

# HOLT SOCIETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.00pm Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Present:** Keith Gosden [KG](Chair), Robin Back [RB], Polly Binns [PB], Geoff Davis [GD], Julie Goldsworthy [JG], Tony Leech [TL]. Michael Evans [ME] (prospective committee member).

Action

**1 Apologies.** Tim Bennett [TB].

**2 Minutes of meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023.** Approved and signed following correction to the meeting date.

**3 Matters arising.** All covered by agenda items.

## 4 Chairman's Report

- a. All contributors to the May Newsletter were thanked. TL was thanked for layout.
- b. Michael Evans (prospective committee member) was welcomed and invited to introduce himself.
- c. KG was thanked for making the Coronation cake which, together with others, was consumed at HTC's teatime Coronation event on the Peacock Lane playing field.
- d. KG reported that a Town Councillor had raised issues concerning the public appeal organised by the HS for the Coronation Slates as the sum raised was insufficient to cover the costs. After discussions with Rodney Smith (Town Mayor) and Gemma Harrison (Town Clerk), KG had written to explain that although the fund was still open, no further contributions were expected. As agreed at the time, HTC would cover the shortfall. A reply was awaited.
- e. Sophie Sladden, a possible committee member, would be introduced at the next committee meeting.

## 5 Planning applications (TB)

- a. #10 Grove Lane. Previous application to build a house had been turned down because of its height in comparison with adjacent buildings. TB thought that the new plans would be acceptable but would discuss with neighbours before commenting.
- b. 12 Magpie Close. The tenant had applied for permission to let the house. TB and other members suggested that there might be a covenant on the property which prevented this. However, this would not preclude the granting of planning permission. No comment to be made.
- c. White Lion coach house #2. Application for solar panels to be installed on south-facing roof. No comment to be made.

TB

For the benefit of new committee members, the influence of the Holt Society on the planning process was outlined.

## 6 Membership

RB reported that membership stood at 278 (excluding honorary members). Subscriptions were still due from 65. TL suggested that a list of these be circulated to committee members who might know if any had passed away or moved out of the area. While new subscriptions were due on January 1<sup>st</sup>, some existing subscriptions were due at different times.

RB

## 7 Treasurer

- a. GD had circulated the accounts; no questions were raised.
- b. KG stated that Public Liability insurance was now in place with Zurich.
- c. The remaining funds available from the Escapades project were discussed and agreed as below:
  - It was concluded that the material difference between the two sets of data (one from Susan Williams the other from the Treasurer [Geoff]) came down to £700 made up of £200 'seed money' and a £500 donation from the Holt Society.

- Looking back through the minutes there is a clear minute from a meeting on the 6th August 2019 where a proposal was sought to return the funds allocated by the Society as 'seed money' for the development of Escapades. The Proposal reads "*The £200 'reserved' for the initial development of the children's book concept should now be returned to Holt Society Accounts and not attributed to ESCAPADES in Holt.*" This was proposed by Tony Leech, seconded by Stephen Hume and approved by all. Therefore, it was concluded that no further action was to be had on this element as it was no longer part of the Escapades project.
- Turning to the £500 donation we checked that this had not been double-counted in Geoff's calculations of donations. Geoff confirmed that his figure (£2,075) was only donations from the public. This being the case we concurred with Susan Williams that this is still available.
- There was a unanimous decision that the project should be closed and that the sum of £566.00 would continue to be held in the Holt Society accounts, ringfenced for 'not for profit' donations in the future that support the wider society of Holt. This is to be allocated at the discretion of the Committee members from time to time.
- For clarity this means that any member of the Holt Society can submit a written request to the committee outlining a suggested use for these funds. The Committee will then decide whether to agree to this use and liaise with the proposer and the potential recipient. It is vital that no 'promises of funding' are given to any organisation until the committee has concluded its deliberations and confirmed its decision in writing.
- This information/decisions will be relayed to Susan Williams

Action

KG

### 8 Events

- a. The Gloucester Exhibition trip for Holt Primary School (sponsored by HS) on June 15<sup>th</sup> would include a workshop at the Castle Museum. Payment to the Castle Museum had to be made via the school and RB suggested that a receipt for this, stating its purpose, be obtained. If all 57 children attended, an additional sum of about £20 would be needed for prizes. This was agreed. PB would be present at the museum.
- b. Arrangements for Susan Smart's presentation in St. Andrew's on June 6<sup>th</sup> were discussed in detail. All places had already been booked and JG asked for clarification on how to deal with late applicants as seating was limiting.
- c. TL confirmed that there would be no charge or booking for the walk on Holt Lowes on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Notice had been given in the May Newsletter but KG agreed to send out an email reminder.

KG asked GD to keep and maintain a 'float' of change for use at events. He also asked that in future committee members wishing to attend should book as early as possible. Finally, he thanked PB and JG for their considerable efforts in managing this complex event.

GD

### 9 Any other business

TL reported that the Heritage Room in Nelson House had been decorated and requested that a sum not exceeding £150 be made available for the printing of five encapsulated posters (based on those for the *Glimpses of Holt* exhibition) to display there. This was agreed and TL to produce.

TL

TL reported that around 500 copies of *Glimpses of Holt* remained unsold and offered two suggestions. First, that copies be given to new members as a 'welcome gift'; RB agreed to do this. Secondly that copies should be placed in the Tourist Information Office (Nelson House) for which a donation (£2 suggested) be made; money raised to be donated to Holt 'charities' as agreed by the committee. TL to discuss with Gemma Harrison (Town Clerk).

TL

PB suggested that if progress was made in getting a footpath along the Norwich road to Holt Country Park, consideration be given to signage.

**10 Next meeting:** 2.00pm Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at Hanworth House (KG).

**Carried over:** Discussion of an 'Away Day' to discuss long-term plans