

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 06 FEBRUARY 2006 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr J R Chilton

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr G Christofi, Cllr C E Collins, Cllr Mrs M P Court, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr A C Garrod, Cllr A L Gosslin, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr R N Haynes, Cllr Mrs R Jackson, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr Mrs W J Kemp, Cllr G Macpherson, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs H P Smith

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

One member of the public was present.

Public Question Time

There were no questions from the member of the public present.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mrs. Hobson, Oldham, Mrs. Osborn, Otterburn and Rogers.

05 93 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr. Mrs. Bower declared a personal interest in several items where West Yorkshire Passenger Transport was mentioned, in that she serves on West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority.

05 94 Admission of the Public

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

05 95 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman reported in detail about various events and meetings which he had attended on behalf of the Council:

- Valleys Area Committee - various Sub Committee meetings - Environment and Highways, Community Engagement (Community Newsletter being finalised)
- Valleys Area Committee - focussing on older people's issues - constructive and encouraging, well attended, plenty of useful information
- Meeting with representatives of the Valley Film Theatre Association re possible support - a useful meeting
- Meeting with representatives of Holme Valley Civic Society, Kirklees MC and the Arts Council re expansion of Holme Valley Arts Trail and possible grant application to Arts Council
- Parish Charter Review Meeting - taking time for aspects of the Charter to filter through to all departments and services of Kirklees MC, discussed interface between Area Committees and Local Councils, discussion on type of service that might be considered for devolution, but Kirklees will leave it up to Local Councils to come up with proposals.

05 96 Administrative matters

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Greg Christofi, the new Member for Scholes Ward to the Council and to his first full Council Meeting.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Christofi be appointed to serve on the Planning and Finance and Management Committees until the next Annual Council meeting.

05 97 Quality Councils

Members had been informed that the Council had been awarded Quality Parish status. The Clerk was

Holme Valley Parish Council

thanked for the work which she had put into this achievement for the Council. Members who had also assisted with preparation of the application were also thanked.

After discussion, it was agreed that the presentation of the Certificate should be held in the Council Chamber, preferably in the presence of the Mayor and Leader of Kirklees, and, if possible the Chairmen of Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and the West Yorkshire Accreditation Panel. Members suggested that all Councillors and ex-Councillors should be invited to a special evening with some refreshments, and that such a presentation should not be linked in with a Council meeting. It was also suggested that the local Member of Parliament be invited. It was further suggested that such an event be held on a Monday evening when no meeting was scheduled.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to make suitable arrangements, as outlined above; the final details to be left to the Clerk depending on availability of participants, etc.; the Clerk was also authorised to arrange for suitable refreshments.

05 98 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 December 2005 numbered 05 77- 05 92 inclusive be confirmed.

The Clerk reported that an acknowledgement had been received of the Council's response to the proposals in the consultation "Looking to the Future" regarding changes to some health services in Calderdale and Huddersfield. A special website would be launched in April 2006 for public information and access.

There was some mention about the impression which had been published regarding the Council's decision in this respect, in that it should be made clear that it had been a majority decision, not a unanimous one.

05 99 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 December 2005 numbered 05 127 - 05 134 inclusive, on 9 January 2006 numbered 05 135 - 05 145 inclusive and on 30 January 2006 numbered 05 146 - 05 155 inclusive be confirmed.

05 100 To confirm the Minutes of the Publications and Editorial Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Publications and Editorial Committee held on 16 January 2006 numbered 05 47 - 05 55 inclusive be confirmed.

The Clerk sought information from those present about how many had received the last distribution of the Council's newsletter. She reported that she was not happy with the service that the Council had been given, and the number of Councillors indicating that they had not received a distribution bore this feeling out. She would be taking it up with the company concerned. Members agreed with this action. She also informed Members that, for the next year, distribution would be undertaken by Royal Mail.

05 101 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 16 January 2006 numbered 05 79 - 05 93 inclusive be received and adopted, noting that the budget recommendations will be discussed later in the agenda.

Members noted receipt of a letter from the Valley Theatre Film Association indicating that the position in respect of the Picturedrome had changed, in that the current owner now intended to continue to show films on a regular basis. This altered the direction in which the Film Association would develop; any approach to the Council for financial assistance would be in a different format. Members noted this and would await further developments. It was also noted that this change would impact on the budget proposals.

Information was also given to the Council that a previous covenant covering the cinema prevented the removal of projection equipment from the building. It was agreed that this information should be borne in mind in future discussions.

In connection with Minute number 05 82, Cllr. Searby reported that he had heard further concerns about the future ambulance cover and staffing at Honley Ambulance Station. It was agreed that a

Holme Valley Parish Council

further request for information should be sent to West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service, and for representatives to attend a meeting of the Council to clarify this situation. This was so resolved.

05 102 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

The Clerk reported that a request had been received for the grant application from Holme Valley Business Association in respect of the Folk Festival be referred back to the Committee for further consideration, because the Committee had not been supplied with full information to support the application. This was agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 23 January 2006 numbered 05 84 - 05 98 inclusive be received and adopted, with the exception of Minute number 05 90(5) which was referred back to the Committee for further consideration, in view of the extra information received.

Members also expressed concerns on behalf of residents at Scholes about problems which would be experienced following the proposed change in the route H1. Several letters and a petition were handed to the Clerk for Members' attention. In accordance with Minute number 05 95, this possible route change would be re-examined and the possible implications re-visited.

05 103 Accounts for Payment

Members approved the addition of one extra invoice to the January 2006 schedule, as reported by the Clerk, in view of the payment deadline. This was duly added to the schedule for approval.

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for December 2005 (second part) totalling £2,300.88 and January 2006, totalling £12,396.25, as amended above, be approved.

05 104 Local Area Committees

- Valleys Area Committee - Cllr. Mrs. Bower reported briefly on the meeting of the Area Committee which had concentrated on older people's issues. This had been well attended, with representatives from various services and advice organisations on hand to answer queries.

RESOLVED: That the reports and information be noted.

05 105 To consider recommendations of Working Party

- General Purposes Committee minute number 05 88 refers - Members of the Working Party and the Clerk explained further about the recommendations in their report which had been circulated. Designs from the artists were also circulated, and questions answered about siting such pieces of work on private land, walls or other buildings. It was explained that this was envisaged as a three to five project, which would progress as Council funding, other partnership funding, and applications to other external funding bodies allowed. The project would be a partnership between this Council, Kirklees MC, Holme Valley Civic Society, and, it was hoped, the Valleys Area Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be accepted and the recommendations contained within approved.

05 106 Request to consult with Parish Council

- South Yorkshire PTE - Possible improvements to Bus Service 20 - Barnsley - Penistone - Holmfirth: the proposed improvements were discussed. Although there was some concern that this might affect usage of the Penistone Line rail service, Scholes Ward members indicated that it was a valuable service for residents of Hade Edge, and that the improvements should be welcomed.

RESOLVED: That the possible improvements to Bus Service 20 be welcomed, and South Yorkshire PTE informed of this view.

05 107 Attendance at Conferences and Seminars

Members discussed attendance at the following events:

Society of Local Council Clerks West Yorkshire Branch - Bramhope - 11 March 2006:

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Mrs. Court be authorised to attend this event, if she is able; associated fees and travel to be paid by the Council; noted that the Clerk would be in attendance, as she was organising the

Holme Valley Parish Council

event.

Society of Local Council Clerks Regional Conference - Harrogate - 29 March 2006:

RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the Council, together with the Clerk, be authorised to attend this event; associated fees and travel to be paid by the Council.

05 108 Parish Charter

The Chairman had already reported briefly on the Charter Review meeting which had taken place earlier that evening. It had been a constructive and positive meeting, but it would be up to Local Councils to pursue discussions regarding any possible devolution of services to a local council.

Members were also advised that if a council experienced any problems with a Kirklees service not meeting aims and standards set out in the Charter with Kirklees MC, the Corporate Development Unit would be prepared to take up such a concern within Kirklees MC.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

05 109 Precept and Budget

Members considered the draft budget and precept level for 2006-2007, as proposed by the Council's Standing Committees.

The Chairman of the Finance and Management Committee commented that he was concerned that "wish list" budgeting had produced a precept increase that was unacceptable. In his view, the Council should decide upon an acceptable precept figure at this Council meeting, and then ask the Finance and Management Committee to reconsider the detailed budget figures, and apportion the available funding, as raised by this agreed precept, between the different budget headings. Members discussed the impact a reduced precept would have on potential services.

The Clerk reminded Members of the need to submit the precept demand by the legal deadline of 1 March, and of the Council's obligation to submit precept and budget information for inclusion in the Council Tax leaflet under the Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 1993, if the Council's precept would be over £100,000.

Following the information received from the Valley Film Theatre Association, relating to cinema facilities, and the information given to the Finance and Management Committee, regarding the reserve fund held for possible CCTV improvements, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That the budget for New Projects under the General Purposes Committee be reduced by £10,000 to £5,000, and the Reserve Fund earmarked for CCTV of £2,500 be transferred back into General Balances.

After further discussion on the budget figure proposed for providing and maintaining bus shelters, it was proposed by Cllr. Collins, and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Smith, that the budget as now amended by the Council be approved and adopted, and that the precept to be levied be as now calculated, taking into account the above alteration, at £152,500.

RESOLVED: (1) That the budget, as before the Council, taking into account the amendment resolved above, be approved and adopted
(2) That the Council issues a precept on Kirklees MC of £152,500, and that the Clerk takes the necessary action to issue such a precept notice by the due date.

It was further

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk prepares the necessary information for inclusion with the Council Tax leaflet as required by legislation, and that she, together with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance and Management Committee, be delegated to agree this information before it is submitted to Kirklees MC

(2) That the Clerk be authorised to prepare and issue a press release in connection with the Award of the Quality Parish status, and giving details of the agreed budget and precept level.

05 110 To appoint Chairman and Vice-Chairman Elect

Holme Valley Parish Council

In consideration of the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman Elect for the civic year 2006-07, Cllr. Mrs. Spencer, Vice Chairman, explained to Members that she did not feel able to take on the role of Chairman in the next year, although she might consider this another year. She had taken on the Vice-Chairmanship to allow Cllr. Macpherson the opportunity to take on Chairmanship if his health improved.

Cllr. Macpherson regretted that his health had not improved and whilst he would wish to serve the Council in this capacity, he did not feel it was physically possible for him to do so, and that it would not be fair to the Council or his Vice Chairman. Members respected Cllr. Macpherson's comments and appreciated his honesty and courage in making them.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman Elect for the civic year 2006-07 be deferred until the next Council meeting.

At the request of the meeting, the Clerk reminded Members of the order of seniority of Councillors eligible to serve as Chairman.

05 111 Freedom of Information Act 2000

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.

.....
Chairman