

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

A look at the past year in the Holme Valley



### Report from the Chairman 2016-17 - Cllr Jason Brook

It has been a great pleasure to have been the Chairman of the Parish Council. I have met many amazing people from the local community who put themselves forward to help others without reward or recognition. I also had the honour of awarding three people with the Community Champions Award.

A big thank you to Judith Patrick and the CASC team who managed to secure the Holmfirth Civic Hall before it was to be closed permanently; they worked tirelessly, despite the many challenges on both sides, to bring this asset back into the local community.

The Council is also moving forward with the Neighbourhood Development Plan and those involved on the Steering Group co-ordinating preparation of the Plan are hosting local meetings to get input from members of the public regarding what they want from the Neighbourhood Plan.

One thing I have learnt over the last twelve months is that the people of the Holme Valley are amazing and are ready to step up to make a difference, giving up their free time for years including one person who has been volunteering over 30 years.

I would like to thank Cllr Kath Bellamy for being my escort and Cllr Trevor Bellamy for



representing the Council when I was not available. Also Cllr Rachel Hogley particularly, who has worked tirelessly to drive a number of new projects in the last year.

Finally, I would like to wish good luck to the new Chairman, Cllr Greg Cropper, and the new Vice Chairman, Cllr Donald Firth.

**Cllr Jason Brook  
Chairman 2016-17**

### The Chairman's Charities

Parish Councillors are not paid for their work and so give their time and commitment freely, for the benefit of the community. The Chairman of the Council receives an allowance, to be used to meet expenses fulfilling their civic obligations. In 2016-17, the Chairman claimed no expenses, but preferred instead to make donations to local charities and community groups, including New Mill Cubs, Hepworth Ladies Football Team and Macmillan Cancer Support.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017, he also hosted a Charity Ball at Holmfirth Civic Hall to raise further funds for his chosen



charities. This was a great night and managed to raise over £1,000.

### Report from the Chairman of the Publications and Communications Committee - Cllr D Hall

As ever, the Valley has been a hive of activity and we are proud to have been able to promote many community grants given out by the Council to help support the busy and varied calendar of events during the year. This has included festive Christmas lights switch-ons and parades, the reintroduction of the Honley Feast and other local initiatives. We were also pleased to fund flags and yellow and blue bunting beautifully illustrated by eight of our local primary schools to mark the arrival of the Tour de Yorkshire cycle race through the Valley. It was wonderful to see so many crowds out enjoying the spectacle.

We have been working hard to increase the visibility and awareness of the Parish Council's activities during this year and have re-vamped our website alongside introducing a regular monthly 'Parish Council News' column in the Holme Valley Review. We believe that this is an effective way of communicating better with our constituents and we have recently launched a Facebook page to improve this further.

We continue to highlight the Council's running of the public toilets in Holmfirth, following completion of the community asset transfer. After a lot of hard work, we are pleased the transfer of the Civic Hall has at last been completed and we hope this will become a very successful venue of choice in the coming years.

We have reported on our Tidy Trader Scheme with trophies awarded to Ashley Jackson's Gallery in Holmfirth and Dixon & Franks in Honley. We are currently developing a new award for businesses across the Valley. There were also several very deserving Community Champion Awards presented at the end of 2016 and we have also reported on our newest Councillors, three having joined us in the past 12 months.

My thanks to the Officer and Members of the Committee for all their hard work during the last year.

**Di Hall, Chairman of Publications & Communications Committee 2016-17**

### Report from the Chairman of the Staffing Committee - Cllr K Bellamy

The Council employs Sally Barber as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, and continues to use sub-contracted administrative support to meet the Council's changing demands in the most cost-effective way.

In line with the Council's Statement of Intent on Training, the Clerk has attended a number of conferences and training events over the year; these have provided continuing professional development for our Clerk, to ensure that she keeps up-to-date with ever-changing legislation.

**Cllr Kath Bellamy, Chairman of Staffing Committee 2016-17**

### Councillor Contacts 2016-2017

Ward	Name	Telephone Number
Brockholes	Michael Pogson	07927 668327
Fulstone	Donald Firth	01484 683735
Fulstone	Di Hall	01484 686488
Hepworth	Thomas Dixon	07725 698860
Holmfirth Central	Greg Christofi	01484 682721
Holmfirth Central	Rachel Hogley	07970 475806
Honley Central & East	Stephen Baggott	01484 664817
Honley Central & East	Elena Bunbury	Via office
Honley Central & East	Peter Searby	01484 661980
Honley South	Charles Kaye	01484 666424
Honley West	Charles Greaves	01484 666964
Honley West	Sean East	07736 940326
Netherthong	Donna Bellamy	07891 031270
Netherthong	Judith Roberts	01484 684930
Scholes	Paul Dixon	01484 685928
Scholes	Tim Walshaw	Via office
Upper Holme Valley	Kath Bellamy	01484 683147
Upper Holme Valley	Trevor Bellamy	01484 683147
Upperthong	Greg Cropper	07703 314313
Upperthong	Royston Rogers	01484 683006
Wooldale	Rod Bowles	07798 828224
Wooldale	Jason Brook	01484 688790
Wooldale	Daniel Yates	07920 284513

### Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee - Cllr J Roberts

Once again the Planning Committee has had a very busy year; many controversial applications in various areas of the Holme Valley have been considered at meetings; mainly due to the draft Local Plan, these applications have been a major concern to local residents and they have taken the opportunity to voice their concerns during Public Question Time at Committee meetings.

In relation to the Local Plan, we have concerns with infrastructure including roads, sewerage and schools and the impact of traffic congestion especially in rural areas and the centre of Holmfirth. The roads in upland areas such as Upperthong, Netherthong, Scholes and Hade Edge were not built to accommodate large amounts of traffic, as they were predominantly farming areas and, in many cases, still are. However, due to large scale farming, agricultural green areas are reducing and becoming the target for housing developments. The Planning Committee would prefer that brownfield sites are used first, before green belt or greenfield sites. This would not only eliminate derelict mills and other disused brownfield locations, but would also take advantage of adjacent infrastructures already in place. It would smarten up derelict land, enhancing the Holme Valley for locals and tourism, which is still a growing part of the Valley's income.

More houses are required as the population grows organically, but we would prefer housing suitable for younger people trying to get onto the housing ladder, along with housing for people to move up the housing ladder from a first time home to an affordable home for a growing family. We also need homes for older people to downsize to, rather than too many large and expensive housing developments, so a more even mix of housing on smaller scale plots would be more appropriate.

We would also like to see more workspace within the Valley so as to cut commuter times and increase productivity within the Holme Valley.

The Committee is working with the community and has formed a Steering Group to produce the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan. It is hoped to influence a better mix of housing and workspace within the Holme Valley once the Neighbourhood Plan is approved and adopted.

We want to hear what Valley residents think about where they live to make sure that the Neighbourhood Plan represents their priorities and aspirations. To give your views please visit our website for further details of the consultations.

**Cllr J Roberts - Chairman, Planning Committee 2016-17**

### Report from the Chairman of the Finance & Management Committee - Cllr R P Dixon

Receipts in 2016/2017 were slightly higher than in the previous year, due to a small increase in the precept and a grant received towards the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Payments were higher by approximately £12,500, due to more grants being given out, but also costs to support the public conveniences in Holmfirth, now owned by the Parish Council following the completion of an asset transfer from Kirklees Council.

After the decision by Kirklees Council to allow the Parish Council to own the freehold of Holmfirth Civic Hall, legal negotiations and various surveys were then commissioned. Administration costs were also incurred on the business plan submitted as part of the community asset transfer process, finally completed on 31 March 2017. The Civic Hall is now owned by the Parish Council, but managed on a day-to-day basis by a new charity, Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust.

At its meeting on 6 February 2017, the Council considered its budget for 2017-18 and, after much debate, agreed to increase the precept to an average of £22.90 per household (on a Band D property). The additional funds were specifically identified to support community assets in the Valley. The increase of £9.97 (or 83p per month) per household was felt to be the only way the Parish Council could secure the future of some of our key community assets. For less than £10 per year, the Council has been able to raise £100,000 to invest in assets at risk of loss to the community, including the public toilets and Holmfirth Civic Hall. Once any assets are sold by Kirklees Council, they would be lost forever, so the Parish Council is determined to save any assets which are much valued by our local community.

Thanks to our Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, Sally Barber, who, once again, has produced the accounts resulting in a 100% clean audit.

**Cllr R P Dixon – Chairman, Finance & Management Committee 2016-17**

### Financial Report from the Responsible Financial Officer - Mrs S Barber

### Report from the Chairman of the Community Assets Safeguarding Committee - Cllr D Bellamy

It has been a very busy time for CASC over the last 12 months. After expressing an interest in the Holmfirth Civic Hall, things began to move with great pace, from getting a business plan put together, submitting it to Kirklees Council, setting up a new charity to take on the day-to-day management of the Hall, to actually receiving the keys on 31st March 2017. All this couldn't have been done without the Members of CASC and the Clerk. Everyone put so much effort into achieving the goal of the Parish Council taking ownership of the Civic Hall on behalf of the community.

The Parish Council itself has also now relocated to the Civic Hall - as anchor tenant - and continues to work closely with the new charity - the Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust - to ensure that the building becomes the vibrant centre that it deserves to be.

The work continues as CASC has also had discussions with Friends of Honley Library recently to see how they can be supported in their quest to take on a community building and we are also looking forward to developing more links with community groups in the Holme Valley who are also looking at asset transfer.

Very recently CASC has also taken over the responsibility for the Holmfirth public toilets; to help with Council efficiencies and time/resource savings, another Committee has now been disbanded, bringing the toilets into the CASC portfolio, to keep assets in one place. Work continues to make the public toilets in Holmfirth a sustainable asset.

**Cllr D Bellamy Chairman of Community Assets Safeguarding Committee 2016-17**

### Report from the Chairman of the Service Provision Committee - Cllr G Christofi

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, who is on long-term sick leave, I have been asked to report on another busy year.

The work of the Committee is very varied and increasing. With services provided by our Maintenance Contractor, we ensure the Council's many assets around the Valley are maintained, including a closed churchyard and hundreds of public seats; the stone shelters, adopted phone boxes and pieces of artwork on the Arts Trail also need regular cleaning and maintenance.

The Council continues to support the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme and Youth Facilities including Café 100.

The Council also makes a significant contribution towards the Holme Valley Minibus Network, comprising of H1, H2, H3, H4, H5

and H7 services, plus the 335 and new 350 services. The Council will continue to work closely with partners including West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Metro, to promote bus usage. However, we must all ensure that services are provided that meet changes in expectations, particularly by younger people who expect services on demand. Other factors including the growth in home working and home shopping are also affecting the transport industry in general, but the call to 'use it or lose it' must always be remembered. If we use the minibuses, WYCA/Metro will keep the services running.

**Cllr T Bellamy Vice-Chairman of Service Provision Committee 2016-17**

## Office Contact Details

#### Holme Valley Parish Council

Holmfirth Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3AS

Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs Sally Barber

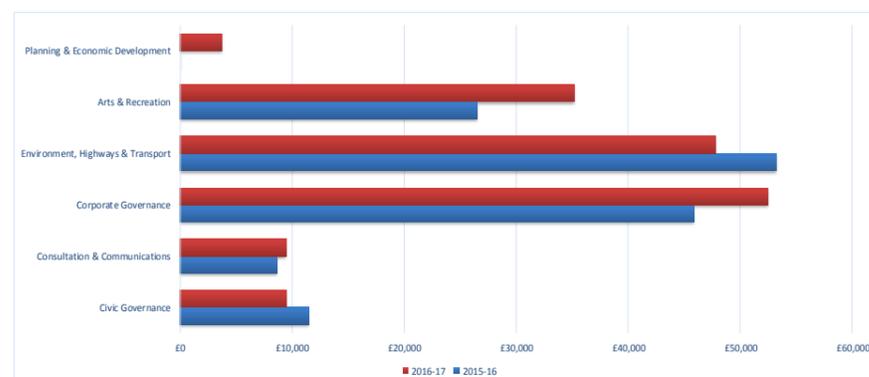
Telephone: 01484 822491. Email: clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Office open: Tuesdays and Thursdays - 10.00am to 3.00pm**

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPT & PAYMENTS TO 31 MARCH 2017

	2015-16 £	2016-17 £
<b>Opening Balances</b>	<b>186,722.13</b>	<b>193,547.75</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Precept	113,197.77	124,517.80
Income	40,414.43	31,249.65
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>153,612.20</b>	<b>155,767.45</b>
Refund of VAT	3,616.36	3,995.17
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>343,950.69</b>	<b>353,310.37</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Civic Governance	11,501.42	9,479.72
Consultation & Communications	8,617.22	9,465.13
Corporate Governance	45,875.37	52,437.03
Environment, Highways & Transport	53,198.64	47,801.39
Arts & Recreation	26,571.08	35,151.02
Planning & Economic Development	0.00	3,774.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>145,763.73</b>	<b>158,078.29</b>
VAT during year	4,639.21	4,804.88
<b>Closing Balances</b>	<b>193,547.75</b>	<b>190,427.20</b>
Earmarked Reserves	80,944.73	84,976.01
Balances carried forward	112,603.02	105,451.19
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>343,950.69</b>	<b>353,310.37</b>



#### Notes on the Financial Report

Civic Governance are costs relating to election of members etc.  
 Consultation & Communications are costs relating to communicating with residents.  
 Corporate Governance are costs relating to administration and staffing.  
 Environment, Highways & Transport are costs relating to the Holme Valley Minibus, bus shelters and environmental projects (including the Holmfirth public toilets).  
 Arts & Recreation are costs relating to play areas, grants and other art projects.  
 Planning & Economic Development relates to costs concerned with the Council's role in commenting on planning applications and preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.  
 Precept is money raised through local taxation.

The accounts are subject to audit and full details of the accounts are available on the Parish Council's website and from the office. The website will be updated once the external audit has been completed. Financial information from previous years is also provided on the website or by contacting the Clerk.