

## MINUTES OF MEETING - HOLTON VILLAGE HALL - 26TH FEBRUARY 2023 @ 7PM

Present: HPPG Core Group  
Rachel Kellett  
Jamie Leverett  
Gaina Dunsire  
Kevin Moores  
Marion Gaze  
Colin White  
Caron Stainton  
John Attridge

Purpose of meeting to update the community on the progress/work to date regarding community bid to purchase Holton Pits.

### Agenda

1. Why buy Holton Pits into Community Ownership?
2. WHAT are the numbers?
3. HOW will it work and what security?
4. WHAT Risks Mitigation Rewards
5. Funding applications updates.
6. Biodiversity updates.
7. Media updates and events and fish.
8. Conclusion - Mid April deadline

### Minutes of meeting

Introduction given by John Attridge thanking the community for attending and giving the purpose and aim of the meeting - to secure funds to purchase Holton Pits.

1. Rachel Kellett - updated the community on the progress so far - funding, formation regarding the forming of the CIC/, bank accounts in progress and a brief overview of the display boards showing examples of Risks/Rewards.
2. Kevin Moores - explained the figures - amount needed to be raised of £200K with a break down of £179K to bid for the site and £21K to cover purchase expenses. Heritage Lottery and Community Ownership Grants discussed. Also acknowledged the support we have been given from Terese Coffey's office.
3. Gaina Dunsire - Updated the community regarding Accountant - Social Nest fund raising platform and the requirement of £60K to be raised by mid April to confirm the viability of the

community purchase. Details given regarding the security of the account and the CIC Asset Lock. how to donate and what will happen if our bid is unsuccessful.

4. Rachel Kellett - Outlined risk areas and rewards. Financial/Maintenance and Governance.

Action: It was agreed that an email of the Holton Pits CIC Risks and Rewards document would be sent to the community mailing list.

5. Jamie Leverett - Explained the two possible funding bodies - National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Community Ownership Fund and that our initial applications have been approved allowing the community to proceed with a funding application. Confirmed that it is very unlikely that the funding, if awarded, would be within the time scale for our bid so the local benefactor's money may have to be used.

6. Marion Gaze - Updated the meeting regarding the future management of the site and the community's responsibilities highlighting the site's biodiversity and rare plants/mosses. Explaining possible funding opportunities and how other organisations maybe able to help in the future, e.g, Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

7. Colin White - Update given on recent media events, Anglia TV/Community News and the group's new website address. The health of the lake was discussed, with Barry Saville representing the Woodbridge Angling Club confirming that the cause of death to 30+ fish is still uncertain but it is believed that the freezing temperatures may be a cause.

8. Rachel Kellett - Concluded the meeting stating how important the community fund raising is to the success of the bid and what the community can do to help. Events already planned were discussed and asked for any suggestions and ideas from the community to raise funds. The following events were discussed - Mel - Kinda Education - Madhatters Tea Party at the pits - family and friends event. Kim Hoare's Full Moon Walk - 7th March 6.30pm.

Question and suggestion sessions then took place with questions being answered by the Core Group.

1. David Green - Why 179K and how much have local councils offered to donate including Halesworth Town Council, Holton Parish Council and East Suffolk Council?

2. Nat Bocking - Have individual councillors contributed? Alison Cackett answered stating that her budget window closes on the 28th February and could only be used to contribute to current live applications and explained how she had helped the group with the ACV application.

3. Joyce Mosley - Suggested the group investigated the possibility of using the Shared Prosperity Fund where £15K of funding may be available.

Action: It was agreed that this needed to be investigated by the Core Group/Alison Cackett?

4. Don Bateman - Advised the group of Claire Baldwin's Ramblers in Suffolk radio programme suggesting that the pits could be a location for the programme.

5. Katherine Kurt - Would interest be paid on any loans and what is the payback timescale of the loan? Would there be any special status for the large donors?

6. Claire Durrant - Informed the group that the school do not use the pits as they have their own green space and felt they could not help the project, however, the Parent's Association were not aware that the pits were still for sale and would like to be involved.

Action: Holton Saint Peter Primary School Parent's Association to be contacted.

7. Nat Bocking - Advised the group that he had been in contact with Neil Mahler, Suffolk Fungi Expert and is planning a Fungi Foraging Walk in August 2023.

8. Pam Jackson - Wanted to know what the other 16 bidders wanted to do with the site.

John Attridge closed the meeting at 8.10pm once again highlighting how important community funding is to the success of the project.