Holbeach Parish Council

A Meeting of Holbeach Parish Council was held on Monday 8th August 2016 at the Methodist Church Hall, Albert Walk, Holbeach, commencing at 7.05 p.m. following the Public Open Forum.

Present:
Councillors Isobel Hutchinson, Paul Foyster, Paul Brighton, Maureen and Arthur Male, Carol and Graham Rudkin, Rachel Flood, Paul Gunn, John Spencer, Kelly Wilson, Rita Rudkin, Emma Armiger and Val Gemmell.
Chris Seymour: Clerk
Teresa Daisley: Deputy Clerk
Winston Brown (the Press) and the Police were also present.
Nine members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies:
County Councillor Nick Worth, Councillor Kay Piccaver and Councillor Martin Howard had offered their apologies.

2. Clerks Report:

The Clerk reported that following the resignation of Kathy Rooke and Simon Benton there were two vacancies on the Parish Council. One for the Town Ward and one for the Hurn Ward.
Both resignations had been notified to SHDC and notices for requests for elections have been posted on the relevant notice boards.
There were no requests for elections so he had been informed that the Parish Council could fill the vacancies by co-option.
Notices have been posted around the Parish, inviting applicants to apply and that a decision would be made at the September meeting.

3. Declarations of interest:

The Chairman informed Members that the ‘Declaration of Interest’ book was available and Members could sign at any time during the meeting if they needed to. Councillors Carol and Graham Rudkin and Councillor Rachel Flood had signed the book in regard to the ST Nicholas Christmas Fayre.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th July 2016 as circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. Agreed.

5. Police Matters and County Matters:

(a). Police: the Police informed Members there had been no crime spikes reported.
They also reported that there would be no further Panel Meetings and were relying on the public and Parish Councils to report issues and they would be determining priorities using the engagement events process. They had several dates for these and the venues and timing were posted on notice boards around the Parishes. In the meantime they would be concentrating on problems in Holbeach St Marks, Whaplode and Tesco’s car park.

Councillor Carol Rudkin thanked the Police for their contribution to the previous weekends Music and Beer Festival.

(b). County Matters: in County Councillors absence, Councillor Isobel Hutchinson requested that LCC be notified of several complaints she had heard regarding too many items being placed on the pavement outside the Chequers Hotel. **Agreed.**

(c) Library: Councillor Val Gemmell informed the meeting, that in her role as a volunteer at the Library, she had attended a meeting to view the new layout of the Library for when it moved to the new Co-operative premises and her concerns regarding children using the facilities and the amount of books being reduced. Councillor Paul Foyster proposed that one Member be elected to act as a liaison with the volunteers and the Co-operative. **Agreed.** Councillor Rita Rudkin was duly proposed and accepted the position. **Agreed.**

6. Highway Matters:

(a) The Clerk advised the meeting that he had not been notified of any road closures;

(b) Boston Road Car Park option- Councillor Paul Foyster informed Members that he had attended a meeting with Emily Spicer and Mike Knight of SHDC and tried to negotiate bollards being placed in the centre of Boston Road car park which would allow both entrances to be kept open. Councillor Foyster proposed that if the Parish Council were able to consider in principle to make a contribution to half the cost of the barriers (50% of approx. £7500), he was willing to make a contribution from his budget as a District Councillor if need be.

8 members **agreed** to support the principle of making a contribution to the cost, but many felt the cost was extortionate.

7. Holbeach Town Band

A presentation was given by Holbeach Town Band and the difficulties it had experienced in finding new premises with enough room and storage space following the Parish Council not renewing a long term lease with them and giving notice to vacate by the end of September 2016. They had raised £15,000 towards capital funding, which fell short of the cost of the forthcoming vacant Library premises prices, (£120,000 to buy or £10,000 per annum to rent).

The Town Band offered the Parish Council two propositions:

(a) Could they remain in the current premises and offer a substantial increase in rent, £750 to £1000 per annum
(b) Could they purchase the existing building, but to bear in mind they only had £15,000 in hand.

It was proposed to have the Town Band on the September agenda to discuss. **Agreed.**

8. Allotments

Councillor Graham Rudkin stated the Allotment Inspection was held on the 19th July, and thanked those that attended and overall felt they were in the best condition he had seen them. Councillor Rudkin also stated that all the Garden Allotments have now been let and two people were on the waiting list; a tenant has given notice that he will be giving up his plot at Northon’s Lane in October for personal reasons. All the Allotment rent demands have been prepared and are ready to be sent at the end of September.

9. Carters Park, Stukeley Grounds and Parish Playing Field:

(a) Councillor Paul Foyster reported that that there had been a significant increase in the amount of litter left in Carters Park, but staff were coping with it at the present moment. He also reported that the Dog Area had been closed the last seven days due to an outbreak of ‘Kennel Cough’ as advised by the local vet practice. Councillor Foyster also informed Members that a meeting with the suppliers of outdoor adult exercise equipment ad taken place and the project was progressing well and awaiting the outcome of Tesco funds being available. Councillor Graham Rudkin informed Members that the University Academy had erected a new fence along the boundary of the park as promised. Councillor Paul Gunn proposed that a new litter bin be purchased for Stukeley Grounds to replace the damaged one in there. **Agreed.**

(b) Football Club fence- Artwork- Councillor Isobel Hutchinson informed Members that Spalding High School had completed the artwork on half of the football club fence and were willing to complete the other half of the fence, with the project being opened up to members of the public for design ideas. The University Academy had also been invited to submit ideas. Councillor Hutchinson stated that she would supply photographs to the press and the feedback on the project from the public had all been positive.

(c) Complaint regarding dogs in Parish Playing Field: Councillor Kelly Wilson advised Members that she had visited the Parish Playing Field with Councillor Kay Piccaver and dogs were still being allowed to run off the lead, despite signs stating that it was not allowed on all the entrances. Councillor Carol Rudkin advised Members that the people living local to it were going to sort the problem, but it would need monitoring and difficult to police and that the signs may need cleaning or replacing.
10. Cemeteries - Park Road and Hallgate.

(a) In Councillor Martin Howard’s absence it was reported that the Park Road Cemetery fence painting had been completed. One item was proposed to be taken ‘In Committee’ **Agreed**

(b) Tree of Lebanon: Councillor Graham Rudkin reported that it had been difficult to source this type of tree, but had managed to obtain two quotes. One for a tree 8-10 foot at £190 and one for a tree 5-6 foot at £76 and proposed that the second option be followed. **Agreed**

(c) The Burial grants and inscription requests were duly signed and approved as follows:

Mr & Mrs M.Candler - Reservation 183ii & jj Park Road Cemetery.
M J Coates - Memorial to late Maurice Seymour
M J Coates - Memorial to late Louise Luckraft
M J Coates - Memorial to late John Gamble
Richard King – Memorial to late Gillian Ball
Richard King – Memorial to late Christine Morriss

(d) Cemetery Chapels.

(a) Councillor Rita Rudkin informed Members that she had a meeting on 17th August, after which she would be better informed.

(b) the Clerk informed Members that he had received a request for an electric supply to be reinstated in the Chapels from the Committee and that he had obtained a quote for doing the work at a cost of £793.45 plus VAT and had brought it to the attention of the Finance Working Party the previous Monday. Councillor Paul Brighton, as Chairman of Finance informed Members that it was proposed at the Finance meeting to not go ahead with this as if the Heritage grant was obtained then this work would be of no use and be removed with the renovations. It was suggested that help could be given towards the cost of hiring a generator to power the Chapel for events.

It was proposed not to proceed with anything until Councillor Rita Rudkin had got further clarification from the Cemetery Chapels Committee. **Agreed.**

11. Closed Churchyard:

No report.

12. Holbeach Bank Playing Field:

Councillor Rachel Flood reported that work was continuing on the improvements to the Football Pavilion being carried out by volunteers and was proceeding well
13. Planning Applications:

Councillor Maureen Male informed Members that all responses were up to date with the exception of those received that week and thanked Members for their comments.

14. Property

Bowls Club Rent: Councillor Emma Armiger reported that the Bowls Club Rent was due for review and felt that the current rent of £20 per annum was too low for the facilities they enjoyed compared to the amount that the football club was charged. Councillor Rachel Flood expressed concern that she would not like to lose this facility for the town. Councillor Graham Rudkin suggested that it be investigated as to how many members they had, as their income would be much lower than the football club and also the area was much smaller and needs a lot less maintenance than the football club. Councillor Isobel Hutchinson proposed that Councillor Armiger arrange a meeting with the Bowls Club representative and seek more information and report back at the September Meeting with a proposal. **Agreed**

15. Financial Statement and Accounts for Approval:

(a) Councillor Brighton presented the Cheques for payment of £13,274.54 as per **Annexed. Agreed.**

(b) The Clerk reported on Council’s finances as follows:

**HOLBEACH PARISH COUNCIL**

**2016-17**

**BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016**

**BANK ACCOUNTS**

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(c) The Clerk reported that he had received a request for a grant from St Nicholas Christmas Fayre. **Annexed.**

It was proposed that a grant of £250 be made, as per the one made to the Holbeach Town Christmas Fayre, on condition that if the event does not go ahead for any reason the grant is returned. **Agreed.**

16. **Staffing Matters:**

Resolve to go 'In Committee'. **Agreed.**

17. **Any other business by leave of Chairman:**

Councillor Paul Foyster reported that he had been approached by Health Watch Lincolnshire, which was a charity funded by LCC to attend to request they give a presentation at the September Meeting.

Councillor Rachel Flood reported that the St Nicholas Fayre group would be joining the Holbeach Community Group.

Councillor Isobel Hutchinson reminded Members that there was a public meeting on August 15th to discuss the Boston Road car park and the Town Market and asked Members to attend and encourage other to do the same.

22. **Confirm date and venue of next Parish Council Meeting.**

September 12th 2016, Methodist Church Hall, Albert Walk, Holbeach at 7pm.
20 Agenda Items for next Meeting-
- Health Watch Lincolnshire- Presentation
- Bowls Club rent
- Holbeach Town Band Hall

The meeting ended and closed at 8.22 p.m.
It was then resolved that the Parish Council go “Into Committee”.

Chairman……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. 