

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 08 AUGUST 2005 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A L Gosslin

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs M P Court

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J R Chilton, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr Mrs S Hobson, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

Cllr. Rogers was present as an observer

1 member of the public was present

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Kemp and Mrs. Roberts.

### **05 17 Disclosure of Interests**

None were given.

### **05 18 Admission of the Public**

RESOLVED: That items 14 (War Memorials) and 15 (Contracts) on the agenda be taken in private session, owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

### **05 19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 20 June 2005 numbered 05 03 - 05 16 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

### **05 20 Correspondence arising from the Minutes**

Play area - (1) Oakes Avenue, Brockholes: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that a letter had now been received from Kirklees MC Development Partnerships Team in which it was indicated that as a Service, it was happy to allow the Parish Council, in conjunction with others, to provide and install play equipment at the site. Housing Services see the utilisation of the land for this purpose as its contribution to the scheme. This undertaking was noted. Members were informed that a suggested scheme had been submitted to Kirklees MC Culture and Leisure Services but, as yet, no response to the suggestions had been received.

(2) Oldfield, Honley: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that an email had been received just prior to the meeting in which issues with regard to the provision of inclusive equipment at this site were raised. It had not been possible to speak with the appropriate Officer at Kirklees MC and in these circumstances it was agreed that, before this matter can proceed any further, a meeting with the Kirklees MC Officer, the Chairman of General Purposes, Councillor Searby and the Clerk be arranged.

### **05 21 Complaints Procedure**

Dog fouling at Digley and Brownhill: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from Yorkshire Water relating to dog fouling issues at Digley and Brownhill. The comments made by Yorkshire Water were noted. Various suggestions to improve the situation and to educate the dog-owning public with regard to disposal of dog waste were made. In an effort to help in this matter it was

RESOLVED: (1) An article be published in a future issue of the Valley Voice (Councillor Otterburn)

(2) Yorkshire Water be asked to provide a waste bin for this purpose at Digley and Brownhill sites

(3) Improved signage at the above sites be provided

(4) Yorkshire Water be requested to publish information in the leaflets for walks in the

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above areas

- (5) Publicity be given through the local press
- (6) The appropriate Kirklees MC Service be invited to discuss this provision with Yorkshire

Water.

### 05 22 Highway matters

(1) Victoria Street, Holmfirth - traffic issues: Members were updated on recent meetings which had been held. Issues had been identified and Members had been circulated with the details. A further meeting had been held between an Officer of Kirklees MC Highways Services, the Chairman of the Council, the Vice-Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and the Clerk. It was suggested, in an effort to make progress on issues such as parking, deliveries, volume of traffic, zebra crossings, one-way systems etc, that it would be useful for the Parish Council to arrange a meeting of interested parties. The Parish Council wished to have a facilitating role in this matter and should invite the Kirklees MC Ward Members, Holme Valley Business Association and the Civic Society to such a Forum. Informal discussions could then proceed and long term solutions to the problems currently encountered would be the group's aim.

RESOLVED: That a meeting, as detailed above, be arranged.

(2) Traffic issues - (i) Oakes Lane, Brockholes - speed of traffic: A complaint had been received by the Parish Council regarding the speed of traffic using Oakes Lane, particularly since the onset of the new development off Oakes Lane. Various issues were discussed and it was

RESOLVED: That the issues be drawn to the attention of Kirklees MC.

(ii) Co-op Lane, Hinchliffe Mill - provision of double yellow lines: The Deputy Clerk indicated that this scheme was still in the pipeline; it had been re-advertised and objections had been received. This information was noted.

(iii) Parking on double yellow lines - Woodhead Road, Holmfirth - opposite Blacksmiths: Various Members agreed that parking did occur on the double yellow lines. This was a law enforcement matter and as such should be referred to West Yorkshire Police. Comments regarding the placing of wheelie bins on the public highway were noted.

RESOLVED: That the above course of action be taken.

### 05 23 Holmfirth Town Centre

Issues regarding the appearance of a number of properties in the Holmfirth town centre had been raised with the Clerk, as detailed below -

(i) Lodge's building: It had been indicated that work on this building would be completed by the end of July - a request for information on the failure to comply with this undertaking was now requested.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the owners of the building seeking further information.

ii) Speakeasy building - it was understood that the building was, in fact, owned by the Co-operative Society and it was

RESOLVED: That an approach be made to the owner in an effort to ascertain the future of the building and drawing the owner's attention to the poor state of the building, particularly as it is in full view in the centre of the town.

(iii) Litter bins: Currently bins situated at the bottom of Victoria Street remain unfastened to the ground and for this reason get removed from the sites they occupy. Kirklees MC Cleansing Services had indicated there were no funds available to secure the bins and suggested the Parish Council should put pressure on Kirklees MC Highways Services to provide the necessary funds for the bins to be secured in place.

RESOLVED: That a letter be forwarded to Kirklees MC Highways Services requesting that litter bins be fixed to the ground, where possible, and that appropriate funds be made available for this purpose.

### 05 24 Community facilities

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Removal of Public Payphone - Cinderhills, Holmfirth: The Parish Council had previously had a request to remove this facility at Cinderhills. Councillor Court had now carried out a survey in the area and it would seem local residents did not wish to lose the facility. It was suggested that the payphone be retained but that it be changed to a phonecard system only.

RESOLVED: That BT be informed of the above decision together with the local resident who had made the original complaint.

### **05 25 Bus Shelters and Seats**

Responsibility for future maintenance of bus shelters in the Holme Valley: Although some months had passed since this matter had been referred to the West Yorkshire PTE, it had been ascertained that the PTE were not yet in a position to respond to the Parish Council; the reason for this being that other Councils had also made similar requests. The PTE would then consider the matter on this wider basis.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted and that the Deputy Clerk pursues this matter in due course.

### **05 26 Justices Licence - Transfer**

The Bay Horse, Penistone Road, Hade Edge, Homfirth - to Lorina Jayne Kenny from Richard Taylor: Members considered the above application for Transfer of the Justices' Licence at the Bay Horse, Hade Edge.

RESOLVED: That no objection be made to the proposed transfer.

### **05 27 Provision of Christmas Trees**

Holme Valley Christmas Trees 2005: Members noted the offer from Kirklees MC for the provision of Christmas Trees for 2005. The cost of transportation had resulted in the overall cost being raised to £495 per tree. The Deputy Clerk indicated this was within the budget allocated. It was noted that an approach had been made to Kirklees MC with regard to a tree being provided in Wooldale but no progress had been made at the current time. Historically the Parish Council had always provided five trees for sites in the valley.

RESOLVED: That trees be obtained for siting at Brockholes, Honley, Netherthong and New Mill with an additional free tree being provided for the centre of Holmfirth.

### **05 28 Making a Difference Day**

CragRats: Making a difference Day: Members had been circulated with information about Making a Difference Day. This indicated that the company was looking into opportunities for a one day volunteering exercise for approximately 70 staff. The Parish Council had been invited to put suggestions forward. There was some confusion as to whether it was for 70 people all on the same day or 70 all at different times and this question would be put to the Company when responding. However, it was agreed that the Parish Council should express its enthusiasm and gratitude for the offer and indicate it is keen to work with the Company in some way. Members were asked for suggestions where volunteer workers could help. These were -

- a) Green Corridors - improving footpaths
- b) Footpaths in general - there are many public footpaths in the area - a review of footpaths could be carried out with a simple report on the state of each path indicating its condition with regard to stiles, surface and whether the path was passable or whether vegetation needed cutting back.
- c) Stone bus shelters - graffiti art - painting the inside of stone bus shelters with graffiti art
- d) River Holme clean up - up stream from Upperbridge and downstream of Bridge Lane but not the section in the centre of Holmfirth as it is understood this is now cleaned on a regular basis by Kirklees MC.

RESOLVED: That the above suggestions be put to CragRats together with the question as indicated above and that it be emphasised to the Company that the Parish Council is very keen to get involved in this matter.

### **05 29 Exclusion of Public and Press**

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RESOLVED: That the business of this Committee 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 (agenda items 13 and 14).

**05 30 War Memorials**

Lychgate at Upperthong - St. John's Church: Members were informed that a quotation had now been received for the provision of new lychgates at this site. This was a Memorial for which the Parish Council had not previously held any records and had never been asked to assist with any maintenance. However, on checking with the United Kingdom National Inventory it had been ascertained that the lychgate was listed. This information had been passed to Members at a previous meeting. The Churchwardens had been asked to obtain an appropriate quotation but on receipt of this the Members agreed that three such quotations should be obtained, if at all possible. The Deputy Clerk was asked to contact the Churchwardens and arrange for two further quotations; the Parish Council having the power to make the actual decision when the quotations are received.

RESOLVED: That the Churchwardens at St. John's Church be asked to provide two further quotations for this work.

**05 31 Contractor**

Bus shelter cleaning and maintenance of seats and bus shelters - to consider interim provision: The Deputy Clerk indicated that the contracts for the cleaning of bus shelters and maintenance thereof had been extended to 30 September 2005. It had been thought that this would enable the West Yorkshire PTE to make its decision on the responsibility for the bus shelters in the area. As had been reported under an earlier item at the meeting this had not been the case. In view of this it was suggested that the contracts should be extended for a further period from the 1 October 2005 - 31 December 2005 by which time it was hoped it would be possible to make a decision. The contract rates to be at the previously agreed rates as outlined in Minute 04 107 of the General Purposes Committee held on 21 February 2005.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made to extend the current contracts for a further period of three months from 1st October 2005 to 31 December 2005 at the current contract price.

**05 32 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, with the exception of personal information relating to the contractors which comes under the Data Protection Act.

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**Chairman**