

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2005 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A L Gosslin

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

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Mrs. Court and Searby.

05 49 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

05 50 Admission of the Public

It was felt that part of item 13 of the agenda (War Memorials) may need to be taken in private session, dependent on what actions are agreed.

RESOLVED: That, if necessary, consideration of quotations in respect of war memorials will be considered in private session.

05 51 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2005 numbered 05 33 - 05 48 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

05 52 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

There was no correspondence to report.

05 53 Complaints Procedure

(1) Flower Beds - New Mill Square - a request, which had been received from a local resident for this area to be tidied, had been referred to Kirklees MC for action. Members noted that a meeting had been held between Kirklees Ward members and officers to develop a scheme to improve this area. In the meantime, action would be taken, and paid for, by Kirklees Outdoor Leisure to tidy the area. The resident who had made the complaint had been informed of the action to be taken by Kirklees MC. Cllr. Mrs. Hall agreed to keep a check on this also and to let the Council know when this action had been taken.

(2) Abandoned caravans - car park - Wooldale Junior School, Royds Avenue, New Mill - it had been reported to the Council that some abandoned caravans had appeared on this site; Kirklees MC had been contacted, and the caravans had now been removed. This information was noted.

(3) New footpath - from Berry Banks, Holmfirth to Sands Recreation Ground - a request had been received for the establishment of a new footpath, connecting the new housing development on Berry Banks to Sands and the riverside. Work was currently being undertaken for, it was believed, drainage purposes, and digging out had already taken place. The request had been passed to the Kirklees Rights of Way Unit, but the Clerk had been informed that such a suggestion had previously been rejected, owing to the slope and the cost involved. This information was noted.

(4) Recreation Ground, Holme - an anonymous letter had been received from a resident of Holme raising some valid issues. Unfortunately, the Council was unable to reply to this letter, given its anonymity. It was agreed, therefore, that this letter might form the basis of an article in the Council's newsletter, pointing out that anonymous complaints could not be answered, nor could the Council

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answer the complaints appropriately.

RESOLVED: That the above complaints be noted and the actions taken or suggested approved.

05 54 Community facilities

(1) Picturedrome, Holmfirth - Information had appeared in the local press regarding investigations to form a trust to allow the continued showing of films at the Picturedrome. Although no formal approach had as yet been made to the Council, the Council should be prepared for a possible approach from the newly formed cinema trust in due course. Cllr. Otterburn had attended an earlier public meeting about this in a personal capacity and had indicated to the Clerk that he would be happy to represent the Council at a future meeting. Cllr. Bellamy also expressed an interest in being involved in any such discussions.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Bellamy and Otterburn be authorised to attend on the Council's behalf any meeting to which the Council is invited to discuss ways forward with any new cinema trust, Screen Yorkshire and the current operator; the Councillors to report back as necessary.

(2) Kirklees Playing Pitch Strategy - Memorandum - Kirklees MC - Members discussed proposals relating to such a strategy.

RESOLVED: That the Council welcomes Kirklees MC's proposals to prepare a playing pitch strategy and notes the information received.

(3) BT - BT's proposals for public Payphones - (GP Min. No. 05 09(3) refers): A reply had been received from BT reiterating the previous comments about the payphone on Bradshaw Drive, Honley in that it receives very low usage, and that the cost of providing this service and its maintenance was three times greater than the revenue generated.

From the correspondence, it appeared that the Council's wish to convert the payphones at Oakes Avenue, Brockholes and Wooldale Road, Holmfirth to a payless option was likely to be agreed, although this awaited the outcome of a wider review.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Committee is pleased to note the above information relating to the other two payphones in question

(2) That the Committee reluctantly accepts the need for the removal of the payphone at Bradshaw Drive, Honley.

05 55 Bus Shelters and Seats

(1) Seats - quotations were considered for the purchase of plaques to be affixed to the public seats belonging to the Council. It was necessary to obtain a new supply, given the change in the Council's contact details.

RESOLVED: That 200 such plaques be purchased, to be made of brushed stainless steel, engraved and acid etched, as quoted by S P Signs and Frames.

(2) Greenfield Road, Holmfirth - repair of shelter - it had been reported to the Council that the shelter at this site had been badly damaged. Given the urgency to clear up the glass lying on the road and on the footway, the Clerk had requested Metro to carry out the necessary clearing of the site, as she had been unable to make contact with either of the Council's contractors. She had also requested information from Metro as to whether this shelter could be repaired, given the damage to the actual structure of the shelter.

Although Metro had indicated that the shelter could be repaired, there were concerns about the longer-term success of such a repair. It was suggested that prices be obtained, both for a repair, and for replacing the shelter completely, but with a second hand shelter, preferably not of the same design as is currently on the site.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk's action in contracting Metro to clear the site be approved and the payment of the account authorised

(2) That prices be obtained for repairing this shelter, and also for a replacement second hand shelter for the site.

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(3) Future responsibility for bus shelters - Holme Valley - an email had been received from Metro indicating that this matter would be considered by the WYPTE Board in a few weeks, but that there was a likelihood that the Board might not agree to such a transfer of responsibility.

In view of this information, Cllr. Mrs. Hall asked that a replacement shelter also be considered for the end of Church Street, New Mill, where only the back wall of the shelter remained, and this now appeared not to be repairable.

RESOLVED: (1) That the email from Metro be noted and the final decision awaited
(2) That, in addition to the prices already being sought, a price for a replacement shelter at Church Street, New Mill, also be obtained
(3) That the remaining back wall of this shelter be demolished and removed as soon as practicable.

05 56 Highway matters

(1) Provision of Puffin Crossing - New Mill Road, Sycamore, Holmfirth - The Council had received information regarding a proposal to provide a puffin crossing on New Mill Road, Sycamore which would require the possible relocation of the Council's shelter nearby. Since the initial information, it had transpired that there had been problems in how the proposal had been advertised, and objections had then been received relating to the proposal. The Clerk had now been informed that until a location for the proposed crossing had been agreed, it would be premature to discuss moving the shelter, as that might prove unnecessary. Members noted this information, but also wished to note that the Committee was not averse to the proposed location of the crossing, nor to the relocation of a new shelter at Kirklees MC's cost. The Council should support the provision of such a crossing, and would ask that Kirklees MC should contact the Council regarding any relocation of the shelter.

RESOLVED: That these comments regarding the shelter, and the Council's support in principle for the provision of a puffin crossing in this vicinity be passed to Kirklees MC.

(2) Exit from Oaklands Practice through Elmwood car park - Concern had been expressed by a Member about problems caused by parked vehicles on Huddersfield Road adjacent to the surgeries. It had been suggested that the Council should request Kirklees MC to provide double yellow lines on Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth to enable adequate sight lines for vehicles exiting this site. Members agreed that there were problems at this site and discussed some of the issues relating to this, in terms of parking for the chemist's shop and the need for disabled parking in the vicinity of the surgery.

RESOLVED: That Kirklees MC be asked to consider the provision of double yellow lines on Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, to allow adequate sight lines for traffic exiting the Elmwood surgery car park.

(3) Oakes Lane, Brockholes - speed of traffic - Kirklees MC Highways Service had indicated that, although traffic to the development at this site was not travelling in excess of the speed limit, it might be deemed to be travelling at inappropriate speeds. The officer had agreed to speak with managers on the development site to request that traffic moved at an appropriate speed. The situation would continue to be monitored.

The local Ward Member indicated that there were still problems and asked that the next step suggested by the officer, that of contacting the Police should be taken, and that it be noted that deliveries were still being made at times when the road and footway were busy.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Kirklees MC Officer be thanked for her efforts, but would advise her that it would be a good idea now to refer the matter to West Yorkshire Police
(2) That Kirklees MC Highways Service be asked to seek an agreement from the developer that deliveries should be made, at times other than when children were travelling too and from school.

(4) Woodhead Road, Holmfirth - West Yorkshire Police - enforcement action - Problems caused by cars parked opposite the junction of Woodhead Road and Greenfield Road, Holmfirth had been reported to the Police. The location had been visited on several occasions and some enforcement action was now being taken.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted, and that the matter be raised again, if the parking causes problems again.

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(5) New Road, Homfirth - speed of traffic - West Yorkshire Police had replied to the Council that speed checks had been carried out after the resurfacing works on New Road. The majority of vehicles were not exceeding the speed limit, although in some circumstances speeds travelled might not be deemed appropriate for the width of the road and the short sight lines at points. The Police would continue to monitor the situation.

The local Ward Member believed that the problem had been alleviated by the improved surface and the new provision of white lining down one side of the road to indicate the absence of a footway. She believed that traffic was moving more slowly because of this.

RESOLVED: That the response from West Yorkshire Police be noted and that it be noted that there had been a reduction in the speed of traffic, improving the situation for pedestrians.

(6) Litter Bins, Holmfirth Town Centre - An inquiry had been made of Kirklees MC as to why litter bins had not been re-affixed into the ground. The Council had been informed that the policy was now to buy new free-standing bins with a weighted base to avoid such permanent installation. It was also indicated that it could cost as much as £500 per item due to Health and Safety, utilities Plans, weekend working, etc to install the bins permanently into the ground. Highways Service was seeking further advice from Environment Cleansing Services in this respect.

RESOLVED: (1) That the further advice be awaited
(2) That the Council should insist that bins be fixed permanently for safety reasons
(3) That clarification should be sought as to actual costs for permanent installation of litter bins, eg, the bin on Victoria Bridge.

05 57 Holmfirth Town Centre

(1) Former Lodges Supermarket - The Council had been informed by Medicare Chemists that it no longer owned the former Lodges building, and that it had been sold in September 2003. It referred the Council to Forward Developers who were working with the new owners to carry out works to the building. A letter from this company had also been circulated to the Committee regarding the delay in carrying out works to the building.

RESOLVED: (1) That the change in ownership of the building be noted
(2) That the Council contacts Kirklees MC Planning Services in respect of the former Lodges building to ask what is happening in respect of the planning application

(2) Traffic problems, Holmfirth Town Centre - The Chairman had already reported to Council on a meeting held on 26 September 2005 to discuss this issue.

RESOLVED: That the notes of this meeting be received.

In connection with items raised at that meeting, the Clerk had contacted Kirklees MC Highways Service regarding the timing of the traffic lights at the top of Victoria Street, requesting an adjustment in the time allowed for traffic exiting Victoria Street. She had been informed verbally that the service would look at optimising the efficiency of the equipment which detected the flow of traffic up Victoria Street, thus adjusting the time allowed for traffic to turn left or right from this junction.

RESOLVED: That this information be welcomed.

05 58 Consultations

(1) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Section 68, Vehicular Access over Common and other Land - Proposal to repeal Section 68 of the above Act and associated vehicular access regulations - although this was an important issue and it appeared a very common-sense piece of legislation, it did not relate to a problem being experienced currently in the Holme Valley, in that four-wheel drive vehicles were using Bridleways open to all traffic (BOATs).

RESOLVED: (1) That no comment be made on the above consultation
(2) That an item be included on the next agenda of the Committee to discuss BOATs and misuse of these by four-wheel drive vehicles.

(2) Honley Ambulance Station - Members had been circulated with a letter from Honley Ambulance

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Station staff concerned about proposed changes in ambulance cover for the Holme Valley.

RESOLVED: (1) That representatives of West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service be asked to attend a meeting of the General Purposes Committee to explain the background, and the reasons for such proposals with an indication of how this will improve services locally

(2) That the staff at Honley Aambulance Station be made aware of when this meeting will take place.

(3) NHS - Looking to the future - Your chance to have your say - Members noted information from NHS Care Trusts about these proposals and noted dates of workshops that they could attend. It was agreed that every Member should be supplied with a copy of this document, and that the matter should be discussed at a meeting of the full Council, as there were important implications for the Council. It was also felt that representatives of the Trusts involved should be invited to this meeting to explain the proposals.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council be represented at the workshop to be held on 26 November 2005 by Cllr. Chilton, Chairman of the Council and Cllr. Mrs. J. Roberts

(2) That representatives of the Trusts involved be invited to a meeting of the full Council to explain the proposals and the implications for the Holme Valley, and that the Clerk makes the necessary arrangements.

(4) Yorkshire Water - Holme and Ribble Compensation Flow Trial - information re spate trials.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

05 59 Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005

- Thongsbridge - Cllrs. Gosslin and Mrs. Bratt reported on the meeting held at Holmfirth High School in connection with issues concerning residents, the school and local businesses in the area of Thongsbridge Co-operative Society shop. It had been a productive and positive meeting exploring the issues, possible and future actions that could be taken. Some work had already been undertaken, and Members felt that there had been very worthwhile interaction between the various groups.

RESOLVED: That the report of the meeting be received and noted.

Cllr. Mrs. Spencer left the meeting during this item.

05 60 War Memorials

At the last meeting, Members had queried whether the Council should proceed with a survey of War Memorials, given the costs involved. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council was responsible, or had accepted responsibility in the past, for six of the eight known war memorials in the Holme Valley. The remaining two: one was sited in the Reading Room, New Mill, and the other formed the lychgate at St. John's Church, Uppertong Lane, and further investigations would need to be made in its respect.

RESOLVED: That, in view of the above information and in the light of the importance of risk assessments, a survey should be carried out to establish the current condition and need for works on all the known war memorials in the Holme Valley.

It was, therefore, further resolved that consideration of the quotations received for carrying out such a survey should be taken in private session at the end of the meeting.

The Clerk also reported that cleaning works would be carried out to Honley War Memorial in time for the Remembrance Ceremony.

05 61 Arts Trail

Members had taken the opportunity prior to the commencement of the meeting to view all the suggestions and ideas for development of the Arts Trail which had been submitted to the Council following the consultations over the summer months. A number of the submissions suggested a similar idea of working with local schools to produce a piece of art. Such an idea would allow the development of a number of small projects at different locations, using different media, and would cover a number of the ideas suggested, respect a number of the ideas, allow continuity of the overall project, involve local children, thereby increasing their sense of ownership of the project, and involve local and professional

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artists.

It was further suggested that the budget should be split into three to allow three schools from different areas of the Valley to be involved, and to involve a variety of artists, and to spread the project across the length of the Riverside Way. It was felt that these schools should be Holmfirth J, I & N School, as this school had already submitted ideas; one of the Honley schools, and one from the southern end of the Valley. Expanding the Arts Trail should then be viewed as an ongoing public art project, with ongoing budget provision. It might in future be possible to seek sponsorship and outside additional funding.

In order to progress the project, it was felt that it would be helpful to set up a small working group to meet with certain artists to agree a way forward, and a planned method of working and planned outcomes.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Arts Trail be expanded by the development of such a project involving three schools from different areas of the Valley, as outlined above

(2) That the three projects should be developed in three media, to be agreed later

(3) That the three artists involved in the initial discussions should be M. Disley, S. Jenkins and M. Kirkby-Geddes, as all were local and had already worked with local schools

(4) That a small working group be formed to meet with these artists to explore how the project should be developed, and that the following Members should form this working group:

Councillors Gosslin, as Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. Bratt and Mrs. Kemp

(5) That all the contributors of suggestions be thanked for their ideas, and that it be explained to them all that they may be approached in the future, and that their ideas may be used in the future, as the Council hoped to continue to expand the Arts Trail over following years.

The Clerk also informed Members that it had been indicated by Kirklees MC that the Valleys Area Committee of Kirklees MC was looking at becoming involved in the project to provide a statue in memory of Bill Owen. The Council had previously indicated that it would not contribute financially towards this statue. This information was noted, and any approach from the Area Committee in this respect would be considered when appropriate.

05 62 Recreational Facilities

Provision of Play Areas in the Holme Valley - Members received notes of a meeting held on 22 September 2005 with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and other Members with Kirklees MC officers about the progress of improvements to play areas in the Holme Valley.

RESOLVED: That the notes as attached be received and accepted, and the progress as outlined awaited.

05 63 Budget Provision

New Projects - Members were asked to consider the allocation of funds held under the current budget for new projects. Given the decisions taken earlier in relation to the Arts Trail, it was felt that this budget should be re-allocated to that budget heading.

RESOLVED: That the budget allocated to new projects for 2005-06 be re-allocated to the expansion of the Arts Trail.

It was further suggested that the Council might consider the provision of a new Christmas lights feature indicating the Parish Council's support for the Christmas lights in the Holme Valley. This idea was noted for further consideration.

05 64 Exclusion of Public and Press

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 item 13 (part)).

05 65 War Memorials

Members considered three quotations received for carrying out a survey of the condition and any necessary works to the war memorials within the Holme Valley.

RESOLVED: That the quotation of Pimys be accepted.

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The Clerk declared a personal interest in that one of the persons whose quotation was under consideration was a personal friend.

05 66 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