



Sonia is Council's newest member

GREEN Party member Sonia King is the newest member of Meltham Town Council. She lives and works in Meltham as a maths tutor and is currently training to work with learners who have maths based difficulties.

Sonia is involved in local projects including the Friends of Meltham Library and Edible Meltham and is passionate about helping to build a sustainable community.

As a member of the Green Party, she is the only person currently on Meltham Town Council who is party affiliated.

She said: "Our environment is very important and we should be doing our best to preserve the planet so it is a safe and joyful place for our children to grow up in.

"I am interested how people learn, versus how they are educated. There are many things that could be improved in our education system and the targets and tests our children face are the wrong priority."

Sonia is hoping to get involved with lots of projects that will help Meltham grow and become more self-sufficient and sustainable for the future as well as continue to be a lovely place to live.

Out-of-control camp fire blamed for blaze near Digley reservoir

By Josh Timlin

FIRE crews believe a woodland blaze near Digley reservoir was sparked by an out-of-control camp fire.

The incident, which happened last month, took several hours to extinguish and caught hold in a dense patch of woodland close to Holmbridge.

A statement from Holmfirth Fire Station said: "We attended the fire at 5.59am and two engines were required. It is most likely to have been caused by a camp fire.

"Please be vigilant in the countryside. Not only is it threatening the environment but it's tying up fire engines which may be needed for a more serious incident.

"Moorland fires can quickly spread and cause devastation."

It is the latest serious blaze to affect the district, after officers from Holmfirth, Meltham and Slaithwaite rushed to Saddleworth Moor near Marsden on February 26 and again on March 21 to fight flames which scorched more than 1.5 square miles of land.

A statement from the Peak District National Park added: "Accidental fires are potentially the single biggest threat to the fragile ecosystem of the moors. Since 1976 there have been more than 350 reported incidents of



'wildfires' of which the majority are commonly started by arson, discarded cigarettes, barbecues and campfires.

"The records show that a number of moorland fires occur every year, some of which have been serious and lasting for several days.

"It was therefore considered important to improve the fire-fighting provisions and the communications between those involved.

"To co-ordinate resources, a

group was formed to provide information on the location of personnel, water supplies, routes for access to moorland and provision of fire-fighting equipment.

"This group, known as the Fire Operations Group, (FOG) is made up of fire service officers and those actively involved in fire-fighting including gamekeepers, park rangers, National Trust wardens and water companies.

"The involvement of the public

is a vital factor in preventing the damage which moorland fires can cause. Early reporting of a fire is essential and anyone seeing a fire should dial 999.

"Walkers can act as a useful fire watch and give early notice of the danger particularly if carrying a mobile phone.

Accurate information on the location with map reference or bearing can save precious time.

"The peat moorlands are a very fragile, valuable and easily damaged resource."



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Meet seven of our new councillors

Duggs Carre

I have a strong background in supporting community projects and local regeneration from my past professional life and my work as a volunteer.

Locally I have been involved with setting up Holmepride and the Holmfirth Festival of Folk.

I have also led on a number of innovative projects and secured money for them too.

I hope to get involved in more such projects in the HVPC too.

I am passionate about environmental issues and improving local services.

I am one of the key administrators on the local Facebook page and I like to connect with and help people.

Bernie Feeney

I have lived in the Holme Valley since moving to Holmfirth in 2004.

I really enjoy its friendly atmosphere and feel very much that it's now my home.

As a retired teacher, I am committed to supporting the welfare of all our young people and will work with

other Parish councillors to promote their well-being and their futures.

I want to see a green economy work for everyone in the Holme Valley as I believe that by developing bold strategies we can help transform all our lives for the better and build a prosperous community with shared values.

Glyn Baker

I am originally from Sheffield but have lived in the Holme Valley for 17 years.

Professionally, I taught in sixth form colleges across the country (but mainly in the North) for 24 years, eventually becoming Assistant Principal of Huddersfield New College before deciding to leave the profession at the end of 2017.

Having taught A level Politics and History during my career, I moved into the political field after teaching, where I continue to work.

Given my background, I have a particular interest in education, community and welfare issues, and these

areas are what inspired me to stand as a parish councillor.

I hope that both my professional and personal experience can be an asset to the Parish during my tenure.

James Dalton

I am the founder member of the UK's Direct Democracy Party, a Chartered Structural Engineer and professional problem solver.

I am also a political analyst/writer and promoter of direct democracy. Advocate of prudence, competence and accountability in government for the people, by the people.

The Holme Valley is my home.

Sarah Sheard

I'm passionate about environment issues & have written a children's book, aimed at educating year six children.

I think it's the younger generation who will have to face all the issues concerning climate change.

I try to cycle when possible and have been growing vegetables for

more than 30 years on our allotment.

Ben Lockley

Currently a student, I am new to the council, representing the Honley Central and East Ward.

I hope to work with other councillors over the next four years to support community groups and initiatives.

Especially with regard to increasing provision for young people in the valley and doing what we can to protect the environment.

Mary Blacka

I have lived in the Holme Valley for 30 years, at first near Hepworth and now on the edge of Holmfirth.

Almost all my working life was spent in further and adult and community education.

I have been a governor at Hepworth School for a long time and am the treasurer of the Friends of Cliff Recreation Ground.

I am a Youth Offending Panelist and a Supported Lodgings Provider for Kirklees Council.

I love walking and sing with Holmfirth Choral Society.

Draft plan to open for consultation

THE draft Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan will be open to consultation from July 15 until September 15.

The NDP gives local people more say in how developments should take place in the Holme Valley, and once adopted it will result in more money being available for community projects within the Holme Valley: make sure you have your say!

We have updated the plan to reflect your feedback from last year's 'Your Valley Your Voice' consultation and this 'Regulation 14' consultation is your final opportunity to help us improve the plan and endorse its progress before it is submitted to Kirklees.

They will then publish it for a further six weeks consultation before it is examined by an Independent Planning Examiner.

Following the inclusion of the Planning Examiner's recommendations, you will then decide whether to support it through a referendum in 2020.

If more than 50 per cent of those who vote are in favour, the Plan will be formally adopted and will thereafter be used by Kirklees to inform planning decisions in the Valley.

We will also be consulting on our recently completed Strategic Environmental Assessment which will help us improve how the plan supports the sustainability of our natural, historic and social environment in the Holme Valley. Please complete our questionnaire on-line or pick up a paper copy from Holmfirth or Honley libraries. For details visit www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

THE Parish Council is looking to recruit a Deputy Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to work with the Clerk of the Council.

The duties will include the day to day financial administration, updating the website, preparing articles and press releases.

The successful applicant will be given the opportunity to undertake training in Local Council Administration.

The post will be an average of 25 hours per week, the salary will be £12,750 per annum.

For more information please visit www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk, e-mail clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk or call the office on 01484 687460.

The closing date for applications 5pm on Monday July 29.