

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ASSETS SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2018

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr DK Bellamy

Councillors: Cllrs S Baggott, K Bellamy, T Bellamy, P Davies, TW Dixon, R Hogley and J Roberts

Officer: Mrs S S Barber

1819 30 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

As Parish Council meetings can now be recorded, the Chairman checked if anyone wished to record the meeting, to ensure reasonable facilities could be provided. No-one wished to do so, but the Clerk recorded the meeting (for Minute purposes only) and the recording would be deleted once draft Minutes had been ratified.

1819 31 Public Question Time

The Vice Chairman (Cllr T Bellamy) took the chair until the arrival of the Chairman.

Two members of the public were present and one of them (the invited speaker) addressed Members on Item 8 (Holmfirth Library).

1819 32 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs J Brook, E Bunbury and JG Cropper.

1819 33 To receive Members' personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda

Cllr K Bellamy declared a personal interest in any items relating to Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust.

1819 34 To consider written requests for new DPI dispensations

None received.

1819 35 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

It was agreed that no items required to be taken in private session.

1819 36 To confirm Minutes of the previous Committee meetings

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Special Committee meeting held on 3 September 2018, numbered 1819 22 to 1819 29 inclusive be confirmed.

1819 37 Holmfirth Library

Kirklees Council's Chief Librarian was in attendance and addressed Members on the Library Consultation and the situation regarding the lift within Holmfirth Library (Minute No. 1819 28(4) refers).

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Kirklees Council has a statutory duty to deliver a library service within a current budget of £2.238 million. Since September 2016 the Library Service has been working collaboratively with partners, volunteers and Friends groups to deliver a wide range of services, both in libraries and in other community venues. However, budgetary constraints mean that changes to the existing service are needed in order for the service to fulfil its statutory duty and continue to deliver a range of services.

Kirklees Council had therefore held a wide-scale consultation to evaluate how the service may be delivered going forward. The Chief Librarian explained the consultation process, its aims and objectives, and Members noted that there had been over 3,000 respondents. Full details are published on the Kirklees Council website: (<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/libraries/pdf/Libraries-Consultation-Executive-Summary-2018.pdf>) including a number of key conclusions:

1. Libraries are perceived to fulfil a wider societal function beyond book lending; e.g. the IT function of the library service is most important after book lending.
2. Views are mixed on the issue of library locations/buildings; limited support for moving library service to another building, particularly where building itself is held in high regard as a historic building and focal point for the community, or where no viable alternative building exists in the locality. Appears to be more support for bringing other services into the library environment, e.g. reducing costs of libraries by sharing space, staffing and integrating services. Libraries should be 'local', reflecting the fact that users mainly visit their nearest library, but the 'one size fits all' model does not apply within all communities.
3. From qualitative research, volunteers have made a very positive contribution to Kirklees Libraries and have been vital in maintaining opening hours and assisting paid staff, but sustainability was a concern (on any model reliant on further expansion of a volunteer pool, where training and engagement was an ongoing challenge). The volunteer base was mostly older retired residents, but research showed that more younger people would be prepared to volunteer (and perhaps travel to libraries outside their immediate locality). Also clear support for the delivery of the Home Library Service.
4. From Children's Consultation, children found it difficult to identify alternative spaces where high quality library services could be maintained and could not envisage an effective delivery of those services without staff. On the theme that libraries are more than book lending facilities, children were less in favour of combining library services with schools, as libraries were often a place for children to relax away from school and home.
5. Clear preference for library services to remain within Kirklees Council – many respondents felt that Kirklees residents would suffer if libraries go outside Kirklees Council's jurisdiction and support for the idea of alternative delivery models was variable.

Members welcomed the update from the Chief Librarian and the news that all 24 libraries in the District would remain open. It was also noted that a wider consultation was now necessary regarding Holmfirth Library Service, to see if the service could be run from elsewhere in Holmfirth, before large sums of money are committed to replacing the lift in the existing building.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted, the Chief Librarian to be thanked for the information and her attendance, and requested to keep the Parish Council informed, as matters relating to the Library and Tourist Information Centre in Holmfirth develop.

1819 38 Grants to support Community Assets

Brockholes Village Hall (Minute No. 1819 08 refers):

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RESOLVED: That the grant report relating to the above be noted and that they may ask for more money in due course.

1819 39 Holmfirth Public Conveniences

(1) Members noted recent honesty box donations.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(2) Day-to-day running of the toilets: The Clerk reported that the sealing of the floor tiles still needed to be completed, and the door of the baby changing room needs planing (as catching). Concern was also expressed at the lack of wheelchair access to the disabled toilet, although the access did comply with the relevant Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation current at the time the building refurbishment works were checked and signed off by the Kirklees Council Building Control Officer.

RESOLVED: (i) That the local community group, Square Pegs, be asked to put forward their suggestions on how wheelchair access to the disabled toilet could be provided, but a concertina-type door could also be considered.

(ii) That any other recommendations, following on from the forthcoming visit to Hebden Bridge by the Square Pegs group and a Member of the Parish Council, should be put forward to this Committee (regarding impact on community assets) as well as to the Service Provision Committee.

(iii) That the Council's Maintenance Contractor be asked to investigate the possibility of installing a drinking water facility on the outside of the public toilets building; the Clerk be authorised to liaise with the Contractor, for options and costings to be considered at a future Committee meeting.

(iv) That ownership of three planters outside the toilets building be established, prior to the planters being replanted with seasonal plants (either by Kirklees, the Parish Council or an approach made to a local community group, e.g. Holmepride or HOTT, to take on responsibility for the planting).

(v) That an electric vehicle charging point, for the centre of Holmfirth, should be explored through the Neighbourhood Development Plan process; Cllr R Hogley to refer the matter to Planning and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

(3) Reshaping works to provide rentable space: The Clerk reported that three market rent valuations were now being sought for budget/comparison purposes and Cllr S Baggott confirmed that he had already met with two letting agents.

RESOLVED: (i) That Cllr J G Cropper be asked to lead the reshaping works project, assisted by the Clerk, with delegated authority to complete the reshaping works and prepare the space so that it is plastered and basically decorated, within the budget previously agreed, ready for being equipped by a future tenant; if Cllr Cropper is unable to lead the project, the Clerk to put the project management out to tender (in accordance with Financial Regulations).

(ii) That Cllrs D K Bellamy, K Bellamy and R Hogley be added to the Working Party, to assist with any demolition, clearing and decorating work, with qualified specialists brought in for any electrical, plumbing and plastering work (comparative quotes to be sought in accordance with Financial Regulations).

1819 40 Holmfirth Civic Hall

(1) Matters relating to lease and sub-lease: Nothing to report

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(2) Meeting with Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust (HCHCT) to be held on 8 October 2018 (Minute No. 1718 26(1) refers): Members considered items to be included on the agenda for this meeting.

RESOLVED: (i) That Cllr TW Dixon be authorised to produce a brief written statement to confirm that Members were impressed by the number of events held recently and that the new Manager and Assistant Manager are doing a great job to drive the increase and variation of events.

(ii) That the items for the agenda should include an update on HCHCT finances, staffing costs and progress of works to SW elevation, CASC grant evaluation/monitoring and stage payments, more collaborative working, together with suggestions on support for other assets/devolved services (e.g. market services and library services in Holmfirth if Kirklees disposed of the buildings from where those services in Holmfirth if Kirklees disposed of the buildings from where those services are operated; update on lease and sub-lease (anchor tenancy), HCHCT User Group meeting to be held on 24 October 2018 and a number of administrative matters relating to opening/closing up and rotas etc.

(3) Grant funding already agreed in principle to HCHCT (towards Staffing and SW elevation works costs): Nothing to report, but will no doubt be mentioned at the above meeting.

1819 41 Honley Library – Community Asset Transfer

(1) Members noted that a revised Expression of Interest had been submitted to Kirklees Council but there was no further news from Kirklees.

RESOLVED: (i) That the relevant Kirklees Officer be invited to the next CASC meeting, if no update by 18 October 2018.

(ii) That Cllr DK Bellamy be authorised to speak to the Kirklees Officer about an Electrical Report which is understood to exist.

(2) Minutes of the CAT Working Group meetings held on 19 August and 20 September 2018: Copies had been distributed.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted and that the next CAT Working Group Meeting will be held on 18 October 2018.

1819 42 Former Holmfirth Council Offices, 49-51 Huddersfield Road

Members noted that Guardians were still living in the property but there was no further update on the future disposal of this community asset (Minute No. 1819 28(3) refers).

RESOLVED: That Kirklees Council be asked to keep the Parish Council updated on the disposal of this building and Cllr DK Bellamy be authorised to request via Kirklees Ward Councillors and Officers that, if likely to be further delay of more than 12 months, decorating the external frontage and removal of old signage on side elevation.

1819 43 Holmfirth Adult Education Centre (HAEC)

Update on proposals by Holmfirth Tech Ltd to purchase the building (Minute No. 1819 28 refers): Representatives of Holmfirth Tech Ltd, Kirklees College and the Community Group had been invited to the meeting to address Members, but none were in attendance. Members understood it was to be a community share scheme originally, so a query was

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raised as to whether Holmfirth Tech Ltd were still pursuing that (because they were now looking for donations).

RESOLVED: That Holmfirth Tech Ltd be invited to the next CASC meeting.

1819 44 Other Community Assets in the Holme Valley

Members considered other community assets in the Valley at risk of disposal or loss to the community:

(a) Butchers Arms, Hepworth has recently closed and residents want it to be re-opened as a community pub.

RESOLVED: That the Council's support be given to the community of Hepworth, to register the building with Kirklees Council as an asset of community value.

(b) Holme Village Public Conveniences: Members noted that roof repairs to the toilet building were required (cost approx. £2,000) and that Holme Village Hall requires funding to the tune of approx. £150,000 to bring it back to life.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to liaise with the relevant contacts in Holme Village, to encourage them to apply for grant funding available from the Parish Council (various budgets) and the Peak District National Park Authority.

(c) Holmfirth Indoor Market – Nothing further to report.

(d) Land at Laithe Avenue, Holmbridge – Noted that Kirklees Council have no plans to asset transfer (for allotment purposes).

1819 45 Freedom of Information Act 2000 – to agree what information will be made available to the public

RESOLVED: That, under the Council's Publication Scheme, supporting papers for any item within the public session of the meeting be made available, if requested, after confirmation of the minutes.

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Chairman