Annual Community Meeting to be held on Monday 18th May 2026 at 7.00pm
At Great Holm Community Centre, Kensington Drive, Great Holm

All residents and community groups are warmly invited.

6.30pm – Meet your Council, Tea and Refreshments provided.
7pm – Informal meeting start time.

Minutes

APM01/26 Welcome: Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced themselves.

APM02/26 Ward Councillors: The newly elected Ward Councillors for both Watling Ward and Bradwell Ward introduced themselves.

Watling Ward (Loughton)
Amanada Marlow
Leo Montague
Bradwell Ward (Great Holm)
Kerrie Bradburn

APM03/26 Grants and Groups:

The following groups received grants from The Parish Council in the 2025-2026 financial year and spoke about how they used the grant
Unity MK
Christmas Day Party for the Elderly

Representatives spoke from the following local groups
Martin Borill – Great Holm SOS
Roger Blackburn – The Hugh Park Trust
Les Piascik – Loughton Residents Association

APM04/26 The following Parish Council update was given.

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming along tonight.

For those who may not know us well, Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council is made up of local residents who volunteer their time to help improve life across our communities.

On our staff we have Paula, our trusty Clerk (where would we be without her?), Martin and Andrew, who help with maintenance and waste management, and a new addition this year is Charisa, our Community Engagement Officer, who will help us stay more connected with our residents.

Over the last year, we've continued to focus on three main areas: improving community facilities, supporting residents, and investing in our local environment. One of our biggest projects was the replacement of the old Multi Use Games Area behind Great Holm Community Centre. The previous facility had become outdated and well beyond its best, so we were delighted to secure external

funding from FCC Communities Foundation and the National Lottery Community Fund to completely redevelop the site. It's already proving very popular with our local young people.

We've also continued to improve and maintain other local infrastructure. That includes replacing the village green sign at the bottom of Chatsworth in Great Holm, continuing the upkeep of the Heron and Swan graffiti mural in Loughton Valley, and working with Milton Keynes City Council and Great Holm SOS to improve safety at the Buscot Place junction for pedestrians.

Following the vandalism and break-in at Great Holm Community Centre last year, we also installed CCTV at the site to improve security.

Community remains at the heart of everything we do. Our weekly Friday coffee mornings continue to be very well attended and provide a valuable opportunity for residents to meet, socialise, and stay connected.

We also organised a number of community events during the year, including our Family Fun Afternoon in August and our Christmas Community Event in December, both of which brought together many local families and residents.

During the summer holidays we once again arranged activities for residents, including football sessions, yoga, and activities with MKPA, and we're pleased that more sessions are planned again for 2026.

We also organised a coach trip to Kew Gardens for 53 residents in May last year, which was extremely popular, and we're in the process of planning another trip for this September, so watch this space.

At Loughton Pavilion, the departure of The Grumpy Cook café last October was naturally disappointing for many residents. However, we are in the middle of a tender process to find a new tenant, and we expect to be able to announce more details very soon, hopefully in July.

The closing of the cafe meant that the Parish Council took over management of the Community Larder, helping ensure continued support for residents who may need it. It also gave us a good opportunity to clear out the storage areas (again with the assistance of Great Holm SOS), install some new heaters in the main area and give the bathrooms a small facelift, ready for the new operator. We are considering what to do with the unused section of the building containing the changing rooms and showers so please keep your eyes open for a survey that will be published soon to have your views heard.

We've also invested in improving how we communicate with residents. In addition to hiring Charisa for community engagement, our website has been completely revamped to make it more modern, accessible, and user friendly.

On the environmental side, we have expanded the very successful biodiversity trial areas this year with an additional location at the end of Whitworth Lane, we've helped arrange the planting of trees across the Parish, and we continue to work closely with Milton Keynes City Council's landscaping team regarding the sustainable management of green spaces. Particular thanks to Judith for all of her time and energy that she puts into this area.

In partnership with the Allotment Management Group, we continue to manage both allotment sites in Loughton, which remain very popular with residents.

As always, we were proud to represent the community at the Remembrance Sunday service at All Saints Church, where we laid a wreath on behalf of the parish.

Looking ahead, we've got a number of exciting projects and priorities coming up over the next year. These include continuing to expand our community activities and events programme, further improvements to community facilities, and continuing our work on biodiversity and green spaces across the parish.

Finally, I'd just like to thank everyone who supports the Parish Council - whether that's residents attending events, local volunteers, community groups, partner organisations, or fellow councillors. Everything we achieve is through working together as a community. Thank you very much.

APM08/26 Residents were informed that the Parish Business Plan and budget for the upcoming year could be found on our website.