51%                |
| Salary                 | 3,639                     | 3,909                     | 1,862              | 48%                |
| Permissive Pathway     | 649                       | 680                       | -                  | 0%                 |
| Grass Cutting          | 2,052                     | 2,158                     | 1,593              | 74%                |
| Street Lights          | 420                       | 450                       | 429                | 95%                |
| Grants/Donations       | 1,050                     | 1,220                     | -                  | 0%                 |
| Projects               | 593                       | 150                       | 362                | 241%               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>9,617</b>              | <b>10,091</b>             | <b>5,021</b>       | <b>50%</b>         |
|                        |                           |                           |                    | <b>Received</b>    |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>        |                           |                           |                    |                    |
| Precept                | 9,000                     | 9500                      | 4,750              | 50%                |
| Bank Interest          | 168                       | 50                        | 43                 |                    |
| Grants                 | -                         | 0                         | -                  |                    |
| HMRC Refund            | 104.34                    | 0                         |                    |                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>104</b>                | <b>9,550</b>              | <b>4,793</b>       | <b>50%</b>         |
|                        | 9,272                     |                           |                    |                    |
| <b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b> |                           | <b>-541</b>               | <b>-228</b>        |                    |

*\*includes payments as listed on agenda.*

Amounts shown above do not include VAT.

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Balance at 01.04.2026</b>      | 9,230.25         |
| Plus Receipts at 31.07.2026       | 5,273.71         |
| Less Payments at 31.07.2026       | 4,085.26         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>10,418.70</b> |
| <b>Bank Balance at 31.07.2026</b> |                  |
| Unity Current Account             | 704.15           |
| Unity Savings Account             | 9,714.55         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>10,418.70</b> |
| Less outstanding payments         | 0.00             |
| Plus outstanding deposits         | 0.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>10,418.70</b> |