

## **HOLBROOK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr John Ambrose (Chairman), Cllr Robert Allinson, Maggie Good, Janine Everson, Sonia Fox, County Councillor Simon Harley, Derek Harper, Melanie Holmes, Cllr Sally Ingleton, Les Jolley, Gerald Laws, John Makin, District Cllr Mary McClaren, Cllr Sarah Peck, David Rose, Jo Rose, Kate Saulter, Joy Squirrel, Suzanne Steer, Frances Williams, John Williams.

In attendance: Jo Hazlewood (Parish Clerk)

**1. Apologies** were received from Simon Lockyer (Headmaster Royal Hospital School), Tom Maltby (Headteacher Holbrook Academy) and Ian Bowell (Holbrook Community Speedwatch Coordinator)

### **2. Introduction & Welcome:**

John Ambrose welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting tonight and said it was good to be back in the village hall. He reminded everyone that the meeting is not a meeting of the Parish Council, but the Annual Parish Meeting and no decisions will be made. He added that the Parish Council welcomes parishioners to come along to the regular monthly meetings of the council to raise their concerns, which are usually held on the third Monday of each month.

He introduced Casey, a student from Holbrook Academy to entertain the meeting with two songs.

Following the entertainment, Cllr John Ambrose thanked Casey and David Sansom (Head of Performing Arts at Holbrook Academy) for giving up their time and for providing an excellent start to the meeting.

### **3. Payment of the Peppercorn rent**

Cllr Ambrose explained that the first presentation of the reed for the Reade Field was made in July 1968 in the presence of the Queen Mother at the opening of the Fire Station. The lease started on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1968 and runs for 99 years. The payment this year will take place later in the year as no one is available from the RHS to receive the reed.

**3. Minutes:** The Parish Clerk summarised the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Full copies of the minutes were available at the meeting. It was proposed by Mel Holmes and seconded by Robert Allinson that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be signed as a true record.

### **4. To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council from the Chairman, John**

**Ambrose.** Councillor Ambrose said that we are all shocked by the events happening in Ukraine and encouraged people to support the international relief by donating money to the Disaster Emergency Committee. He explained that unfortunately, the Parish Council are not allowed to make donations by regulations but he had personally donated his chairman's allowance to the fund.

He went on to say that the PC have a full council and welcomed Max Pittman to council. He thanked all his fellow councillors for supporting him over the year and for the experience they bring to the council. He also thanked the clerk for supporting the council throughout the year and him in his role as chairman and congratulated her for gaining the CILCA qualification which means we will have general powers after 2023.

He also thanked the District Councillor Mary McLaren and County Councillor Simon Harley, who will report to the meeting later.

Cllr Ambrose said that the PC is pleased to see the bottle banks on the community car park and, so far, they have not caused issues, He said it was surprising how often they are emptied and he thanked the village hall committee for allowing them to be positioned there. He thanked the Community Caretaker, who many people will have seen walking round the village whilst keeping the village clean and tidy.

He also thanked the P3 group who continue to work to ensure the public footpaths around the village are kept clear which has been especially welcomed as many of us have been discovering the lovely walks we have around the area.

The council is in the final stages of having the older street lights changed to more energy efficient LED lights, as, like everyone, the Parish Council are looking at ways to reduce their electricity bill and usage. The PC hope the lights will be set to be dimmed or turned off at night. The project will be around £20,000 but there will be no corresponding rise in the Parish Council's portion of the council tax bill as reserves and savings have been made to fund the project. There will be a considerably saving too in the future.

Recently, residents from Denmark Gardens attended a council meeting to raise their concerns about car parking and increased traffic at school drop off and pick up times. This affects many roads in the village and it is hoped to have a public meeting later this year when it can be discussed and solutions explored.

The council is asked to comment on planning applications, most of which are uncontroversial and are recommended for approval. We objected to the proposals for housing at the rear of the fire station and this is expected to the planning committee on 27<sup>th</sup> April for a decision.

We now have a community speed watch team armed with a speed gun and there will be a report from them later.

Finally, looking forward plans are coming together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee starting with the lighting of a beacon on the village hall green on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9.45 and ending with street parties around the village. Details are in the Parish Papers. We plan to have a fun day on Saturday 2<sup>rd</sup> July on the Reade Field to at last officially open the new play equipment.

#### **5. To receive a report from the Responsible Finance Officer of the Parish Council:**

The Parish Council started the year with an opening balance of £55,157.42  
And have closed on £80,555.92 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Some of the increase in funds this year was due to receiving CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money as a result of building developments within Holbrook and a grant for consultancy for the Neighbourhood Plan. Both sums of money are earmarked and the balance will be carried forward to 2022/23. Funds have also been put aside for long term projects such as the rebuilding/refurbishing of the pavilion on the Reade Field and converting all the street lighting managed by the Parish Council to LED bulbs with timing controls.

Other earmarked funds include:

- Repairs and renewals of assets
- Election costs
- Bus shelters

The Council continues to invite applications for grants during the year, up to a maximum amount of £500, from local charitable organisations who provide facilities and services for the benefit of the local community. Applications should be made in writing, or by email, to the Clerk. Applications will be considered in the late Autumn when the Council sets its budget and approved grants will be paid during the following financial year.

The Parish Council's accounts will be sent to the auditors within the next couple of weeks and will be published on the website. If you would like further details in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact the clerk at: [holbrookparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:holbrookparishclerk@outlook.com)

## **6. To receive a report from District Councillor Mary McLaren**

District Councillor Mary McLaren highlighted some of the notable events that had taken place over the past year:

“Our year started early in BDC on the 25 March 2021 as due to the County Council Elections of May 2021 there was a moratorium on Council and Committee meetings until after the election on 6 May 2021. We welcomed our County Councillor Simon Harley to our parishes after that election.

Good news came when, from the 12 May Councillors could return to Endeavour House, to meet in person for Committees however as our digital skills had improved enormously, one year on we still meet on line for member briefings and working groups and certain safety restrictions are still in place for Council, Cabinet and Committee members in terms of distancing and infection control.

The Annual Council Meeting on 25 May took place in Wherstead Park however as a venue it was very unsatisfactory in amplification and ambience and we were glad it was a temporary solution. At that meeting we elected a new Chairman of the Council Cllr Adrian Osborne and the Chairs of the 5 major committees.

Our constant objectives throughout the year were to support the vulnerable and needy within our communities and encourage everyone eligible to go for vaccination. We are very grateful to all our volunteers who worked very hard providing shopping, collecting prescriptions and promoting health and well-being among our communities and who continue to do so.

Economic Recovery was vital for our local businesses and business grants continued to be paid for businesses in different sectors. The virtual high street was launched and encouraging businesses to promote their services and products on-line has been very successful. Unfortunately, we have had two of our local Public Houses close down but look forward to them becoming lively hubs again for our communities and visitors.

Babergh continued with its projects aimed at boosting biodiversity and tackling climate change and over the year the tree canopy survey is now in place, The Tree for Life initiative gave new parents the opportunity to plant a tree to celebrate the birth of a new baby, we were the first rural council with Mid Suffolk to switch our fleet of vehicles to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil. The First Local Energy Showcase was held at Wherstead Park and was hailed a success. I attended both days and was impressed with the national and local opportunities and grants on offer to groups and parishes on how to reduce their Carbon Footprint e.g., reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption.

The Joint Local Plan (Babergh & Mid Suffolk) was submitted in June to the Secretary of State. However, the Planning Inspector has returned it for further review of the evidence submitted by the Joint Councils but work on the Joint Local Plan can continue. Good news that Neighbourhood Plans are progressing forward thanks to the hard work and diligence of their committees and residents. Babergh and Mid Suffolk are taking part in a national scheme to boost participation in Neighbourhood Planning.

Good News that Babergh has published its draft housing land supply statement and can demonstrate a housing land supply for 6.75 years.

In November I was honoured to Remember Those who Gave their Lives for their Country with Stutton Residents on Remembrance Sunday and Holbrook Residents on Remembrance Day at their respective War Memorials.

My Locality Grants this year went towards the installation of Overhead Projection equipment in Stutton and Holbrook Village Halls which will enable many clubs and societies to produce presentations par excellence.

My report started with a Council Meeting. On 22 March 2022 Babergh District Council voted to maintain the Cabinet system of Governance instead of a possible Committee system of Governance which had been proposed.

My grateful thanks to the Chair and the Councillors of Holbrook Parish Council for their support over the past year I feel very privileged to serve you and the community of Holbrook”

## **7. To receive a report from County Councillor Simon Harley –**

County Councillor Simon Harley's report to the Annual Parish Meeting is as follows:

"Since last year's County Council Elections, the Suffolk Green Liberal Democrat & Independent Group have been tasked with trying to hold the Conservative administration to account. The Conservatives having a strong majority with 55 seats out of 75, but we have been able to bring forward questions & motions throughout the year and challenge them to do the best for Suffolk.

### **Annual Budget Meeting: GLI Amendments Declined**

Suffolk County Council voted in their budget for 2022-23. Our Group were concerned that the budget relied too heavily on transformation savings, and that the Conservative's did not take the maximum social care precept to fund adult care allowed by Government.

Suffolk GLI Group highlighted the need to invest more in adult social care, as well as an innovative project to reduce the energy bills of those most vulnerable, considering the current energy and cost of living crisis. Both ideas were rejected by the Conservatives, but our Group will continue to champion more investment into our social care and green technology that can lower bills.

### **No Carbon Budget for Scrutiny**

Conservatives brought forward the first Carbon Budget for Suffolk, but it wasn't part of the main budget so wasn't put through the Scrutiny process in the same way. The Carbon Budget is aimed to help us understand the level of emissions the Council are responsible for and helps to achieve the Council's ambition of being carbon-neutral by 2030. It is important the Carbon Budget is scrutinised, as there are many issues with data collection and performance measures that weren't addressed. Our Group raised concerns about this and has been assured that this will form part of the general budget process for next year.

### **Levelling Up: A Devolution Deal for Suffolk?**

The Government published its White Paper on Levelling-Up, within which it has agreed that Suffolk will be one of nine initial 'County Deals' up for negotiation. A new deal will potentially give local leaders more powers to make decisions for their communities for the first time. Our Group welcomes the idea of bringing more power to the communities of Suffolk. However, we are concerned about a potential Mayoral position created in Suffolk and the effect this may have on marginalising districts in Suffolk.

### **Report into SEND Provision: Review & Recommendations**

Suffolk County Council commissioned an independent review into Special Educational Needs and Disability provision. The report found severe failings in the delivery of Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plans for children, serious issues in communicating with parent/guardians, as well as an inefficient work environment within the service.

The scrutiny committee have met since the report to listen to lead officers within the service and parents, debate necessary changes, and submit recommendations for improvement.

This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report.

### **Bus Back Better: Initiative from the Department for Transport (DfT)**

The Bus Back Better scheme was launched this year, aimed at updating, expanding, and improving our bus services in Great Britain. The Cabinet at Suffolk County Council approved a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submitted to Government, while Suffolk County Council still wait for DfT to confirm the final funding. However, we have recently been told that the budget for this scheme has been significantly cut by the government. All proposals of the BSIP that were passed by Cabinet can be viewed here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

### **Biodiversity Recommendations to Enhance**

Suffolk County Council will be doing more for the county's natural environment, as it confirmed plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land by 2030. Our Group had a major influence in providing recommendations to SCC which are now a part of the Council's ambitions moving forward to enhance biodiversity. Examples include planting more

hedgerows, improving highway trees, and developing nature-based flood management solutions. For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/councils-commitment-to-further-enhancing-suffolks-natural-environment>

### **Sizewell C: Where are we now?**

Our Group has asked searching questions regarding this project, arguing the environmental and socio-economic impacts on local communities are far too great. The Government announced their strategy to retain investors, by shifting the costs of Sizewell C onto consumers, in the form of a taxpayer subsidy known as a 'Regulated Asset Base' funding strategy.

Our Group rejected this strategy, and strongly recommended that the Government reconsiders before it puts the burden of cost onto our local communities, and instead looks into investing in cleaner, cheaper, safer and quicker forms of renewable energy available to Suffolk. Suffolk County Council have announced their general support for Sizewell C but have taken up 'important concerns' to the Secretary of State.

### **New Investment in Drainage and Footway Infrastructure**

The Cabinet approved £10m to replace broken pipes and new installations, as well as an additional £10m to increase the maintenance of selected footways in Suffolk.

### **Lorry Route Map Review in Suffolk: Interactive Map to be Published**

Suffolk County Council undertook a review of recommended lorry routes across the county; the first major review of the network since 2011. Suffolk County Council invited parish and town councils for their views, and to provide up to three routes where they believe HGV traffic has the highest impact on their communities. The review will be completed in Spring 2022 where the County Council plan to publish a new interactive Lorry Route map. For further information, please contact [lorry.routes@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:lorry.routes@suffolk.gov.uk),

### **Local Electricity Bill: Suffolk GLI Motion Passed by Council**

A motion submitted by our Group ask Suffolk County Council to support the Local Electricity Bill, which is a proposed Bill waiting to be debated in Parliament for its Second Reading, was passed unanimously by the Council. The Bill seeks to localise energy supply, making local electricity cheaper, more reliable, and community based. Details of the motion and Local Electricity Bill can be found here: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-councillors>

### **Councillor's Locality Budget:**

County Councillors have a Locality Budget through which they can make recommendations to Suffolk County Council to put funds towards local projects.

In the last year I have recommended funding for a number of projects across the Peninsula including: Lantra training for power tools, play equipment, speed indicator devices, bench seats, village hall projectors, Repair Café equipment, defibrillator training and a Community Shop venture. Other projects in the pipeline include helping local students with a mental health project.

If you are involved in similar local projects this coming year, and would like to be considered for a grant, please let me know."

**8. To receive the written report from the Royal Hospital School:** Mr. Lockyer was unable to attend the meeting and the following report was read out by the Chairman.

"I am sorry that I cannot be with you on 4 April but have noted here a few points of note that I hope will be of interest to our neighbours.

It is only right to begin with a thought that has been uppermost in our minds over the last month or so. The outbreak of conflict in Ukraine has shocked us all and I believe we all share the hope that peace will soon be restored in that region of the world. Our own school

community has been involved in supporting those directly impacted as well as engaging in a number of charitable fund-raising events.

The school seems to have weathered the storm of Covid and we are glad that pupils can now be educated in more normal surroundings. Through the support of parents, pupils and staff we have only had one or two occasions that I might call 'outbreaks' until the complete relaxation of restrictions in February when case numbers amongst staff increased.

### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

As the school is on its half term break for the extra bank holiday, we will be holding our own celebrations for pupils on Friday 27 May, including a Chapel service, an old-style sports day and a street party. We are also creating an installation art piece which will comprise of a large crown made of willow and planted with flowers and plants to remember the coronation. I hope this will be something that the wider community will enjoy as they pass through the school.

RHS is taking part in the Festival of the Sea over the weekend of 11/12 June and details can be found [here](#). Members of the public are very welcome to attend and perhaps bring a picnic. Tickets for the Sunday events can be requested from the website.

### **RHS and local sport**

As in previous years, a group of Year 12 pupils are working towards their sports leadership qualification. Each week, they visit Holbrook Primary School and Stutton Primary School. They work with pupils in Key Stage 2 and have lead sessions in a variety of sports over the past academic year. Our pupils have established an excellent rapport with the younger children and have helped them participate in and enjoy lessons in tag rugby, hockey, football and basketball. We are looking forward to continuing in the summer term with some cricket coaching.

On 30 March we welcomed 600 pupils from across Suffolk onto the grounds for the primary school cross country meet. The weather was a little cool but dry unlike the RHS inter-house competition which took place the following day after the unseasonable snow.

New viewing platforms have been installed next to the AstroTurf pitches and the Holbrook Hornets make good use of the floodlit facility on Thursday evenings from October-April.

### **Other school news**

Inspectors from the ISI visited the school in November 2021 and their report was published in February. The community shared in the pride of the school being judged excellent in all areas of educational quality and exceeding or meeting all regulatory standards.

In February, Dilanee Bunter of Ocean Stars Trust talked to the whole school about 'Empowering Children'. The presentation included an update on the smart classroom project to which we have contributed charitable funds and I hope is the start of a long relationship between RHS and a school in Sri Lanka.

The second De Neumann scholarship has been awarded to a pupil from Southend High School for Girls. This scholarship is made possible with a generous gift from the estate of Professor Bernard de Neumann and is offered every two years to a pupil from a state school in Essex or Suffolk. A keen interest and skill in maths is essential and the next interviews will take place in the spring of 2024.

**New café** Plans to turn the school's Heritage Centre into a café were put on hold during the pandemic but work has now started in earnest. The café will be open for use by the public at set times of the week; please do pay us a visit when it is opened, which we hope will be later this year.

### **Music**

Finally, I am delighted that the school's concert programme has been able to resume this term including the regular Notes & Nibbles. Full details can be found [here](#). "

## **9. To receive a report from Holbrook Academy**

Mr. Tom Maltby was unable to attend the meeting and the following written report was read out by the Chairman:

“Holbrook Academy began the new academic year returning to school life without zones. The routines and rituals of school life provided students with a sense of security and reassurance during challenging times for all. I do believe that we, as a wider community, have a shared responsibility to provide our next generation with a sense of responsibility, citizenship and, above all, hope.

The changes to school life also enabled us to invite parents and carers back onto the school site and, in response, we held a series of highly successful Parent Information Evenings in the Autumn Term. It was wonderful to welcome back parents and carers and to have this opportunity to articulate our progression and vision for Holbrook Academy. We were also able to invite prospective parents onto the school site in a series of Open Day events. Our visitors were able to see for themselves our school on a ‘normal day’ and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic; we now look forward to welcoming a full cohort of Year 7 students in September 2022.

The Academy has also focused on closing gaps in student learning. We have invested in Accelerated Reader to improve reading ages in the lower year groups alongside the National Tutoring Programme to support students across all year groups. We have also made significant investment in laptops and Chrome books and replaced every desktop computer in all our IT classrooms to ensure that our resources meet the needs of our student; who are themselves increasingly skilled in the use of information technology. We intend to enhance our curriculum to reflect our local context by participating in a DfE funded project to develop a maritime curriculum. We also look forward to enhancing our school facilities with a new Science laboratory and an inclusive support centre. We intend to share our additional Science laboratory with local feeder schools so they can get to experience practical Science lessons in a school laboratory before they begin secondary school. These building developments will be completed by September 2022.

The Academy is also working closely with Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council to explore how we can further extend sharing our sport's facilities with the local community. At present, Holbrook Academy facilitates a range of community events such as self-defence classes, Badminton group, junior tennis group alongside providing our playing fields for Holbrook Hornets for football practice and holding fixtures. These community events are managed on a cost neutral basis

As Headteacher, I have always been keen to engage with our local community in an open and constructive manner and I want our students to contribute. In this past year, we have collected food parcels for a local foodbank, promoted service to others through our GradU8 programme, re-established the Duke of Edinburgh Award and a number of our students have been volunteering to clear up litter in The Cut adjoining our school. Our Student Council have also created the following five characteristics which we now promote across our Academy; determination, kindness, confidence, tolerance and resilience. We are proud of our students, their characteristics and optimistic about their future within our shared community”

#### **10. To receive a report on the Neighbourhood Plan**

The following key points had been sent by Marek Pawlewski, The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group, as he was unable to attend the meeting:

#### **Holbrook Neighbourhood Plan Update April 2022**

Key points:

1. The Regulation 14 Public Consultation was completed on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021. We received a number of constructive responses from the statutory consultees and from members of the public.
2. The responses from consultation have been analysed by our planning consultant, comments have been recorded in the consultation statement, and the draft plan has now been updated accordingly.
3. A Habitats Regulation Assessment has been conducted by Babergh. This identified the key environmental and biodiversity sensitivity of the Parish. We may require a full strategic assessment in due course as a result.
4. The next stage will be the submission of the regulation 15/16 draft plan to Babergh prior to going to the examination stage in early summer.
5. We are aiming to go to a public referendum by the Autumn to vote on the Plan.

#### **11. To invite other village organisations to present a report:**

Several village organisations attended to present a report of the year's highlights of their organisation. Written reports were received from Holbrook Pre-School Playgroup and Holbrook Community Speed Watch Group, which were read out by the Chairman.

##### **Pre-school Playgroup**

"The Pre-school continues to fulfil its objectives in providing care and education to children under 5 and also providing before and after school care for children of school age up to the time they leave to go to secondary school. We also provide some limited cover during school holidays.

Covid placed a strain on staff as in the second lockdown we were allowed to remain open. Great efforts were made by staff in terms of cleaning and apart from a couple of weeks we were able to remain open and provide a valuable support to the community.

Moving forward our numbers are now at capacity and we are exploring the possibility of extending our premises. At the moment this is a feasibility study and costing exercise. We will of course keep the Council apprised of progress.

To conclude the last 12 months has been challenging but the Pre School is in a strong position to fulfil its role in the community"

##### **Community Speedwatch Group**

"Holbrook Community Speedwatch Group has been up and running since last July and has carried out a number of watches in each of the three approved speedwatch sites:

Pettwood

Opposite Church Green

RHS just to the left of the main entrance.

The group has been given a new, more efficient speed camera.

The time, the numberplate, colour, make and model of all cars who are doing 35 mph or more are recorded and forwarded to Norfolk and Suffolk Community Speed Safety Group who then check the details are correct, before issuing warning letters to drivers who have been recorded as speeding.

The group currently has 8 volunteers. Ideally, to continue to carry out our regular speed watches, a couple more volunteers would be beneficial. If anyone is interested, please contact Holbrook Parish Clerk, who will put you in touch with Ian Bowell, the coordinator of the group"

##### **Holbrook Helpers**

Kate Saulter, Chair of Holbrook Helpers Committee gave the following update:

"Holbrook Helpers is a Good Neighbour Scheme which serves residents of Holbrook, Lower Holbrook and Harkstead. Residents needing help call a dedicated local rate number, which connects them to one of four coordinators. If no one is available to take the call, there is the option to leave a message. It would be beneficial to have at least one more coordinator.



During 2021, Holbrook Helpers volunteers helped on 952 occasions. The types of help available includes, but is not limited to, prescription ordering and delivery, shopping, welfare telephone calls or visits, dog walking, and transport.

Holbrook Helpers also arranged for two Little Free Pantries in Holbrook. They have been up and running for about a year now. The idea is that people take what they need and give what they can. A young volunteer checks the pantries weekly. Items are date checked and a report of stock levels at the time of his visit is given. Donations to the Little Free Pantries should be non-perishable and sealed items of food or hygiene products.

In September 2021, our Good Neighbour Scheme grew as Holbrook Helpers welcomed the villages of Lower Holbrook and Harkstead, as their Good Neighbour Scheme closed after more than 12 years. Most, if not all, of the volunteers from the former Harkstead and Lower Holbrook Good Neighbour Scheme, have joined the Holbrook Helpers team of volunteers. After the disappointment of the village event not being possible in the summer last year, the Holbrook Helpers committee looks forward to being part of this year's village event and having the opportunity to thank our volunteers face to face.

Most recently, the feelers have been put out to see if there is a group within Holbrook Helpers that may be able to assist in welcoming Ukrainian refugees. It was felt that if there was known to be support locally for both refugees and the people offering them space, it would be beneficial. Not everyone can offer space, but there will be other ways to help, for example, helping to fill in forms, providing transport, donating clothes, toys and provisions. The response has been positive. We will see how the situation evolves”

### **Holbrook Society**

Maggie Good, representing Holbrook Society gave the following report:

“Holbrook Society started nearly 10 years ago, and have raised over £7,000 for charities since 2015 supporting a number of organisations, including St. Elizabeth Hospice, The East Air Ambulance, All Saints Church, the Methodist Church, the Bus Shelter, SSFA, Blind Vets Association, The Repair Café. Although events were curtailed due to COVID, Holbrook Society managed to organise a Safari around the village, and a Table Top Sale and recently had talks on the prison service by Rory Burrow and an insight into growing up in Malaysia from Simon Markham. There was also a quiz and a demonstration by EAAA. Forthcoming events including a visit to Ganges and a talk by Charlie Haylock on working on The Dig. This year, instead of a Safari trail around the village, households are invited to create a story book in the garden. There will be a shopping trip to Norwich too, in the Autumn.

### **Parish Recorder report**

Fran Williams, the Parish Recorder, presented the following report:

“I have continued to catalogue any materials that have come my way, including downloading copies of photos and comments from the Facebook page “Holbrook, Suffolk, Past and Present” which now has a membership of over 900. Photos in the albums compiled by Marion Leeson have mostly been catalogued with a date and, where possible, names have been added. Each month I put up a new photo and caption on the noticeboard by the surgery and I also had a mini exhibition of scrap books and photos at the Church Christmas Fete in the Village Hall.

The big challenge for this year will be to provide photos spanning the 70 years of the Queen's reign for a display in the Village Hall as part of the Holbrook's Society efforts for the Jubilee holiday.

My biggest failing is to persuade people to write down their experiences of growing up in Holbrook. Perhaps I will do better next year! “

### **The Bowls Club**

Derek Harper – Green keeper and Chairman of the Bowls Club gave an update on the activities of the Bowls Club. He explained that the league started with no relegations or promotions, but this year the league will operate fully.

The Bowls Club is open on Mon, Tues and Weds evenings. There are 3 teams of 3, It will be open on 16<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00 p.m. and everyone is very welcome to go along. It will also be open on the day of the Fete. The club has been there since 1932 and is an excellent facility. They would like to encourage more membership. He added that there is carpet bowls on Tues and Thurs evenings as well.

### **Tree Warden**

Cllr Robert Allinson, as Tree Warden, gave a brief report of activity during the year. For the Queen's Tree Canopy, we have identified 4 locations to plant new trees: Reade Field, Village Hall, All Saints Church and Alton Green. The tree planting will be during November. The Parish Council gets involved in several enquiries about trees and hedges. There was a question raised about the hedges on the land next to Alpha and Cllr Allinson confirmed that the Parish Council would be watching the situation carefully.

### **The Village Hall**

David Rose – Chair of the Village Hall Committee gave an update of developments with the Village Hall. There had been a new kitchen, costing £15,000 which was part funded by Babergh District Council. There had been a complete redecoration and a new projector had been installed with financial help from the Parish Council, the District Councillor and the County Councillor. New curtains were about to be put in, costing just under £5,000. David Rose went on to thank Roger Leg, who, after many years, had retired as treasurer and thanked John Makin for taking over. They also have a new auditor in Peter Cloke. He also thanked Les Jolly who had helped to keep the village hall up to date with COVID guidelines and Janine Everson, the committee's secretary who had been very helpful with the re-designing of the kitchen. Thanks also go to Chris and Catriona Herbert who are the booking secretaries and also thanks to the cleaners who keep the hall clean and tidy. Mr Rose expressed concern about the increasing cost of electricity and gas and the effect it may have on the cost of hiring the hall.

**12 To invite the public to raise any matters of interest:** there were no further matters raised.

Councillor John Ambrose thanked everyone for coming to the Annual Parish Meeting and invited them to stay for tea and coffee

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.