

Holme Valley Parish Council

Draft Minutes of The Full Council Meeting of Holme Valley Parish Council on Monday 9 November at 19:00 pm on the online platform.

Present: Chairman, Cllr R Hogley

Cllrs G Barker, K Bellamy, T Bellamy, D Carré, P Colling, D Dalton, P Davies, P Dixon, T Dixon, S East, B Feeney, D Gould, C Greaves, D Hall, B Lockley, M Pogson (Vice Chairman) J Roberts, S Sheard, J Sweeney.

Officer; Liz Bennett. Clerk.

Also present R McGill, Deputy Clerk.

Public Question Time

There were four members of the Public present all commenting on Item 2021 120 regarding Wolfstones Footpath 60. The Public Rights of Way officer at Kirklees Council spoke as a member of the public and summarised the Kirklees position regarding opposing the Section 247 Order from the Department of Transport.

One person spoke on behalf of the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society, a charity representing walkers, with over 1200 members. They are a statutory consultee and they have objected to the Section 247 order as, in their view, it does not meet the necessary criteria.

A consultant acting on behalf of the owner of the property seeking the footpath diversion said that the Parish Council had received inaccurate advice from Kirklees Council and the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA) which HVPC had approached for comment. He stated that the Parish Council was a statutory consultee in this matter, as are Kirklees and the Peak and Northern Footpaths Charity and by maintaining its objection, HVPC may be called to a public enquiry and face paying costs for the case.

Another member of the public spoke against the change of position of the footpath as he takes local cub and scout packs along it. He believed the proposed change would pose a greater risk to safety and that people, including his grandfather, had fought hard to preserve the rights of the public to follow these ancient routes.

2021 113 **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014**

The zoom meetings are recorded on the clerk's computer.

2021 114 **To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Blacka, Cllr Brook and Cllr Firth.

2021 115 **To receive Members' interests and Officers' interests in items on the agenda.**

No interests received from any Councillors or officers in items on the agenda.

2021 116 **To receive any written requests for new DPI dispensations.**

None received.

2021 117 **To consider whether any items on the agenda should be discussed in private**

Resolved;- that no items were to be discussed in private.

2021 118 **To confirm the Minutes of the previous Council Meetings**

Resolved;- that the minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 6 October 2020 numbered 2021 106 to 2021 112 were accepted.

2021 119 **To approve the Committee Minutes under delegated powers**

Resolved;-The minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee on 14 September 2020 numbered 2021 01 to 2021 15 incl. be accepted.

Resolved;- The minutes of the Staffing Committee on 28 September 2021 numbered 2021 01 to 2021 15 incl. be accepted.

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Resolved: that the minutes of the Extraordinary Climate Emergency Committee meeting on 28 September numbered 2021 15 to 2021 31 incl.be accepted with any amendment made to clarify the terminology for members of the public on the committee regarding whether they were ‘co-opted’ or ‘appointed’.The Chairman confirmed that their membership of the committee was not in doubt but the terminology should be confirmed by the Clerk.

Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting on 5 October 2020 numbered 2021 56 to 2021 73 incl. be accepted.

Resolved: that the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee meeting on the 12 October 2020 numbered 2021 22 to 2021 139 incl be accepted.

Resolved: that the minutes of the Community Assets Support Committee on 19 October 2020 numbered 2021 27 to 2021 49 incl be accepted.

REFERRALS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

2021 120 **To consider the decision of the Planning Committee to maintain its objection to the proposed change in the route of Public Footpath Holmfirth 60, at Wolfstones in Netherthong ward.**

The Chairman explained the progress of this issue over the past two years within the Planning Committee. She explained that there had been different resolutions of the Planning Committee over the period but this was quite possible considering changes in the composition of the Committee and this did not contravene any regulations. Councillors were invited to share their views. Cllr Davies, expressed his views as a member of the Kirklees Planning Committee that discussed the matter in January 2020 where the application was rejectedand he reiterated his views that there was no public gain to outweigh the public loss in this proposed diversion.

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Cllr Dalton spoke against the objection as he did not agree that the proposed diversion was any more dangerous to the public. Cllr T Dixon supported the objection but expressed concern over potential costs associated with any subsequent public enquiry. Cllr T Bellamy asked that the YLCA advice received be revisited in light of some comments on its relevance.

Standing orders were suspended in order that Councillors could ask questions from two members of the public before discussion was concluded with the following resolution voted upon.

Resolved: that the Parish Council would maintain its objection to the re-routing of the Holmfirth path 60 at Wolfstones.

2021 121

Referral from the Staffing Committee- to approve the appointment of the new Climate Emergency Co-ordinator from August 17th, 2020 , working eighteen and a half hours per week on a yearlong contract with a salary of £12,000.

The Clerk clarified that it was necessary for Full Council to formally approve the appointment to this post as the current Scheme of Delegations does not give the Staffing Committee the delegated power to confirm the appointment.

Resolved: to approve the appointment of the Climate Emergency Action Plan Co-ordinator on the terms described above.

2021 122

To approve an amendment to the Scheme of Delegations such that the Staffing Committee can be delegated to interview and appoint a new member of staff without referral back to Full Council.

Resolved ; that the following clause would be added to the terms of reference for the Staffing Committee.

“The Staffing Committee will be responsible for all matters relating to the advertising, interviewing, selection and appointment of a member of staff where such a post has been approved by Full Council.”

2021 123 The Climate Emergency Committee request the approval for expenditure to a maximum of £7,500 for items that are within the budget allocations for the various sections of the Climate Emergency budget.

- Equipment required for the role of Climate Emergency Coordinator including software, website management and hardware
- Design work including Home energy savings booklet
- Printing costs - for all projects including board for water refill fountain
- Video production - for collateral to be used on the website and on social media
- Social Media expenses including boosts

Noted the planned expenditure and referred this matter to the Climate Emergency Standing Committee on 16 November 2020.

2021 124 To consider whether the decision by the Finance and Management Committee in 2019 to discuss grant applications in private is to be continued.

Resolved;- that all discussions concerning the awarding of grants would be held in public session (unless there is information confidential to the applicant that requires a private session).

2021 125 To approve the Payment Schedule for October 2020.

Resolved;- to approve the payment Schedule for September 2020.

2021 126 To approve the Payment Schedule for November 2020 (month to date).

Resolved;- to approve the payment schedule(month to date) for November 2020.

2021 127 Noted;- the Deputy Clerk's Budget information on the year to date which will aid the various committees in setting their

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budgets for next year, 2021 to 2022.

2021 128 **Noted**;- The £2,000 grant made to the Holme Valley Mutual Aid group in May 2020, to subsidise the expenses of volunteers during the Covid- 19 emergency, has been returned to the Council as it has not been utilised.

2021 129 **Resolved**;- to grant the tenant of the retail shop in the Garside Buildings a ‘rent holiday’ for the duration of the new Covid -19 Lockdown . The Clerk will investigate any government support that the business can access.

POLICY UPDATES and POLICY CHANGES

2021 130 Funding to Churches

There was discussion about the legality of the Parish Council reversing the decision of Full Council in November 2019 which stated that the maintenance of church clocks would cease. The advice of the Y.L.C.A. is that to do so would be illegal. That is a nationwide ruling but one which is still being discussed in some quarters. Several Councillors wished to maintain this tradition.

Resolved;- to maintain the current situation of ceasing to support the maintenance and repair of Church clocks while the Clerk assesses the other challenges to the nationwide prohibition cited by some Councillors before bringing the matter back to Council for review.

2021 131 Funding to Schools

Noted;- that grants can be made to Schools by the Council if it so wishes but as there is no specific legislation that provides for this, such payments would be made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

NEW POLICIES and PROCEDURES

2021 131 **Resolved**;- to approve the adoption of the following policies which have been taken from standard YLCA formats.

The HVPC Email policy

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The form for Application for Dispensation

The Recruitment and Selection Policy

The new **grants application form** referred from the Finance and Management Committee

The new **grants application criteria**, referred from The Finance and Management Committee

Resolved ;that the Training Policy would be referred to the Staffing Committee for further refinement.

- 2021 132 **To consider a survey from NALC which needs to be completed and forwarded to the Committee for Standards in Public Life (C.S.P.L.)**

Resolved; that the Chairman will collate responses from individual Councillors and send a reply before the required date, 4th December 2020.

- 2021 133 **To consider progress made on the review of the Council's Governance by Calderdale Council**

Resolved to approve this table as a record of how the recommendations from Calderdale Council and the Kirklees Monitoring Officer, from November 2019, have all been addressed. The matter is concluded.

- 2021 134 **Resolved** to approve that the two representatives from the Council to the Yorkshire Association of Local Councils (Y.L.C.A.) will be the current Chairman and the previous Chairman rather than the same representatives that were standing last year i.e. they will now be Councillor Bellamy and Councillor Hogley.

- 2021 135 **Past Chairman's Jewels**

Resolved; that the retiring Chairman would be consulted as to whether he wished to receive the traditional honour of a silver 'badge' and that the matter of what course the Council takes in future will be brought to the next Full Council

- 2021 136 **Noted**, a letter of thanks and a report from the Holmfirth Arts

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Festival for their grant funding last year.

2021 137 **Noted;** the progress being made by the River Holme Connections in the development of the Thongsbridge Wild Space project. They received a grant of £5,000 from the HVPC (C.A.S.C.) in June and have nearly reached their funding target.

2021 138 **To note,** a report on the current position for the proposed Holmfirth Town Centre access plan. The Scheme was last presented to the community in January 2020 and was approved by West Yorkshire Combined Authority in June 2020. The team are now developing the design and the business case and seeking planning consents.

2021 139 **Chairman's report.** Deferred to next meeting.

Close of meeting at 21.30

Liz Bennett

Mrs E Bennett. Clerk.
Holme Valley Parish Council

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