

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 05 DECEMBER 2005 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr P Robinson

Councillors : Cllr M Bower, Cllr J R Chilton, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr R N Haynes, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr G Macpherson, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr R Rogers

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Cllr. Chilton was present in his ex-officio capacity as Chairman of the Council.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Mrs. Bower, Collins, Garrood, Oldham, Otterburn and Mrs. Smith.

05 71 Disclosure of Interests

Councillor Dixon declared a personal interest in item 8(1) of the agenda (Grant application from Holme Valley Business Association) in that he was a member of the Association. Cllr. Rogers also declared an interest in the same item, but withdrew from the meeting during discussion of this application, as he was an office-holder of the Association.

Councillors Chilton and Rogers declared personal interests in item 8(2) of the agenda (Grant application from Vocal Expressions).

The Clerk declared a personal interest in item 8(4) of the agenda in that she was a member of WRVS.

05 72 Admission of the Public

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

05 73 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2005 numbered 05 58 - 05 70 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

05 74 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

In connection with Minute number 05 66, Holme Valley Minibus Service, the Clerk reported that in view of the excellent publicity received following the 25th anniversary of the Minibus Services, the operator had indicated that all the costs of the fare-free day would be borne by the company.

Members welcomed this information, and thanked the operator for this generous offer.

05 75 Investment of Income

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's action in the investment and withdrawal of the Council's funds be approved and the current rates of interest applying to the Council's accounts be noted.

05 76 Financial Statement

RESOLVED: That the Financial Summary, Comparison and Income as at 30 November 2005 be approved.

Cllr. Robinson indicated that he had been informed of a possible source of funding for works to War Memorials and agreed to obtain the details for the Clerk.

05 77 Applications for Grant

Members considered the following applications for grant:

(1) Holme Valley Business Association - assistance with the provision of Christmas lights - costs for installation and provision of Christmas lights had increased significantly due to the need to replace various of the features and to meet health and safety requirements. There was discussion about

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whether this application should be considered under this budget, as it was now an annual application, and there appeared to be an expectation on the part of the applicant that a contribution would automatically be made by the Council. It was proposed and seconded that a donation of £700 be made; an amendment was proposed that this should be £500, but there was no seconder for this amendment.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £700 be made to Holme Valley Business Association towards the provision of the Christmas Lights in Holmfirth.

The Clerk was also asked to ensure that accounts for this project are available before approval of this amount at the Council meeting.

Cllr. Rogers left the meeting during the discussion of this item.

(2) Vocal Expressions - assistance with the purchase of new music -

RESOLVED: That a grant of £120 be awarded to Vocal Expressions for the purchase of new music for the choir.

(3) Folk Festival Weekend - assistance with provision of free children's entertainment - A local businessman had approached the Council to seek help with ensuring the future of the Folk Festival Weekend. Since receipt of this application, the Clerk had learnt that Holme Valley Business Association was also involved in this project, and she advised Members that further consideration of any grant to this event should await more information. The Council's grant criteria would preclude the award of a grant to an individual business, and it would, therefore, be preferable to see if an organised approach to the Festival Weekend would result following discussions.

RESOLVED: That further consideration of any grant application in respect of the Folk Festival Weekend should await more information.

(4) WRVS - Members noted correspondence from this organisation. Whilst the Council supports the work of WRVS in principle, it would not be able to give financial support to any national project or work. The Clerk was asked to convey this information to WRVS and would respond accordingly to any national fund-raising approach.

RESOLVED: That this course of action be approved.

Cllr. Firth arrived at the beginning of this item, and apologised for his late arrival.

05 78 Administrative Matters

(1) Access to Chamber - the Clerk reported that she had made inquiries of Kirklees MC regarding the suggestion that an extra stair rail on the stairs to the Council Chamber to assist less able Members. From replies, it would appear that any costs in this respect would fall to the Parish Council, as Kirklees MC had indicated from two different departments that there was no budget for such an improvement. Kirklees MC Office Accommodation could obtain costs following a surveyor's inspection.

Members felt that it would be helpful for the Council to undertake its own investigations into costs, and suggested suitable contacts to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That, in the first instance, the Clerk obtains quotations from local companies.

(2) Casual Vacancy - Scholes - the Clerk reported that Kirklees MC Electoral Services had received a request for an election for the vacancy in the Scholes ward. Members were given details of the timetable for such an election, if sufficient nominations are received.

RESOLVED: That the above timetable be noted.

(3) Absence from meetings - apologies for non-attendance - Cllr. Oldham had been excused for non-attendance for six months due to his wife's serious illness. This situation was ongoing and the Committee was asked to approve a further period of non-attendance because of his domestic commitments.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Oldham be excused from attendance at all meetings of the Council and its

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Committees until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2006.

(4) Kirklees MC Register of Electors dated 1 December 2005 was now available.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted and that the restrictions as to use of the Register again be noted by Members.

(5) West Yorkshire Pension Fund - Local Government Pension Scheme (Civic Partnership)
(Amendment) Regulations 2005

RESOLVED: That the above regulations be noted and that it be noted that further detailed information is available in the office.

05 79 Quality Council Status

The Clerk had nearly completed the Council's application for Quality Council status; final preparation would be completed in time for the Council meeting. Following some discussion on some points, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council should now proceed with this application.

05 80 Budget Preparations

- Budget provision 2006-2007 - Following the procedures for budget preparation agreed in the previous year, Members were asked to consider Committee policy and programmes for inclusion in the budget for 2006-2007. The Clerk was asked to follow the normal pattern in respect of this Committee's expenditure, and to prepare a draft budget on this basis, taking into account the Staffing Committee's request to provide an adequate training budget for both Officers and Members.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk prepares a draft budget for submission to the next cycle of Committee meetings, prior to final determination of the precept and budget by the Council at its February meeting.

05 81 Miscellaneous Rentals

(1) Holme Allotments - the Clerk reported that the cheque in refund of the cost of a strimmer for use by the allotment holders had been returned to the Council, as the tenant now wished to retain the strimmer for his personal use only. Members discussed a suggestion which he had made for use of the funds held on behalf of the allotment holders, but it was felt that this suggestion was not appropriate. In discussing another use for these funds, repair of a wall was mentioned, but investigations needed to be carried out into the ownership of this wall prior to undertaking any repair which would, inevitably, cost more than the funds held.

RESOLVED: (1) That the allotment holder be informed that the Council cannot agree with his suggestion as to the use of these funds

(2) That the Clerk makes further inquiries as to the ownership of the wall in question, and reports back.

(2) Hollowgate Shelter - it was reported that Kirklees MC Enforcement Officer intended to take further action in relation to this building unless action was taken to comply with the planning requests of Kirklees MC. The Clerk indicated that the illegal signs had been removed that day.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted and further information awaited.

(3) Cliffe Quarry - garage site - One of the tenants at this site had given notice of her intention to terminate the tenancy - the garage building had been torched, and she no longer wished to retain the site. The rental had been paid until 1 April 2006.

RESOLVED: That this notice of termination of the agreement be accepted.

(4) Public Conveniences, Hepworth Road, Jackson Bridge - Members had asked for further details of the interest expressed in this site. They were informed that one use proposed was for a hairdresser's shop, whilst the other inquiry was from the Council's tenant of the adjoining site. Members discussed these suggested uses, and agreed that the building should not now be demolished, but that it would be preferable to include this building with the adjoining tenancy.

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- RESOLVED: (1) That Kirklees MC be informed that the Council does not now wish this building to be demolished, and that the transfer arrangements should be put in hand
(2) That the adjoining tenant be offered this additional area, on a 12 months' agreement, with a corresponding notice period, at a cost of £50 per annum
(3) That the Council's Solicitors approve the agreement to this effect prior to its issue.

05 82 Awarded Quarries

(1) Members were informed that the documents for voluntary registration of these sites were ready for submission to the Land Registry. The Clerk had been asked to confirm amendments which had been made following the Working Party's discussions.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to check the final details; if she is satisfied that the Working Party's instructions have been included, she be authorised to inform the Council's Solicitors that the submission can be made to the Land Registry.

(2) Members were informed of charges incurred for work carried out to date on Awarded Quarries and allied matters by the Council's Solicitors.

RESOLVED: That payment of these invoices be approved.

05 83 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