



## Clerk's Report – February 2026 Holbrook Parish Council

**Training/Meetings attended:** Preparing for Audit (free - Scribe)  
AI and Local Governance (free – Public Sector Executive)  
Master Year End with Confidence (free – Scribe)

### **Electrical Sub-Station, Heathfield Road**

I have contacted UK Power Networks again about the advertisements on the boarded side of the electricity substation on Heathfield Road. Our original request was to see if they would agree to a noticeboard being put up there to stop it looking quite so untidy. They have now replied to say they wouldn't support anything being put on their fence or walls, but we could put some free-standing boards up as long as these did not impair access to the substation. This obviously doesn't address the problem of their fenced side of the sub-station being used by people putting up posters.

### **Shotley Peninsula Cycling Campaign**

We were asked to find out if there were any plans to upgrade The Dam at Alton Reservoir to support members of the SPCC. My efforts to get a response from Anglian Water have been abortive so far.

### **Fitness classes**

I have had some supportive emails from participants of the fitness classes at the Academy in support of the grant application recently submitted for funding for a further year. The emails have been forwarded to Babergh to accompany the application. I will keep councillors informed of any outcome.

### **UK Power Networks – power outage:**

There was concern expressed by a resident that a very elderly lady was to be without power for at least 6 hours in the very cold weather whilst UK Networks disabled power lines for safety reasons to accommodate work to a tree on Ipswich Road (subject to a TPO, but for which planning permission has been granted). In the end the elderly resident was able to make alternative arrangements. UK Power Networks indicated that special arrangements could be made for elderly or vulnerable residents, but these were obviously not offered to the resident in question until concerns were expressed..

Since then I had a phone call from a neighbour of the house where the tree work was carried out, expressing dismay at how drastic the work had been on the tree concerned. The resident also raised several other concerns/comments:

- Why is there no tree planting programme within the village?
- Why was the Compasses not made an asset of community interest?
- Why hadn't a notice of the planning permission been put through, their letterboxes? (*I explained this was no longer the practice*)

I did my best to explain that we had tried to register the Compasses as an asset but were frustrated by the rules of registration – i.e. evidence of community use and need had to be within the last 5 years and unfortunately most of evidence pre-dated that period and, of course, COVID had intervened. I also explained that it was not necessarily in the gift of the Parish Council to plant trees along verges, etc., It depended upon who owns or is responsible for the land and the suitability of the land for tree planting. For instance, I explained that we had hoped to have some trees in Clifton Wood, but were told that utility pipes were too close to the surface for tree planting to be viable.

Savills, acting on behalf of Greenwich, have undertaken some tree work on the Reade Field. This is a new departure, as previously the Parish Council has assumed responsibility for any tree work required.

**Website** - following receipt of the audit report, some remedial work has been undertaken (links which no longer worked), and a report was re-run, showing no errors of compliance with WCAG 2.2. I have amended our Accessibility report to reflect this. There are also some recommendations on the report which I will try and implement in due course.

**SID:** The Speed Indicator Device has been out of battery for a while.

**Community Caretaker:** the Community Caretaker's shoes needed replacing – the sole had detached from one of the shoes. A replacement pair has been provided (of their choice). We have an annual budget to provide certain safety equipment as and when required.

**Shotley Peninsula Parish Council Alliance:** the next quarterly meeting between the Alliance and Babergh has been scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**Memorial Bench on Alton Green:** we had a request some time ago from the family who had erected the memorial bench at the top of Alton Green. They wanted it moved from under the trees. Originally they asked if a local handyman could do this work. The handyman had a look and said they would submit a price. However, the family have now said that a member of their family can do the work. Cllr Allinson had visited the site and suggested a couple of suitable places for re-location. If the PC approves, the family will remove the bench and take it away to restore it before fixing it in its new location.

**Co-option:** Council can go ahead now and recruit a new councillor to be co-opted following the resignation of Cllr Stephens. A Co-option policy is now included in the Agenda.

**Potholes:** As expected following recent weather conditions, a variety of deep potholes have materialised. These have all been reported on the reporting tool, sometimes multiple times, and some have been filled, I received an email to say that the potholes on New Lane are now on a schedule to be mended.

Jo Hazlewood – February 2026