

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2005 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A L Gosslin

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs M P Court

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr J R Chilton, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. Bratt, Mrs. Hobson, Mrs. Jackson and Searby.

05 67 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

05 68 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED: That the part of item 11 - Budget Provision relating to the two Contractors and item 12 (Contractors) be taken in private session.

05 69 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 October 2005 numbered 05 49 - 05 66 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

Under this item the Deputy Clerk informed Members that following further discussions with the Manager at Holme Valley Memorial Hospital the question of the flag not flying on 11 November at 11.00 am had been rectified and the appropriate arrangements which normally applied would be put into operation for next year. It was agreed that the Parish Council would remind the Hospital at the same time as requesting floodlighting to arrange for the flag to be flown.

This was noted.

05 70 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

There was no correspondence to report.

05 71 Complaints Procedure

There were no complaints to report.

05 72 Highway matters

1) BOATs (Bridleways open to all Traffic) - Misuse of such by 4 wheel drive vehicles: Cllr. Chilton indicated that he been approached by a local resident regarding the misuse of the road alongside Ramsden Reservoir and Riding Wood Reservoir by 4 x 4 vehicles. This road was a very popular walk and its use by such vehicles was causing damage to it. It was obvious the vehicles were in organised groups. By definition the track is classed as a 'Boat' - bridleways open to all traffic. A question as to the ownership of the land exists; it is believed the parts of the road which cross the embankments of the reservoirs are in the ownership of Yorkshire Water with Kirklees MC possibly being responsible for the remainder of the track. A member indicated that he had observed Police presence in the area which indicated that patrols were being carried out. Under age motorbike riders have been observed using the track.

Cllr. Chilton indicated that, with the permission of the General Purposes Committee, he was prepared to continue to pursue this matter with Kirklees MC Highways with the Deputy Clerk also writing to enquire about the situation at this site.

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RESOLVED: That Cllr. Chilton continues to pursue the matter and that the Deputy Clerk writes an appropriate letter outlining the Council's concerns to Kirklees MC.

2) Victoria Street, Holmfirth - Timing of Traffic Lights: Following a recent meeting with representatives of the Civic Society and the Business Association, the Council had raised the issue of the timing of the traffic lights in Victoria Street, Holmfirth. Kirklees MC had checked the situation and it had been found that there had been some damage to parts of the vehicle detection system located in the carriageway. Steps had been taken to rectify the flaws and this would give an improved service to traffic leaving Victoria Street towards Huddersfield or Holmbridge.

RESOLVED: That this information be received and noted.

05 73 Community facilities

BT - Realignment of public payphone provision to meet current demand 2004/5 proposals: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from BT. This indicated that the proposals relating to the removal of 3 payphones in the area had been cancelled for the time being - the payphones concerned being off Dunford Road, Kirkroyds Lane and Cliffe Road. The payphones would continue to be monitored by BT. However, the Deputy Clerk indicated that she had received information from BT that evening which indicated that BT were intending to remove the payphone at Kirkroyds Lane, Holmfirth. In view of the conflicting information it was agreed that the Parish Council should await further information.

RESOLVED: That the current information be received and noted that that further developments be awaited.

05 74 Arts Trail

The Deputy Clerk reported to Members that it was apparent that Kirklees MC were also looking at the question of extending the Arts Trail in the Holme Valley through the Riverside Way. In an effort to coordinate a joint approach a meeting had been held with representatives of Kirklees MC Countryside Management Unit, the Civic Society and the Parish Council. This matter was also being discussed at the Valleys Area Committee and it had been agreed that Cllr. Chilton would report back to that Committee. Agreement was sought to authorise the Clerk to work with Kirklees MC through the Area Committee and the Countryside Management Unit and the Civic Society to progress jointly with this project and with an application for external funding to the Arts Council. It was hoped that a meeting would be arranged with a representative of the Arts Council in the very near future.

RESOLVED: That the necessary authority to progress jointly with this project and with an application for external funding to the Arts Council be granted.

05 75 Recreational Facilities

1) Provision of Play Areas in the Holme Valley: The Deputy Clerk reported on the progress with regard to the following play areas -

Oldfield, Honley - currently a planning application has been submitted; once approval has been received it is hoped this scheme can proceed and be finalised before the end of the financial year.

Thongsbridge, Woodlands - funding was currently being sought through the Tenants and Residents Association but subject to this it was hoped this provision would proceed and the Council's contribution of a teen shelter would proceed. It was hoped this would be completed within the current financial year.

Oakes Avenue, Brockholes - This provision would commence early in the next financial year.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

2) Kirklees Council - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: Members had been circulated with information which indicated that Kirklees MC was working to improve recreational open spaces across the Borough. Knight, Kavanagh & Page had been commissioned to carry out a borough wide assessment of provision. The letter indicated that KKP could contact the Council to arrange a telephone interview or a site visit. This information was noted.

05 76 Budget Provision

1) Budget Provision 2005/06 - to consider the current budget position and the allocation of budget funds: Members considered the information circulated concerning the current budget funds. The various budget headings were discussed and it was agreed -

- a) the further stocks of seats be obtained from the current budget
- b) that as previously agreed the amount held allocated for extra lighting at Sands should be re-allocated to the bus shelter fund to defray the unexpected expense in repairing the bus shelter
- c) that the funds held for play area provision at Oakes Avenue, Brockholes be held over allocated to this scheme
- d) that any surplus funds held under 'New Projects' be re-allocated to the Arts Trail fund

RESOLVED: That the above measures be agreed.

2) Budget Provision 2006/07: Members considered the Committee policy and project plans for inclusion in the budget for next year. Following guidance from the Committee, the Clerk would prepare draft budget proposals for consideration by the Committee at the next meeting. The Committee would then be aware of the impact on the precept level required to fund suggested programmes and project plans. Alterations and amendments could then be discussed at the next meeting prior to the final decision on the budget and precept level by the full Council.

It was requested that a small amount should be included for Environmental projects. This amount would support a small volunteer group and would be used to provide materials. This was agreed and an amount of £500 was suggested.

Members discussed the different budget headings within the General Purposes Committee's remit and gave guidance to the Deputy Clerk as to the aspects to be taken into consideration. The following amounts were submitted against the various budget headings -

	£
New Shelters and Seats	6,000
Maintenance of Shelters and Seats	15,000 - includes an amount for materials
War Memorials	4,000
New Projects	5,000
Dog Waste bags	600
Tidy Trade Scheme	150
Closed Churchyard - New Mill	850
Provision of Christmas Trees	2,100
Play Area - Booth House	15,000
Arts Trail	5,000
Environmental Projects	500

	54,200

RESOLVED: That the above figures be put forward as the General Purposes Committee's wishes for budget provision.

During discussion of the item regarding maintenance of shelters and seats Members had given consideration to the possibility of employing a person to carry out the work of maintenance of shelters and seats and also the cleaning of shelters. It was becoming increasingly evident that the Council had sufficient work to employ such a person. It was indicated the Council would have greater control over when works would be carried out. Members welcomed this idea in principle but felt that any such person should be self employed.

RESOLVED: This information was noted and would be considered further at the budget meeting.

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05 77 Contractor

- Bus shelter cleaning and maintenance of bus shelters and seats: Members were informed that the contracts in respect of both the cleaning of shelters and the repair of shelters and seats were due to expire on 31 December 2005. In view of other discussions currently being undertaken it was

RESOLVED: That the current contracts in respect of bus shelter cleaning and maintenance of shelters and seats be extended to 31 March 2006.

05 78 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