

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2006 -

Those present :

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs H P Smith

Councillors : Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs M Bower, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr A C Garrod, Cllr R N Haynes, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr G Macpherson, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr R Rogers

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Apologies for Absence

In the absence of the Chairman due to work commitments, it was resolved that Cllr. Mrs. Smith, Vice Chairman, takes the Chair for this meeting.

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Chilton, Dixon, Oldham, and Robinson.

05 84 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr. Mrs. Bower declared a personal interest in item 13 of the agenda, Holme Valley Minibus Services, in that she serves on West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority.
Cllr. Rogers declared a prejudicial interest in item 8(4) grant application from Holme Valley Business Association in that he was an office-holder of the Association.

05 85 Admission of the Public

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

05 86 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2005 numbered 05 71 - 05 83 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

05 87 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

There was none to report.

05 88 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.

Members were also requested to authorise a review of the Council's banking facilities and accounts currently held.

RESOLVED: That such a review be undertaken by the Clerk for future report to the Committee.

05 89 Financial Statement

RESOLVED: That the Financial Summary, Comparison and Income as at 31 December 2005 be approved.

05 90 Applications for Grant

Members considered the following applications for grant:

(1) Samuel Butler - British Schools' Exploring Society - Peru Expedition - Summer 2006 - As this applicant was now studying at University, and had already received a grant from the Council for a similar project, Members decided that no grant could be awarded on this occasion, as it would be difficult to identify benefits accruing to the Holme Valley.

RESOLVED: That the applicant be informed of the reasons why no grant can be awarded on this

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occasion.

(2) Jacob Butler - British Schools' Exploring Society - Amazon Expedition - Summer 2006: although a similar application, this applicant was still studying locally, thereby bringing recognition for the Holme Valley. Members felt that the applicant, if awarded a grant, should be expected to come to talk to Members of the Council on his return, and must arrange to give a talk to students at the local High School.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100 be awarded on the conditions identified above.

(3) 1st Holme Valley (Holmfirth) Scout Group - UK Expedition to South Africa - Summer 2006: Two Explorer Scouts from the Holme Valley had been chosen to participate in this expedition.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £200 be awarded to 1st Holme Valley (Holmfirth) Scout Group towards this expedition; the Scouts involved to attend a meeting of the Council on their return to address Members; e-mail news from the expedition would also be appreciated for inclusion in the Council's newsletter.

(4) Cartworth Moor Cricket Club - assistance with costs of erection of new Pavilion and Tea Room: It was proposed and seconded that a grant of £150 be awarded to Cartworth Moor Cricket Club. It was further proposed and seconded that a grant of £300 be so awarded. The first motion was passed. The second motion was, therefore, abandoned.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £150 be awarded to Cartworth Moor Cricket Club towards the provision of a new pavilion and tea room.

(5) Holme Valley Business Association - support for continuance of Folk Festival: Accounts for the Business Association were available, but no detailed plans or costings for the proposed Festival.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £150 be awarded to Holme Valley Business Association towards the organisation of the Folk Festival.

Cllr. Rogers withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this application in view of his interest.

05 91 Acknowledgement of Grants

RESOLVED: That it be noted that Vocal Expressions had thanked the Council for the grant awarded to the Choir.

05 92 Administrative Matters

(1) Casual Vacancy - the Clerk reported that Mr. G. Christofi had been elected to represent the Scholes Ward in the recent by-election. She would include an item at the Council meeting to agree Committee membership.

RESOLVED: That this information and action be noted.

(2) West Yorkshire Pension Fund - A number of documents relating to proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme were available in the office for any interested Member.

RESOLVED: That these documents be noted.

(3) West Yorkshire Pension Fund - Employers' Seminar - Getting to Grips with the 2006 LGPS Proposals - Bradford - attendance at this seminar was considered. Cllr. Kaye expressed an interest in attending and would contact the Clerk.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Kaye, if available, and the Clerk be authorised to attend the above seminar.

(4) ODPM - Standards of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future - discussion paper -

RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the Council and the Chairmen of all the Committees be asked to comment on this discussion paper, and to report back to the Finance and Management Committee.

On a matter of information, the Clerk reported that Kirklees MC had made contact concerning the

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Daniel Broadhead Charity. It was the view of Kirklees MC Legal Services that trustee nomination rights in this respect would have passed to Holme Valley Parish Council as the successor Council to Holmfirth UDC. The Clerk concurred with this view. The Charity had been dormant since before local government re-organisation in 1974, but a local solicitors' firm was attempting to clarify the current position. This information was noted and a formal approach to appoint trustees awaited.

05 93 Representation

Members considered attendance at the following events:

- Society of Local Council Clerks West Yorkshire Branch Training event - Bramhope - 11 March 2006
- Society of Local Council Clerks Regional Conference - Yorkshire/North East - 29 March 2006

RESOLVED: That representation for these two events be considered at the full Council meeting.

It was further resolved that the Clerk be authorised to attend the Society of Local Council Clerks - Larger Councils' Conference on 27 - 28 April 2006 as part of her training commitment for the year; delegate fees and associated expenses to be met by the Council.

05 94 Disability Discrimination Act

RESOLVED: That the information provided by Cllr. Macpherson from the Disability Rights Commission be noted.

05 95 Holme Valley Minibus Service

(1) Route H1/H2 - Members were informed that complaints had been received about implications of the proposed change to route H1, in that a loop of the route was being removed in Scholes to accommodate the change to run along Cliffe. This implication had not been apparent to Members when the route change had been approved at a previous meeting.

Although the Clerk had been informed that the changes would not be introduced until 30 January, 2006, Members indicated that the buses were already running on the new route and missing out Chapelgate/White Wells Road in Scholes. This was causing immense concern to local residents. Members agreed that this change would have to be re-examined in the light of this information.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contacts Metro urgently to clarify whether the route change had been put into operation and to ask that the implications of such a change be revisited.

(2) Road closure on route H7, Shawfield Avenue to Shaw Lane, Hinchcliffe Mill - this road would be closed for approximately 8 weeks which meant that the minibus would be unable to access this loop of route H7.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

05 96 Budget Preparations

- Budget provision 2006-2007:

(1) Members considered the draft budget which had been prepared by the Clerk following proposals from all the Standing Committees, and the implications of these proposals on the precept, and on the amount of Council Tax that would be payable to raise such a precept.

Following information reported at a recent Kirklees Valleys Area Committee, it was suggested that the Reserve Fund earmarked for CCTV was no longer needed, and that this amount of £2,500 should be brought back into the general funding.

RESOLVED: That this suggestion be put before the Council for its consideration.

Concern was expressed by some Members about the level of budget increase put forward by the General Purposes Committee, but it was accepted that this was a matter for discussion by the full Council. There was, however, also support for the increased budget, in that it would allow the Council to add value to existing services, and to improve services for residents of the Holme Valley.

RESOLVED: That the attached Draft Budget and notes as before the Committee be presented to the full Council for its consideration and final determination as to the Council's budget for 2006-07 and precept to be issued on Kirklees for that period.

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(2) RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to provide the information required by Kirklees MC in respect of publication of the Council's budget and precept details, once determined by the Council, within the required timescales; this information to be prepared in consultation and conjunction with the Chairman of the Council, and the Chairman of the Finance and Management Committee.

05 97 Awarded Quarries

(1) RESOLVED: That the progress report from the Legal Advisers in this respect and the budget implications which had already been incorporated in the Draft Budget for next year be noted.

(2) General progress - The Clerk had no further report to make in this respect.

05 98 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