

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20 MARCH 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 L Gosslin, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr R N Haynes, Cllr Mrs S Hobson, Cllr Mrs R Jackson, Cllr Mrs W J Kemp, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr R Rogers, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs H P Smith

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick, Mrs E Hirst

Public Question Time

5 Members of the public were present.

Questions were raised on the following issues: staffing costs, the increased budget provision for bus shelters and seats, the Council's response to the consultation on changes to local hospital services, and the justification for the rise in the precept to be raised for 2006-07.

The Chairman answered the points raised by the members of the public.

3 Members of the public left at the end of the Public Question Time.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Garrod, Kaye, Macpherson, Oldham and Otterburn.

05 112 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

05 113 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED: That item 16 of the agenda needed to be taken in private session, owing to the consideration of tender information, and the award of a contract.

05 114 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman reported in detail about various events he had attended on behalf of the Council:
- Opening of the Day Surgery Unit, Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, which would offer a wide range of services to the people of the Holme Valley and beyond. He suggested that Members might be interested to invite the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital Manager to a future meeting to update the Parish Council about the services which were now or would be offered at the Hospital.

RESOLVED: That the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital Manager be invited to a future meeting to give a presentation to the Council so as to inform Members of services and future plans for the Hospital.

The Chairman had attended three occasions in connection with the Council's achievement of Quality Council status; he had received, on behalf of the Council, congratulations from the local Member of Parliament, and been presented with the Certificate at a Branch meeting of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations, in addition to the formal presentation in front of the Council by the Chairman of the Accreditation Panel.

He had also attended the launch of the first of the new projects to develop the Arts Trail; attended a Holmfirth Community Consultancy Day at Holmfirth High School with other Members and the Clerk, which was part of the Extended Schools agenda, and attended the Annual General Meetings of Cancer

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Relief and the Twinning Association.

The Vice Chairman had also attended Civic Dinners at Saddleworth PC and Ripponden PC.

05 115 Presentation

The Chairman introduced representatives of the Holme Valley Fairtrade Support Group, Mr. Mark Lewis and Mr. Peter Beetlestone, to address the Council about the plans to establish the Holme Valley as a Fairtrade Zone, including the hope that the Council would be able to support this bid. Mr. Lewis explained the background and ethos of the Fairtrade scheme, and the group's objective of making people aware of the initiative, gaining support for the scheme and increasing the opportunities within the Holme Valley for people to purchase Fairtrade products.

RESOLVED: That Holme Valley Parish Council fully supports the principle of Fairtrade and welcomes the initiative to achieve Fairtrade status for the Holme Valley.

Members were also reminded that they could support the scheme personally, and that the Council could, in future, consider extending its support to a commitment to offering Fairtrade products when refreshments were served at any meeting.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Beetlestone were thanked for their presentation, and then left the meeting.

05 116 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2006 numbered 05 93 - 05 111 inclusive be confirmed.

05 117 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 20 February 2006 numbered 05 94 - 05 109 inclusive be received and adopted.

In connection with Minute number 05 104, it was reported that representatives of Holme Valley Civic Society and Kirklees MC Countryside Manager had met with the Clerk to start preparatory work on funding applications to external agencies for works to the Holme Valley Arts Trail. It had been suggested at that meeting that it would be useful if a joint meeting were to be held with all the organisations which are involved in various arts initiatives.

RESOLVED: That it would be helpful to hold such a joint meeting, to co-ordinate and liaise over the different ongoing projects.

Cllr. Firth also suggested that it would be helpful to invite a representative of West Yorkshire Police to a future meeting to discover what plans were in hand to tackle growing problems of vandalism before any other works were completed to the Arts Trail or Heritage Garden. This was so agreed.

05 118 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 27 February 2006 numbered 05 156 - 05 165 inclusive be confirmed.

05 119 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 6 March 2006 numbered 05 99 - 05 113 inclusive be received and adopted with the exception of Minute number 05 105 (1) which was referred back to the Committee for re-consideration.

05 120 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for February 2006 totalling £7,648.62 be approved.

05 121 Local Area Committees

- Valleys Area Committee - Councillors reported on recent projects considered by the Area Committee, and indicated that most of the projects for the Holme Valley seeking financial support had been successful. Cllr. Bower felt that the new format for the Area Committee was beginning to be more successful and that attendances at meeting were increasing.

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RESOLVED: That the reports and information be noted.

05 122 Attendance at Conferences and Seminars

(1) Members considered attendance at the following events:

- Yorkshire Rural Community Council and Humber and Wolds RCC - Regional Parish Plan Conference 2006 - 24 March, Riccall, near Selby - noted, no attendance authorised
- Yorkshire Local Councils Associations - Councillor Skills - Spring 2006
- Kirklees MC Planning Advisory Service: Peer Review - an invitation to participate in this review had arrived that day. A workshop was to be held on 22 March 2006.

RESOLVED: (1) That Cllr. Andrea Gosslin be authorised to attend the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations seminar; associated fees and travel costs to be paid by the Council

(2) That the Deputy Clerk and Cllr. Rogers, if available, participate in the Planning Advisory Service Peer Review.

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

- Yorkshire and Humber Assembly - The Yorkshire & Humber Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy - 7 February 2006 - Sheffield - Cllr. R. Rogers reported briefly, and indicated that a CD and other papers were available in the office. This was noted.
- Kirklees Pennine Rural Transport Partnership - 2 March 2006 - Cllr. Mrs. Roberts reported that she had been unable to attend this meeting due to family commitments.
- SLCC West Yorkshire Day - A Quality Day - 11 March 2006 - Bramhope - Cllr. Mrs. Court reported that it had been an interesting day with valuable networking opportunities.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be accepted and the delegates thanked for their attendance.

05 123 For Members' Consideration

Members noted that the following documents and web links were available for any interested Member to access personally.

(1) Town and Parish Standard:06 - Finance and Management Committee minute 05 108 refers - copy provided. Members were also informed that a copy of the full document, Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: the Future, is available in the office, or from Chairmen of the Council or Committees

(2) Empowerment and the Deal for Devolution - A discussion document - online link details provided

(3) Local Strategic Partnerships Online Debate - e-democracy exercise - information provided

(4) NALC Community Empowerment Awards - information provided.

RESOLVED: That it be noted that the above information is available.

05 124 To appoint Chairman and Vice-Chairman Elect

Members discussed nominations for the Chairman and Vice Chairman Elect for the civic year 2006-2007. Following the last meeting the Clerk had checked several points which had been raised. Whether a councillor had been co-opted or not made no difference in the process of electing a chairman. It was also within the Council's own control whether non consecutive years of service counted towards seniority or not. In view of this information, the Clerk was asked to inform the meeting of seniority of Members taking into account service on the Council, whether consecutive or not.

After further consideration, it was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Court that Cllr. A. R. Otterburn be nominated Chairman Elect for the civic year 2006-07. It was also suggested that Cllr. Kaye should be considered for this office, but it was not known at the meeting whether he wished his name to be put forward at this point.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. A. R. Otterburn be nominated Chairman Elect for the civic year 2006-07.

It was felt that the nomination of Vice Chairman Elect should be deferred to the next Council meeting to allow Cllr. Kaye the opportunity to indicate to the Council whether he would wish to serve in this capacity. This was so RESOLVED.

05 125 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED: That the business of the Council now to be transacted be not open to the public and press,

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on the grounds that the matters to be discussed are of a confidential nature (agenda item 16).

05 126 To consider recommendations of Working Party

- General Purposes Committee minute number 05 108 refers - Members considered the recommendations of the Working Party in relation to the appointment of a contractor who would undertake works for the Council in relation to the cleaning and maintenance of shelters and seats, maintenance works at the closed churchyard at New Mill Church, and other minor maintenance works as agreed.

The Chairman answered Members' questions relating to the tenders received and the procedure which had been followed in arriving at the recommendation before the Council

RESOLVED: (1) That the recommendation of the Working Party in respect of the appointment be accepted, and the Clerk authorised to offer a contract to the gentleman concerned on the following terms: the contract to commence from 1 April 2006 for a 12 month period with a review after 6 months

(2) That the Clerk and Deputy Clerk be authorised to meet with the contractor and inform him of necessary operational procedures, and that his tender prices had been accepted by the Council, and to issue the necessary contract thereafter.

05 127 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.

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Chairman