

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15 MAY 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 Mrs M P Court, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr R N Haynes, Cllr Mrs S Hobson, Cllr Mrs R Jackson, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr R Rogers, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs H P Smith

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick, Mrs E Hirst

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Collins, Garrod, Gosslin, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Kemp, Macpherson, Oldham and Otterburn.

05 128 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

05 129 Admission of the Public

Members were advised that item 17(1) on the agenda (Hollowgate Shelter) should be taken in private session, in view of the confidential nature of the information to be considered. It was agreed that no other items needed to be taken in private session.

RESOLVED: That item 17(1) be moved to the end of the agenda and considered in private session.

05 130 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman reported on various events which he had attended on behalf of the Council:

- Joint Meeting re Arts Initiatives - very useful and constructive meeting with Kirklees Councillors, Holme Valley Civic Society and Holme Valley Business Association. All the projects dovetail and should compliment each other
- AGM of HV Scouts - selected as one of his charities
- Holme Valley Brass Band Contest - last event as Chairman.

The Vice Chairman has also attended Civic Dinners at Meltham TC and Kirkburton PC; and a St. George's Day service. She was thanked for undertaking this on behalf of the Chairman.

05 131 Presentation

Mr. J. Pease, Director of Operations for West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service thanked Members for the opportunity to inform the Council about plans for Honley Ambulance Station. He wished to assure the Council that there were no plans to close Honley Ambulance Station. It was the intention to continue to provide ambulance cover from Honley, and to improve the service in the longer-term. There was public consultation about a merger of Ambulance Services, and he offered to visit the Council again to advise them about strategic plans for the new larger service.

In the meantime, following an external consultancy exercise, it was evident that more resources were needed in the area, and it was hoped to provide a community paramedic scheme specific to this area, based in the Dearne Valley. In addition, it was hoped to run a pilot scheme from Honley Ambulance Station for a fast response vehicle in the area to boost response times. The First Responders Scheme was an important development, and Mr. Pease sought the Parish Council's support in seeking extra

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volunteers for this scheme. The Council's support in generating interest in supporting the Responders Scheme was almost more important than financial support from the Council.

Demands on the ambulance service were increasing, but mis-use of the service tended to be worse in urban areas. Emergency calls from rural areas were normally genuine, but it was important to involve the public loally to work out how to bring pressure on urban areas not to mis-use emergency services. Mr. Pease would welcome any suggestions from the Parish Council about how to reduce such mis-use, and, therefore, to free ambulances to respond to genuine emergency calls.

He also indicated that it would be helpful to continue liaising with the Parish Council in the future, with regards to improvements to local services, and to keep the Council informed about strategic plans for the Ambulance Service.

Members then raised questions and concerns about the information he had just given them; about manning levels at Honley Ambulance Station, and about the number of vehicles based at the station. He assured Members that where he did not have the information sought to hand at that point, he would let the Council know at a later date. Members asked particularly that equity of service in rural areas be addressed, and that the level of service in the Holme Valley be examined in particular.

The Council asked him to use the Parish as a consultee, either collectively, or via a Sub-Committee to gain feedback from a local perspective on issues or proposals. The points which he had raised seeking views from the Parish Council would be considered in further detail at a later meeting. Mr. Pease was then thanked for coming to the meeting and for the information he had given.

He then left the meeting.

Cllr. Otterburn also let the meeting at the end of this item.

05 132 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 March 2006 numbered 05 112 - 05 127 inclusive be confirmed.

05 133 To confirm the Minutes of the Publications and Editorial Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Publications and Editorial Committee held on 28 March 2006 numbered 05 56 - 05 65 inclusive and on 2 May 2006 numbered 05 66 - 05 74 inclusive be confirmed.

In connection with Minute number 05 70, it was now apparent that there had, in fact, been a problem with one area of the distribution. The Clerk was pursuing this with Royal Mail, as a year's contract had been agreed, and she would be inquiring

- why the Council had not been informed that there was an alleged shortage of newsletters for delivery
- why, without consultation with the Parish Council, one section of the delivery area was omitted
- that, in view of the above, a refund be sought on the area not receiving a delivery
- an assurance be sought that these problems be remedied for the next delivery

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to take this action and to pursue the Council's complaint with Royal Mail.

05 134 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 3 April 2006 numbered 05 110 - 05 122 inclusive be received and adopted.

In connection with Minute number 05 116, Cllr. Searby reported that sections of wall and a gate had been removed at Oldfield Recreation Ground. The Clerk was asked to check with Kirklees MC Leisure Services whether this was in prepration for the improvement works.

In connection with Minute number 05 121 Honley Councillors reported some concerns about the condition of works undertaken at Honley War Memorial. The Clerk confirmed that these comments had also been made in the survey report recently carried out.

The Clerk also reported that due to further damage to the shelter on Greenfield Road, Holmfirth,

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opposite Compo's Restaurant, leaving it in a dangerous condition, she had given authority to the Council's contractor to remove the shelter completely.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's action in this matter be approved.

05 135 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 20 March 2006 numbered 05 166 - 05 172 inclusive, on 10 April 2006 numbered 05 173 - 05 185 inclusive and on 3 May 2006 numbered 05 186 - 05 190 inclusive be confirmed.

05 136 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 3 May 2006 numbered 05 114 - 05 128 inclusive be received and adopted.

Cllr. Dixon queried Minute number 05 127 (4), in that he did not feel that this reflected the discussion which took place. This concern was not echoed by other Members, and no alteration was necessary to the Minute before the Council.

Members were asked particularly to note the adopted policies which were attached to these Minutes, ie Retention of Documents, Information Technology, Dignity at Work/Release of Personal Information Interim Procedures, and the Complaints Procedure.

05 137 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for March 2006, totalling £16,065.42, and April 2006, totalling £11,726.33 be approved.

05 138 Audit of Accounts

RESOLVED: That the Annual Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2006 be approved.

05 139 To appoint Vice Chairman Elect

It was proposed by Cllr. Dixon and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Smith and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Cllr. Charles M. Kaye be nominated Vice Chairman Elect for the civic year 2006-2007.

05 140 Local Area Committees

- Valleys Area Committee - As no meeting had been held since the last Council meeting, no report was submitted.

05 141 Attendance at Conferences and Seminars

(1) Members considered attendance at the following events:

Kirklees MC Civic Reception - 18 May 2006 - Members agreed four representatives as follows:

Councillors Mrs. Court, Mrs. Osborn, Mrs. Roberts, and Mrs. Spencer.

LuptonFawcett - Annual Employment Law Seminar - Bradford - 14 June 2006:

Cllr. Bellamy indicated interest in attending this Seminar.

NALC Annual Conference and Exhibition - 22-24 September 2006 - Liverpool:

Cllr. Rogers indicated interest in attending this Conference, and will let the Clerk have a final decision.

YLCA, ERNLLCA and YHRTP Joint Training Conference - 29 September - 1 October - Scarborough: referred to next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the above representation and actions be approved.

(2) Members received reports of attendance at the following events:

Kirklees MC and Parish Councils Joint Meeting:

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting held on 6 February 2006 be received.

SLCC Regional Conference - Harrogate - 29 March 2006: The Clerk, together with the Chairman, and Cllr. Mrs. Court, had attended this event, which had been interesting and informative.

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YLCA - Councillor Skills - Skelmanthorpe - 29 March 2006 - Cllr. Gosslin was not present, and, therefore, was unable to report on the event at this meeting.

SLCC Larger Local Councils Conference - London - 27-28 April 2006 - the Clerk circulated a report of her attendance at this Conference.

RESOLVED: that the above reports be received and the delegates thanked for their reports.

Langsett PC - Public meeting re proposed Mottram Bypass - 2 May 2006 - the Chairman reported action being taken by a group, Woodhead against Increased Traffic (WAIT) which is concerned about the impact this proposed bypass will have on other villages. It is expected that traffic will increase three-fold on the A616/A628 junction. It was also expected that this would impact on traffic flows through New Mill to Holmfirth, and on to Holme Moss. The Chairman emphasised that there was a need for groups to get together and to focus concerns to be relayed to the Highways Agency about this impact. A Transport Campaigner from the Friends of the Peak District had offered help and assistance with drawing up a strategy to express these concerns.

Members agreed that the Council needed to comment in more detail on this proposal and to assist other local organisations in being aware of the proposals and of the potential impact the bypass would have. Cllr. Firth indicated that he was trying to arrange a meeting between the various Highways Authorities involved. The Chairman of the Council, therefore, asked him if he would be prepared to chair a meeting of interested parties from the Holme Valley, the Civic Society, the Business Association, WAIT, and all Parish Councillors and Kirklees Ward Councillors and officers.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk liaises with Cllr. Firth to fix a suitable date, and makes the arrangements for such a meeting to be held in the Civic Hall

(2) That, from that meeting, it is suggested that a smaller group be formed to draw up plans to express and relay concerns about the proposed bypass to the Highways Agency.

05 142 For Members' Consideration

(1) Hollowgate Shelter, Holmfirth - Enforcement Notice - to be considered in private session

(2) ODPM - Local Authority Byelaws in England: A Discussion Paper - this document has just been received by the Council, but comments had to be submitted before June 2006:

RESOLVED: That it be noted that this consultation is available for any interested member to submit a personal comment, and that they should apply to the Clerk for sight of the document.

05 143 Reference from a Committee

- Finance and Management Committee minute number 05 128(2) refers - Members were asked to consider and agree replies to correspondence which requested information relating to Council policies. Since her report to the Finance and Management Committee, further similar correspondence had been received.

RESOLVED: (1) that the replies as drafted be approved and sent on behalf of the Council

(2) that the further request from one of the above correspondents be dealt with as suggested

(3) that this new inquiry be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and Management Committee for consideration, and that the correspondent be informed of this decision.

05 144 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, after approval of the Minutes.

05 145 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED: That the business of this Council to be now transacted be not open to the public and press on the grounds that the matters to be considered are of a confidential nature.

05 146 Miscellaneous Rentals

Hollowgate Shelter: breach of planning conditions: Members received advice from the Council's Legal Advisers in that the Council should allow Kirklees MC to pursue appropriate enforcement action with the tenant for such breach of planning conditions, and that the Council should not take any direct

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action in this matter at this time.

Members were also advised in respect of the rental position, and agreed to follow the recommendations in this respect.

- RESOLVED: (1) That the advice of the Council's Legal Advisers be noted and the actions so recommended be authorised
- (2) That the letter to the tenant as drafted be sent by the Council's legal advisers
 - (3) That the rental cheque currently held now be banked, as advised, and a further rental demand be issued.

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Chairman