

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ASSETS SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2018

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr DK Bellamy

Councillors: Cllrs S Baggott, K Bellamy, T Bellamy, JG Cropper, TW Dixon, SN East and R Hogley

Officer: Mrs S S Barber

1819 46 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 47 Public Question Time

Seven members of the public were present and two of them addressed Members on the Honley Library Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

Standing Orders were suspended to allow questions to be asked.

Standing Orders were resumed.

Two members of public left the meeting.

One member of the public spoke regarding Honley Cricket Club grant application (Item 9(1) on the Agenda).

Standing Orders were suspended to allow questions to be asked.

Standing Orders were resumed.

One member of the public spoke regarding Thongsbridge Cricket Club grant application (Item 9(2) on the Agenda).

Standing Orders were suspended to allow questions to be asked.

Standing Orders were resumed.

1819 48 Invited Speaker

Two representatives of Holmfirth Tech Limited were in attendance and addressed Members on progress of the purchase of the Holmfirth Adult Education Centre building and the establishment of a new charity to run the Centre. They gave an indication of some of the costs involved in saving the building from loss to the community.

The representatives were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting after this item.

1819 49 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs E Bunbury and P Davies.

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1819 50 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.

Cllrs DK Bellamy and S East declared a personal interest in any items relating to Honley Library.

1819 51 To consider written requests for new DPI dispensations

None received.

1819 52 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 53 To confirm Minutes of the previous Committee meetings

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2018, numbered 1819 30 to 1819 45 inclusive be confirmed.

1819 54 Grants to support Community Assets

Members considered the following grant applications:

(1) Facilities Development Group, Honley Cricket Club:

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be awarded towards the refurbishment of the kitchen facilities in the Tea Room.

(2) Thongsbridge Cricket Club.

RESOLVED: That £2,000 be awarded as a contribution towards new toilet facilities.

1819 55 Holmfirth Public Conveniences

(1) The Clerk reported that there were no particularly urgent matters relating to the day to day running of these toilets but it had come to her attention that Yorkshire Water had charged £956.43 as quarterly charges to 12 October 2018 (three times more than normal). The Maintenance Contractor had checked the meters and there were no obvious leaks around the building but it had since come to light that stall holders at the recent Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival may have been given (unauthorised) access/permission to extract water from the public toilet facility for use during the Festival.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to email all Councillors to stress that this unauthorised access to extract water from the public toilets during the Festival is unacceptable and a waste of public money, and should not be allowed in future years. Appropriate signage to be considered before next year's event.

(2) At the last meeting Cllr K Bellamy had volunteered to participate in a visit to Hebden Bridge with the Square Peg's Group. Since then, she had received details of the group's advice on how wheelchair access could be achieved.

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RESOLVED: That the details on wheelchair access to the disabled toilet (Min. No. 1819 39(2)(i) refers) to be forwarded to the Clerk and discussed at the next CASC meeting.

(3) The Maintenance Contractor has completed the sealing of the floor.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(4) Members noted that due to lack of time the Clerk had made no progress on getting further quotes for rental potential of the office space.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should move this forward in the next week or so if possible.

(5) Members reported that the appointed Working Party had made no progress on the adjacent space to get it to a state where it could be rented.

RESOLVED: That the appointed Working Party to progress the work.

(6) Members noted that Central Government had agreed there would be a business rates exemption on public toilets for Parish Councils, but it would not come into effect until the 2020-21 financial year.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

1819 56 Budget/Precept 2019/20

RESOLVED: That this item be brought forward in priority order.

Members noted that the Council Tax Support Grant would be withdrawn by Kirklees for 2019-20 and agreed that a recommendation be made to the full Council and the Finance and Management Committee that the precept is increased to compensate for that amount, but also to provide further funding to partners such as HCHCT and new ventures such as Holmfirth Tech, but also to support other local community assets. The Council is in a position to raise money locally (through its Precept) and to pay money locally to support our community assets; the Council should therefore do so and it could raise the Precept by say a further £5/household on top of that raised two years ago without too much financial hardship to residents.

RESOLVED: (1) That, bearing the above in mind, the Council be asked to consider how to mitigate the loss of the Council Tax Support Grant and to agree a policy on increasing, reducing or freezing the Precept, as guidance to this and all other Committees.

(2) That the Clerk be authorised to produce a full list of the community assets which could be supported in 2019-20 including notional amounts of funding that may be required, for presentation to the full Council.

Cllr R Hogley left the meeting after this item.

1819 57 Holmfirth Civic Hall

The Clerk reported that the Council had received no further specific grant applications from HCHCT but had received a communication from the Chairman of the Trust earlier in the day regarding funding that was likely to be required over the next 12-18 months. The Clerk also

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presented a financial statement on the status of the two previously awarded grants (one for staffing costs, the other for works to the SW elevation).

Allied to some of the funding that might be required, Members were also reminded of the project being led by the Finance & Management Committee, where an architect had been appointed (who was already working with HCHCT on their own ideas) to look into options as to where the Parish Council might be based more longer term within the building. He had met with the Clerk and Cllr S Baggott, but it would be advisable for the Parish Council to liaise closely with HCHCT immediately on the architect's ideas so that maximum usage of the Hall can be maintained and responsibilities for costs associated with any proposed works are clear.

HCHCT had paid the Parish Council for the building's insurance recharge of £4,109.30.

Regarding the Lease to HCHCT (to run/manage the Hall) – Minute No. 1819 11 refers – the Clerk was continuing to liaise with the Parish Council's appointed Solicitor on finalisation of the Lease which must then be registered with the Land Registry.

RESOLVED: That a notional amount of say £25,000 for staffing costs and £25,000 for capital projects be included in the Budget 2019-20.

1819 58 To consider urgent/financial matters (if any) relating to other community assets

(1) Holmfirth Adult Education Centre (HAEC): Members noted the information provided earlier in the meeting by representatives of Holmfirth Tech Ltd.

RESOLVED: That a notional amount of say £25,000 be included in the Budget 2019-20.

(2) Honley Library: As explained earlier in the meeting, the Community Asset Transfer Working Group had met on 18 October 2018 and notes of the meeting had been distributed.

Members also noted an email of 23 October in which a Kirklees Officer from Economy Regeneration and Culture (Strategic Assets) confirmed that the revised Expression of Interest had been reviewed and the application for asset transfer of Honley Library could now progress to the next stage. He was having a meeting with Officers from Locality on 24 October 2018 when they would be asked to contact the Parish Council to discuss development of the full application and business plan.

RESOLVED: That, as previously agreed, a figure of £15,000 be included in the Budget 2019-20 (and ring-fenced).

(3) Butcher's Arms, Hepworth: As agreed at the previous CASC meeting (Min. No. 1819 44(a)refers) the Clerk has written to a representative of the Hepworth Community to give the Council's support to registering the building with Kirklees Council as an asset of community value. The Clerk had also provided some additional information on significant funding available through Central Government (supported by CAMRA) for community pubs, which they may wish to consider.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

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1819 59 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