**New Holland Parish Council** Miss Deb Hotson – Clerk to New Holland Parish Council 79 Top Road, Worlaby, North Lincolnshire, DN20 oNG Telephone: 0784 220 1877 E-mail: <u>theparishcouncil@outlook.com</u>

## <u>New Holland Community Centre</u>

From the first discussion of creating a Community Centre, in the heart of it all was to provide a hub for residents to come and meet and enjoy New Holland which from the outset included a community cafe.

The Parish Council led this initiative and on numerous occasions asked for volunteers from within the community to come and help with the implementation of a Community Centre. A few did come forward but a minority! The Parish Council ploughed on and finally through grant funding and a huge effort of those involved the New Holland Community Centre was opened.

Peggy's World showed a keen interest in working from the Centre and endeavoured for this to work but unfortunately after 12 months of trying due to the lack of users this was not successful.

The Ferryboat then took over in August of last year with the full backing of the Parish Council which included the use of the kitchen and rooms provided free of charge. The staff and Eamonn have provided a great service to those regular attendees but unfortunately again due to the lack users it has not been able to increase the takings to continue to run as a business.

In the last few months the Parish Council have not only paid for the gas utilities but have also contributed £421.17 to the latest electricity costs to help as much as possible to keep the Ferryboat Café running. We have to accept that it is not a viable undertaking to run a full cafe here. Eamonn therefore decided to close his business and the café ceased on  $28^{\text{th}}$  February.

The next steps for the Parish Council are to run a small café offering refreshments and snacks run by volunteers. The café will cease trading at the end of this month.

There has been much talk about the animosity of some members of the Café and Committee but all being told this would not affect the lack of takings to sustain a business.

There will be an open forum event for residents to attend on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am to 2pm when you will be able to say what you would like to see run in the Centre.

This will not be a time to vent any angst about what has gone in the past, this will be a time to move forward and for volunteers to step forward and help provide a Community Centre.

Ideally we would like the village to use the centre more for functions and events.

There are various activities running monthly at the Centre and are advertised on the notice board and website <a href="http://www.newhollandparishcouncil.gov.uk/">http://www.newhollandparishcouncil.gov.uk/</a> that need your support.

If you have any ideas of other activities or would like to join the Committee please attend the open forum event on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.