

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

A look at the past year in the Holme Valley



### Report from the Chairman 2017-18 - Cllr Greg Cropper



community buildings from closure. These include Holmfirth Civic Hall, Honley Library and the toilets in the centre of Holmfirth. Once funding by Kirklees Council was withdrawn there was a real danger that these well-used facilities would have been lost forever.

The Parish Council has made a real difference here, for the benefit of Holme Valley residents.

I would like to thank and congratulate all Parish Councillors for their hard work and dedication. Theirs is sometimes a thankless task, but they carry out their unpaid, voluntary duties for the good of us all.

Di Hall will be taking over as Chair of the Parish Council and I wish her well in the forthcoming year.

#### The Chairman's Charity

This year I have decided to support the Holme Valley Dementia Group. Dementia will affect more and more of us as our population ages. We need to create a climate of kindness and understanding so that everyone affected by dementia feels part of, not apart from, society.

Many people with dementia experience a loss of self-confidence and become less active in their community. We can help change this by learning about dementia and understanding what actions can help people to stay an active part of their community. That way, people with dementia can continue to take part and do the things they love like visiting a museum, going shopping or having a chinwag at the local pub!

We shouldn't be afraid to talk about dementia. And people affected by the condition shouldn't be ashamed to tell others about their experience.

By becoming a Dementia Friend, you'll be encouraging us all to start talking about dementia openly and honestly.

We can all make a difference by being dementia friendly. By learning a little about the symptoms of dementia, and being understanding we can improve the lives of sufferers.



**I would encourage all residents of the Holme Valley to become dementia friendly.**

**Cllr Greg Cropper  
Chairman 2017-18**

This has been a momentous year for the Parish Council.

In addition to our standard services, we have been working on saving a number of

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

It has been another eventful year on Planning where we have seen the Kirklees Local Plan move a further stage forward. We have supported local residents of the Holme Valley in relation to limiting the size of housing developments, whilst supporting affordable housing and affordable owner-occupied housing for all age groups and the preferred approach of building on brownfield sites while accepting the need for housing within the Holme Valley.

We have tried to satisfy everyone's needs whilst understanding that there has to be housing growth.

We are also aware of the need for public car parking needs along with sufficient off road car parking on new builds. The Holme Valley Parish Council Planning Committee are only an advisory group whereas Kirklees Planning has the final say.

We have been overseeing the preparation of the draft Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan which will be sent out in June 2018 to all residents of the Valley for feedback.

We have seen plans for a delicatessen, cookery school, restaurant and food shop in Thongsbridge, which is under construction. Planning was passed for another supermarket, but building work has yet to commence. A development at Wash Pit Mills has not begun but a Café at Hepworth has now relocated to this venue.

We have hopefully addressed concerns regarding A boards blocking pavements.

We are currently in contact with Yorkshire Water over the possible decommissioning of Holmestyes Reservoir in 2020.

I would like to say a very big thank you to Tim Walshaw, my deputy for the past 12 months for all his knowledgeable help. I shall be passing the reins on to him this coming year.

**Cllr Judith Roberts  
Chairman of Planning Committee 2017-18**

#### Councillor Contacts 2017-2018

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	07519 821079
Honley Central & East	Vacancy	
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 or email
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	Paul Davies	07870 695717
Wooldale	Jason Brook	01484 688790
Wooldale	Daniel Yates	07920 284513

### Report from the Chairman of the Publications & Communications Committee - Cllr R Hogley

We are very fortunate to live in such a vibrant and active community and the Parish Council has been proud to support many events through the year. Our community grants are a key way for us to contribute towards the Valley and help enable projects of all scales to flourish – details of some of the grants awarded in 2017-18 are provided elsewhere in this Annual Report. To mark the centenary of the end of WW1, we have also set up a specific £1,000 fund with individual grants of up to £100 to support groups who wish to organise an event, initiative or commemorative project so if you have a great idea, please do apply!

We marked the centenary of WW1 ourselves with the installation of a beautiful commemorative seat outside Holmfirth Civic Hall. This bench was instigated by our previous Chairman, Cllr Jason Brook, as a lasting reminder of the sacrifice of those who have given their lives for their country. Representatives from four conflicts attended a moving seat blessing ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> November and the bench, which was designed by local sculptor, Mick Kirkby-Geddes, provides a permanent contemplative space for visitors to the Civic Hall.

Our Tidy Trader Award was expanded and relaunched this year to cover all businesses across the Valley, not just within Holmfirth and Honley centres. It seeks to recognise businesses that take pride in their external appearance and thereby contribute

to a more attractive and thriving Valley. We were delighted to present Gold Awards to J Brindon Addy Butchers & Graziers in Hade Edge and The Bridge pub in Holmbridge, with Silver Awards given to Bloc Cafe in Holmfirth, The Jacob's Well and The Allied pubs both in Honley. There are a huge number of businesses across the Valley both new and long-standing and we really value their hard work in making our Valley a great place to live and work.

Behind every flourishing community are hard-working individuals and we are delighted to recognise some of those unsung heroes in our Community Champion awards. This year Andrew Armitage and Winton Harrison were recipients of the award for their wonderful work supporting the local Scouts and the wider community through 'Holmepride' respectively.

Our monthly 'Parish Council News' column in the Holme Valley Review offers a regular source of information about our work alongside our website and Facebook page and we would encourage people to follow our updates. We recognise the need to raise visibility of what we do and understanding about how the precept is spent in the Valley and welcome ideas on ways we can continue to improve our communication with you.

**Cllr Rachel Hogley**  
Chairman of Publications & Communications 2017-18

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

2017 to 2018 has been another very busy year for the Community Assets Support Committee (CASC). As most people are aware we completed the asset transfer of the Holmfirth Civic Hall in March 2017 and handed the keys over to the newly formed Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust (HCHCT) to manage and run the building for the community, with the Parish Council being one of their key tenants. This has worked extremely well and the Community looks forward to continuing this arrangement and working with the Trust to keep the building a viable community asset for all to use.

The work though did not stop and the CASC continued to manage the Holmfirth public toilets and keep them a viable asset for the town.

We also began to work alongside the Friends of Honley Library to look at the possibility of an asset transfer of this community building and to keep the service for the use of Holme Valley residents. This work still continues and a new working group has been formed to look into the detail and progress this opportunity to safeguard this service as well as the building. This work will continue into this municipal year, the CASC are happy to discuss any Holme Valley community building which members of the community have concerns over as well as offering support to community groups who are looking at the possibilities of securing committee buildings through the asset transfer process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of CASC for their valued input this year, and also the Clerk, HCHCT and Kirklees Council for their valued work.

**Cllr Donna Bellamy**  
Chairman of Community Assets Support Committee 2017-18

### Report from the Chairman of the Service Provision Committee - Cllr T Bellamy

This year's annual report follows a busy year for our Service Provision Committee with well attended full agenda meetings.

Members of the public and representatives of local organisations attending and addressing several meetings. Officers from Kirklees Council also in attendance to explain new rolls and activities within the Valley and changes in areas such as parks and open spaces.

We as a Council continue to run a well-used minibus service in conjunction with Stotts and Metro. Other services such as public seating,

stone shelters, church clocks, allotments and closed churchyards are all important responsibilities for our communities.

The provision of defibrillators within the Valley is an on-going valuable and important aspect of our work. We are also looking at training programmes in the use of defibrillators and associated equipment.

**Cllr Trevor Bellamy**  
Chairman of Service Provision Committee 2017-18

## Office Contact Details

### Holme Valley Parish Council

Council Office, 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**

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

In the financial year 2017-18, the Council awarded all its budgeted grant funding and we have been pleased to support many local community events, activities and festivals. Full details of the grants awarded in 2017-18 are provided on the Council's website. The Budget allocation in 2018-19 will be £10,000 available on a first come, first served basis.

**Cllr R P Dixon**  
Chairman, Finance & Management Committee 2017-18

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

Mrs Sally Barber is employed by Holme Valley Parish Council as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. She has worked full-time for the majority of 2017-18, because of the many new projects the Council has been involved in, including a number of community asset transfers and the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Clerk is supported by an Administrative Support Officer and the Council continues to use additional administrative support as and when needed; this is the most cost-effective way to support the Council and to cope with the increasing demands on the Clerk's time.

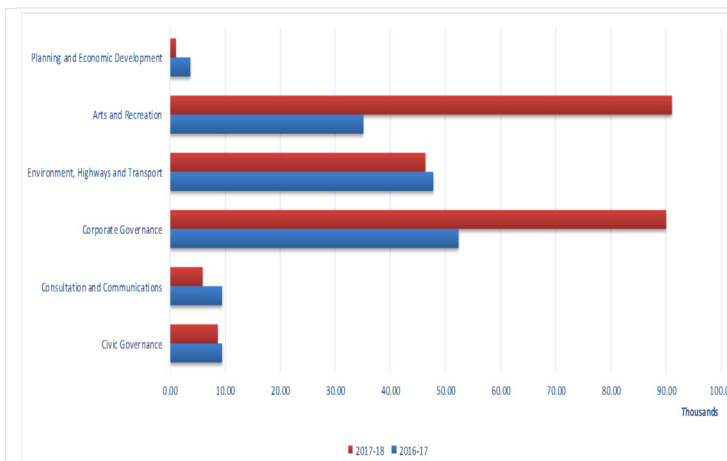
The Clerk regularly attends NALC and SLCC training events to keep up to date with changes in legislation (e.g. GDPR) and new technology, to ensure effective and efficient ways of managing the day-to-day running of the Council.

**Cllr Kathleen Bellamy**  
Chairman of Staffing Committee 2017-18

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

#### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS TO 31 MARCH 2018

	2016-17 £	2017-18 £
<b>Opening Balances</b>	<b>193,547.75</b>	<b>190,427.20</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Precept	124,517.80	224,132.40
Income	31,249.65	44,226.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>155,767.45</b>	<b>268,358.40</b>
Refund of VAT	3,995.17	5,764.20
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>353,310.37</b>	<b>464,549.80</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Civic Governance	9,479.72	8,662.50
Consultation and Communications	9,465.13	5,928.31
Corporate Governance	52,437.03	90,106.40
Environment, Highways and Transport	47,801.39	46,352.70
Arts and Recreation	35,151.02	91,076.16
Planning and Economic Development	3,774.00	1,099.19
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>158,078.29</b>	<b>243,225.26</b>
VAT during year	4,804.88	5,412.25
<b>Closing Balances</b>	<b>190,427.20</b>	<b>215,912.29</b>
Earmarked Reserves	84,976.01	123,017.77
Balances carried forward	105,451.19	92,894.52
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>353,310.37</b>	<b>464,549.80</b>



#### Notes on the financial report

Civic Governance are costs relating to election of members etc. Consultation and Communications are costs relating to communicating with residents. Corporate Governance are

costs relating to administration and staffing.

Environment, Highways and Transport are costs relating to the Holme Valley Minibus, bus shelters, and environmental projects (including the Holmfirth public toilets).

Arts and recreation are costs relating to community asset transfers, maintenance and support, play areas, grants and other art projects.

Planning and Economic Development relates to costs concerned with the Parish Council's role in commenting on local planning applications.

Precept is money raised through local taxation.

The accounts are subject to audit. 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.