

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HOLTON LE CLAY
19th May 2025 AT 6.30pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL, PINFOLD LANE,
HOLTON LE CLAY. DN36 5DL

In attendance: Emma Portas

3 Members of the Public

1. CHAIRMANS WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

The minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 22nd April 2024 were approved as a true record.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman introduced himself and the clerk to members of the public.

4. CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2024 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025/26

The chairman delivered the following report: Over the last year the Parish Council has continued to deliver key services for our community, including the upkeep of grass verges and both village playing fields. With the support of Paul Notley, we've also kept the village clean and litter-free. In January, we bid farewell to Paul after many years of service, and we are pleased to welcome Karl Holmes as our new litter picker. Karl has settled into the role wonderfully and is already doing a fantastic job.

Adding a splash of colour to the village, we planted over 700 spring bulbs this year, which have been a lovely addition to our green spaces. We also continue to maintain the cemetery, play parks, and the village hall—an ever-busy hub at the heart of our community.

Looking ahead to 2025/26. The Parish Council has had to make some difficult financial decisions. A 6% increase in our precept has been agreed for the coming year. Even with this increase, we are facing a shortfall of £14,801. We intend to bridge this gap using surplus reserves, income generated throughout the year, and refunds from grass cutting and weed spraying contracts.

Despite these financial pressures, our commitment to the community remains steadfast. We will continue to provide vital services such as clerking, cemetery and burial services, and the ongoing enhancement of our play parks and green spaces. We will also remain actively engaged with planning matters, working with developers and consulting on applications, and continue to liaise with the Highways Authority to address road and transport concerns.

Now for some exciting news: with the aid of a very generous donation from the Fenwick family, along with several grant awards, the Parish Council is delighted to announce the upcoming installation of a new skate park at the 8 Acres Playing Field. This project represents a significant investment in our community's recreational facilities and is expected to be a welcome improvement, offering enjoyment for residents of all ages.

We currently have two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you're passionate about your local area and want to make a difference, we would warmly encourage you to consider becoming a Parish Councillor. It is a rewarding and impactful way to contribute to your community.

Finally, thank you to all our residents for your continued support, participation, and pride in our village.

5. Public forum

There were no questions from members of the public.