

**Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Holbeach Parish Council
held on Monday, 26 January 2026 at 6.30pm
at Coubro Chambers, 11 West End, Holbeach**

Present:

Cllr A Haslett (presiding)

Cllr S Hutchinson Cllr I Hutchinson Cllr T Wiltshire

Cllr P Foyster Cllr S Richardson

25/6-156) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received; all Councillors present

25/6-157) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

Cllr A Haslett declared a personal interest in Minute 25/6-159 (c) later in the meeting.

25/6-158) BUDGET & PRECEPT REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/27

A) Confirmation of Budget for the financial year 2026/27 -

Members were advised that, following the previous Full Council meeting where the budget and precept were discussed, advice had been sought from LALC. It was confirmed that no formal resolution had been made on the budget at that meeting, as the proposal did not make explicit reference to the budget or its contents. As such, the item was brought to this meeting for proper consideration and formal resolution.

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RESOLVED to accept and approve the budget for the financial year 2026/27 to a total of income of £62,925 and expenditure of £479,892.

Recorded vote:

For - Cllr A Haslett, Cllr P Foyster, Cllr T Wiltshire, Cllr S Richardson

Against – Cllr I Hutchinson, Cllr S Hutchinson

~~**RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to enable revisiting a previous resolution~~

B) Confirmation of Precept request for the financial year 2026/27 —

Members were advised that, although the precept had previously been resolved, the Council must first formally consider and approve a budget before setting the precept. As this had not been done correctly at the previous meeting, the precept was brought back to this meeting for consideration in the correct order.

Members were further advised that, as a previous resolution relating to the precept had been made, a suspension of Standing Orders was required to allow the matter to be reconsidered.

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In accordance with Standing Order 25(a), it was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 7(a) for the duration of this item only, to allow reconsideration of the previous resolution.

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RESOLVED to ~~approve~~ ~~restate and confirm~~ the Precept request for financial year 2026/27 to

a total of £416,967

25/6-159) FINANCE MATTERS – For resolution

A) To approve external payroll service -

RESOLVED to approve the appointment of external payroll service provider, B. Bothwell, for a cost of £50 per month until April 2026.

B) To approve the outsourcing of the Council accounts work-

Noted the Accountant has now said he cannot take on the work so talking to another contact. Acting Clerk is only working 2 days per week and therefore there is a need to outsource accounts.

RESOLVED to defer this item.

C) To approve the appointment of Masons & Partners to handle land matters regarding any land owned by HPC with respect to EGL3 and 4 (National Grid/Meridian Solar)

RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Masons & Partners to handle land matters regarding any land owned by HPC with respect to EGL3 and 4 (National Grid/Meridian Solar) at no cost

(Cllr Haslett declared an interest as he advised he had used this land agent on a personal matter and did not vote on this item.)

D) To approve Gallagher Annual Insurance renewal -

Discussed and queried if this is a one or three year agreement, noted the Broker gets the best deal and this was reviewed previously.

RESOLVED to approve the annual renewal of Gallagher Insurance at a cost of £13,942.15 per annum, under a three-year agreement.

for three year

agreement to a total of £13,942.15

25/6-160) PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak; points raised included the following -

- Resident asked why the public forum had been moved to later in the Agenda – The Chairman explained the Budget and Precept must be clearly agreed at this meeting and had been fully discussed at the last meeting. It was felt this needed to be completed at the beginning of the meeting
- Concern raised regarding the Precept increase as residents are being asked to pay more money. Resident knows how to balance books and if they cannot afford something they do not have it but is now having to pay this large precept increase, it was also noted grants have increased but does not understand why – Councillors advised community grants have been increased to help more organisations in the community and they believe in “giving back” Additionally, previously increases should have been kept in line with inflation but this has not happened

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- It was stated residents should have the choice to give money to groups not have to do this via the precept and do not feel the increase is justified
- Reference to email sent earlier in the day regarding Councillor living outside the parish and compared precept of other parish. Use of precept money for events where non-residents attend felt unfair. Suggested that events should be charged so Holbeach residents are not paying out of their precept money -

Councillors responded they like to do events as feel this increases footfall for local businesses

- Winter Wonderland query and reference to a Councillor having a stall at this event and who ran the bar.

25/6-161) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9 February 2026

Meeting closed at 8.20pm