

HOLTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 19th February 2025 at 8pm at Holton St
Mary Village Hall

MINUTES

Present:

Parish Council: Oliver Greene (OG) Chairman, Claire Rowan (CR) Vice Chair, David Johnson (DJ), Mark Rogers (MR), Mark Anderson (MA), Mike Hay (MH) and Faye Hall (FH) Clerk.

District Councillor John Ward (JW)

Keith Lovering the Chairman from Raydon Parish Council

Members of the Public: 15

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed District Councillor John Ward and the Chairman of Raydon Parish Council Keith Lovering.

1. To accept councillors' apologies for absence. None

2. To accept members' declarations of interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct. All live in the village

3. To permit public participation to make statements or ask questions. The Chairman advised that agenda items 4 and 5 will be open to public participation.

4. Planning applications

Planning application DC/20/05590 – Care and rehabilitation centre at Holton Hall Farm - Babergh planning committee have unanimously recommended this application for approval pending conditions. A briefing note from the Chairman was circulated to Councillors, put on Facebook and sent out to villagers who are on the Parish Councils communication list (a copy is attached to the minutes). The Chairman proposed that the PC get a noise and travel assessment done at a cost of approx. £3,500 using the PCs reserves. The Chairman has discussed this planning application with a solicitor called Richard Buxton solicitors and they believe that there maybe grounds to challenge the planning decision on the grounds that the noise and travel assessments have not been properly made. If the solicitor advises after the noise and travel assessments have been done that there is a case for appeal then a judicial review could be called for. If the PC won then costs would be paid back, if they did not win then costs would be capped at £10,000. The PC would look to fund the £3,500 from reserves and would have to find another way of funding a judicial review eg, crowd funding. Reserves are kept for village projects or any unexpected costs that may arise. No decision notice for this planning application has been issued yet – JW will chase for this. A member of the public proposed crowd funding for the initial phase for the assessments being undertaken, this would save the PC using reserves and would test to see if people wanted to pursue challenging this planning application. The PC could then add to any short fall of money needed for the £3,500 approx. The Chairman asked the members of the public present to vote on the PC going



ahead with the noise and travel assessments at a cost of approx. £3,500, launching a crowd funding page and for the PC to then make up the short fall from reserves - the majority in room agreed with this proposal. CR proposed to go ahead with this, MR seconded and all in favour. The PC will need to pay a sum of money upfront to the solicitors to carry out the work.

5. National Grid targeted Consultation

CR circulated points from the Raydon Parish Council meeting which she attended on the 17th of February (copy attached). Not all the village have been made aware of the targeted consultation – please contact the Clerk for more information if you haven't been contacted. We still need to push National Grid to offer an alternative - HDVC or offshore. JW advised that Babergh Council are consistently objecting to the proposals and will respond again maintaining their current position. The process is flawed by not giving all the options and Babergh will also be putting forward the views of its parishes. 2030 is the deadline for works to be completed by and it is not viable. A proper assessment of the HDVC option should be done. Keith Lovering the Chairman of Raydon PC proposed that HSM PC and Raydon PC work together to agree a common approach to submit a response, working together will have a greater effect. JW also proposed that Higham be liaised with to make sure that they are also in agreement on a response. The proposed trunk road in HSM will alleviate the work traffic for the pylons coming through the village on the B1070 but it will also give off a lot of dust due to the road surface proposed. The Junction on the B1070 at Four Sisters is already weak and there are no plans to widen it. The PC have proposed before an alternative trunk road – from A12 at Capel St Mary slip road between junctions 32A and 32B using the route of the dismantled railway line to the temporary undergrounding haul road in Raydon. Construction compound will be visible to National Landscape so needs to be pushed further north. The Chairman proposed that CR and Raydon PC produce a draft response to the consultation and then work to combine their responses together. The PC would like to encourage everyone to submit their views on this targeted consultation.

Meeting closed at 2132hrs

