

## Holton Pits CIC General Meeting - 10th April 2023 - Holton Village Hall

Present:

Directors of Holton Pits CIC:

Rachel Kellett  
Jamie Leverett  
Kevin Moores  
Caron Stainton  
Marion Gaze  
Colin White  
John Attridge

Apologies for absence received from Gaina Dunsire

Community - register taken at door.

Purpose of the meeting: to update the community on the progress made regarding the community purchase of Holton Pits.

Minutes of meeting:-

Welcome and explanation of the Agenda given by John Attridge.

1. Kevin Moores - explained the figures/financial situation:-  
£200k needed to be raised - £179K to bid for the site/£21K to cover purchase expenses.

The current situation re: fund raising:-

£100k secured as bridging finance to be repaid once Community Ownership/Heritage Lottery grants have been secured. Details given regarding support received from our pre-applications - especially the support received from Terese Coffey's office.

£20k pledged but still to be called in from two local companies.

£60k received so far in donations.

Totalling £180k with another £20k still to be raised.

The following donations were acknowledged:

Rebecca Horton's Go Fund Me Page - £3730.00

Marion Gaze's cycle ride - an amazing 76 miles raising over £1000

Hammond's donation of £10k

Blyford & Sotherton Parish Council - £500

## 2. Fund raising events discussed:

David Green's Variety Show - tickets on sale this evening. Support needed so please spread the word. Details of the show given - lots of local talent performing, event will include comedy/music. A great family show so please support.

Geoff Wakeling's movie - an updated version will be available on YouTube.

Road signs/banners - a great presence with people from Halesworth visiting the site for the first time.

Ideas were then asked for on how can we raise the next £20K required

Suggestions:

Other councils to be contacted, Holton/Halesworth & District? Letters to be sent from members and again from the board.

53 local companies have been contacted, members weremasked if they could contact again or have any other companies to contact with the following Bernard Mathews/professional bodies e.g., solicitors/accountants currently being used by members or board/Freshpac/Suffolk Building Society.

Rebecca Horton stated that she will contact Gen X & Suffolk Radio again to update on the progress made and hopefully secure another interview. Rebecca stated she had written to all known celebrities in the area and many local companies including Adnams & Bernard Matthews.

Halesworth & District U3A should be contacted.

Donation boxes.

Ink Festival - flyers to be used to spread the word at this event.

Nat Bocking - confirmed his pledge is a complete gift and does not want a refund if the community bid is unsuccessful. Asked if other members could write to the board and state that their pledges are complete gifts too. Nat Bocking suggested a jumble sale in 3 weeks

times as he will have surplus stock from his latest project. Details to be confirmed.

A stall was suggested at Holton Car Boot Sale - 29th April. Enquiries to be made in feasibility of attendance at the Car Boot.

Confirmation was given that Wild East have been emailed to ask to donate.

Long term suggestions once the pit is owned by the community - tree / board sponsorship. Walks to be organised. Marion Gaze informed the members that she is planning monthly walks at the Pits, starting in May with a birdsong walk with details to be announced later.

3. Jamie Leverett confirmed that the ACV expires on the 3rd May and Cemex then has the right to sell to another party. The board have been updating Cemex monthly on the community's progress. The board plans to submit a bid on the 24th April and will invite Cemex to a bid handover day inviting the media/Terese Coffey/members of the public and Cemex. Hoping this will put pressure on Cemex in accepting the community's bid but again no guarantees can be given. A timeline will also be asked from Cemex once our bid has been submitted.

4. Rachel Kellet informed members of the progress on the Community Ownership Fund application. Business Plan/Risk Assessment being written at the moment and will be submitted on Wednesday 12th April. Acknowledged how important the testimonials received from the public have been in the application along with the 3 letters received from Terese Coffey's and Michael Gove's office and support received from other professional groups, e.g. Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

5. If and when we own the pits - we will need to reconvene to discuss/develop/approve our structure, governance, the Pits' immediate costs and contracts. It was discussed that new skill sets would be needed and possibly expand the committee. Other future suggestions: community monthly litter pick

6. A vote was then taken for agreement to submit a bid by the board on the 24th April for £179K. The vote was unanimous in favour to bid by all members present.

The meeting was then closed by John Attridge confirming again the importance to continue fund raising/supporting David's Variety Show and asking if any members are able to deliver flyers over the coming week.