

APM 2nd April 2026

HPC Presentation

There have been a few changes this year to the councillors who represent you. Dave Kershaw, Igor Kaligoric and Sharon Bushnell have resigned during the year, and I would like to thank them all for their contribution.

We have welcomed Martin Scannell and Linda Bowman as new councillors and very much hope they are enjoying their new roles. This leaves two further vacancies which so far have not been filled. Being a councillor can be very rewarding, knowing that you are representing the views of your friends and neighbours. If you are interested finding out more about joining the Parish Council, please come and have a chat with myself or the Clare, the Parish Clerk after the meeting.

There has also been a change at the Cemetery. George Collins has taken a well-earned retirement, and the Parish Council would like to thank George for all his work. Kevin Foreman, who I am sure many of you know, will be taking on responsibility for the ongoing maintenance at the cemetery.

So, what have the Parish Council been doing on your behalf in the last year? The finances are in a good position with the reserves ending the year at £45,000. The reason for such a large increase is partly due to several projects being delayed. These funds will be transferred to the earmarked reserves to be spent once the plans complete.

Last year, it was announced that several projects were earmarked at Oak Hill. By far the biggest is the installation of new play equipment at the Recreation Ground. We are in the final stages of a funding application with the National Lottery for £72,000. If successful, work should start later this year.

There are also plans to install a bus shelter, but finding a site has proved extremely difficult due to the restrictions placed on the land by the Home Office when the land was originally sold. Suffolk County Council are currently exploring an alternative site on land owned by Highways.

There are also plans to provide a Defibrillator which is available 24/7. This is even more important now that the Visitors Centre at the Suffolk Punch Trust has closed. The stumbling block is finding an electrical supply which is needed to heat the cabinet. The option of using one of the streetlights is currently under discussion.

Roads are always a hot topic. This time last year the serious accidents which had happened at Duck Corner and the Water Tower were uppermost in every one's minds. The signage at both junctions has been improved and I am pleased to say there have been no recent incidents.

Each year the Parish Council invites local organisations to apply for grants and last year the demand was higher than ever. Later this month, payments will be made to support:

- Hollesley Fete Committee,
- Citizens Advice Bureau,
- Hollesley Good Neighbour Scheme,
- Hollesley Bowls Club,
- Peninsula Men's Shed,
- The Welcome Club,
- Hollesley Players,
- The Friends of Hollesley School
- Just 42 who operate the youth club.

Just recently, the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a £1,000 grant from East Suffolk Council and the Collaborative Communities fund to help those residents who may be struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. So far nine basic food parcels have been distributed and the food bank stocked. If you or anyone you know needs this kind of support, please contact the Clerk.

The Council also obtained 800 daffodil bulbs which have been planted around Duck Corner, at the bottom of Fox Hill and along the path through the allotments, making a lovely bright display. Many among us

have planted flowers and cut grass and hedges throughout the village to make Hollesley a more pleasant place to live and visit. Thank you.

Our thanks also go to Steve Middleditch and Dave Coyle, who along with Linda Bowman have taken the time and trouble to update the Emergency Plan. We hope it will never be used, but it is good to know that if something were to happen plans are in place.

Looking forward to next year, the Parish Council will continue to work on your behalf to make Hollesley a village to be proud of.