**Holme Parish Council News**

**Elections** are coming!

If anyone would like to stand to be a Parish Councillor (all information in the last HP News, find it online on the Council website if yours has already reached the recycling bin!) please contact me with your address and I will make sure you get nomination papers which have to be back to Huntingdon DC by 5 April. My email and phone no are below. I am also happy to tell you more about being a Parish Councillor.

By the time you read this the **roadworks** on **Yaxley Road/Hod Fen Drove** will have started. We just hope that the full excavation and rebuild will be a long term fix. The works might carry on for a month. Watch for the signs!

**Advance Notice that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 21 April at 7pm at the Village Hall.** I will contact all groups during March for their reports but if you would like to make a report you don’t have to wait to be asked! Please email it in to me if possible before the meeting. It would be good to see you all at the meeting and it’s an ideal opportunity to meet with current Councillors and make suggestions and have discussions as to how Parish affairs should be run for the next year.

**Planning** – when a planning application is made the Parish Council usually has just 14 days to make comments to be considered by the Planning Dept at Huntingdon DC. HDC do not always post a site notice these days, although adjoining neighbours are consulted. You can view all planning applications on the HDC website and comment on them there.

**More Planning** -You may be interested to know that the outstanding “Permission in Principle” Application for the barns area (known as Laws Yard) on the corner of Short Drove is being passed to the Secretary of State who will appoint the Planning Inspectorate to determine it. The closing dates for comments at the Inspectorate is 16 March (email me if you wish for the address/ref etc). I will be resubmitting the comments already made about this application on the Council’s behalf.

**The field & footpath behind the Church**

I have been in contact with the landowner about the footpath after the publication of recent legal notices. The legal notices are to avoid any future claims for access over unofficial paths but the existing footpath is **not** under any threat of closure.

The Council has tabled a proposal to change the stiles for more accessible gates. At present this proposal is a non-starter, this is because the landowner feels that the footpath is being misused - too many people are straying off the public footpath (this is clear from the many worn paths) and too much dog poo both bagged and unbagged is being left in the field.

The Landowner wishes me to strongly emphasise the following:

1. **The footpath is a 1m strip** only and goes **directly across the field from stile to stile**. There is only the one public right of way. The rest of the land is **private** and not available for the public. **Please stay on the path**.
2. **Dog faeces must be picked up and taken away** – no exceptions. If your dog is off the lead and does a poo you must seek out the poo and pick it up – only then should you leave the path.
3. **Do not bind up or otherwise adjust the fencing** as has been done, this damages the fence.
4. **Bicycles, scooters** and so on are not permitted on any footpaths.
5. **No littering**.

Dog poo and litter are harmful to wildlife and when grazing animals return this will be even more important. Both are currently causing contamination of the hay crop. There is a bin by the Church for you to use.

**Holme School**

Well, what a start we have had to 2022! We have been very busy in school thinking about the year ahead of us and we are excited to be looking towards a brighter future with fewer restrictions in place.

We have had some great projects in school. Year 5/6 have had their World War II day, where they got to experience life in the trenches through virtual reality headsets, which they absolutely loved! Year 3/4 have had a great time learning about the Ancient Egyptians deciphering hieroglyphics and learning about who Howard Carter was. Year 1/2 have been creative and have created gargoyles after having looked at the features of Ely Cathedral and the Early Years children have explored Dinosaurs and the United Kingdom.

Within school, children have reflected on the past year and have set themselves New Year’s Resolutions and goals for the coming year. The children have also already got their sights set on Easter and have begun practising hymns ready for the Easter Service.

The School PTA have been busy making plans for the remainder of this term and we are really excited about some of the plans that are in the draft stages for the Summer Term. These will hopefully include picnics and sports days where we are able to invite parents and the community back onto the school premises. We are keeping everything crossed for this!

We have welcomed Mrs Ferrara to the team, who joins as our new Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Ferrara said “I have been lucky enough to join the lovely team at Holme as the new Assistant Head and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first half term here. My previous school had 630 children in it and I had taught across years 1-6 during my 12 years there. Holme C of E Primary School has a real community spirit and the children have been fabulous. I am very excited to see what the remainder of this year brings at Holme C of E Primary School.”

We look forward to sharing more about our exciting plans in the near future. Take care and stay safe everyone.

Kind regards,

Mrs King, Mrs Ferrara and the ‘small but mighty’ Holme team

**HOLME YOUTH CLUB**

Holme Youth Club continues too be as popular as ever with over 30 attending each term time Friday evening.  All members have the opportunity to take part in activities, purchase goods from our tuck shop and just hang out with their friends.

Our next “night out” is planned for 25th March when we will be having a bouncing night at Flip Out in Peterborough.  Unfortunately if you havent booked your place you will have to wait till next time as we are fully subscribed.

 We are now looking forward to our “day out” in the summer and ideas are being thrown about – aqua park swimming – outward bound activities – Woburn – Kempston -  most places we have been to before were so popular they are being looked at again.

Membership of Holme Youth Club is open to school years 5-10 who live in Holme or who attend or have attended Holme School.  If you meet this criteria and would like to know more email us on holmeyouthclub@gogle.com, check out our website or facebook pages or pop along to Holme Village Hall on a term time Friday between 6.30 and 8.30 to see what goes on.  We have to warn you though we can only take 40 members (if all volunteer helpers turn up) so you may be turned away if we are full.

**HOLME COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

Our team of volunteers continue to try to educate drivers passing through our village to adhere to the 30 mph speed limit.  We currently have a lot of large articulated trucks passing along the B660 who, although sticking to 30mph, are so large when they go round the corners they look to be going way to fast for safety and in danger of falling over so we would specifically ask them to reduce their speed even more for the safety of our residents of all ages.

The road leading from Holme to Yaxley is now closed for an extended period so we are experiencing additional traffic following the diversions along the B660 and would appeal to drivers to not take out their frustrations on their cars and the road by angrily speeding through the village in an effort to get home on time despite having to go “the long way round”.  Please respect the speed limit and the residents of our lovely little village.

As always we are open to welcome additional volunteers and if you would like to join us or even ask us to hold a session at a time and place that causes you concern please email us on csw.holme@btinternet.com and we will do our best to help get you trained by the police or help you out.

Our team is trained and supported by Cambridgeshire Police and it is they who follow up on our reports of speeding vehicles during our sessions.

**HOLME WI FEBRUARY 2022**

We kicked off the first meeting of 2022 with Jon Crisp from Amey Recycling. Jon is the education officer for Amey Recycling and is based at their depot in Waterbeach. He gave a very insightful talk about recycling, why it is important to recycle as much as we can and how it is all processed once it reaches it’s final destination.

 Once all the recycling has been collected and dropped at Waterbeach, a large machine (it’s huge) sorts all the items into paper, card, tins, cans, plastics etc. They move along a large conveyor belt and sensors detect what the item is, and a puff of air pushes it off the conveyor belt and into the correct holding bin for that item, so items are constantly being whisked off in all directions. From there they are squashed, processed and baled into 1 ton bales ready to go to wherever they are needed. Garden and food waste is held in large containers and heated to 60° where all the bacteria then gets to work decomposing it and breaking it down, within 8 weeks it has turned into compost. We were given challenges to complete making sure we know what can be recycled and what can go into our garden bins.

Much to our surprise, we found out that biodegradable and compostable bags and wrappers cannot go into the garden waste, they take longer to compost than 8 weeks and so get trapped in the machinery at the depot. The biggest surprise was how long some items, such as nappies, take to decompose in landfill. It was an educational evening with a fun film to watch at the end.

Anyone wishing to contact us please email WIholmevillage@gmail.com