

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2006 -

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 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 P D Searby, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

Apologies for Absence

All Members were present therefore no apologies for absence were given.

05 94 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

05 95 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED: That Item 15 (Contractors) be taken in private session due to the confidential nature of the personal details of the applicants.

05 96 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16 January 2006 numbered 05 79 - 05 93 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

05 97 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

BT Public Payphone - Royds Drive, New Mill: Members considered a further letter from BT which indicated the Company was still in the process of monitoring the usage of this facility. It was indicated that repair works had been carried out in the meantime and the telephone was in working order. BT did not intend to change the type of housing of the kiosk at this stage. A further communication had been received from the complainant together with photographs substantiating the claim that the facility had become an eyesore. The Parish Council is reluctant to lose the kiosk at this location and it was agreed that the issue should be referred to the Community Police Officers to draw attention to the problems at this site. This course of action would be taken in the first instance.

05 98 Complaints Procedure

The Deputy Clerk reported on the situation with regard to complaints received -

(1) Footpath - Parklands, Holmfirth - the dangerous condition of this footpath had been reported to both Highways and Housing Services. Housing had undertaken to remove the moss from the surface of the footpath. This was noted.

(2) Street Lighting - Footpath at Parklands, Holmfirth - this matter had been referred to Kirklees MC Highways Service and the repair of the street lights on this footpath had been authorised. This was noted.

(3) Street Lighting - Lower Fold, Holme - this matter had been referred to Kirklees MC Highways and the fault would be remedied.

(4) Dog Fouling: This matter had been raised, although not on the agenda, as it was felt the issue of dog fouling at Digley car park was now becoming a serious problem. The area which leads from the main circular car park, the property of Yorkshire Water, is littered with dog faeces and is offensive. Greenfield Road, Holmfirth is similarly affected. It was agreed that these two areas should be referred to the Dog Warden Service at Kirklees MC, and in the case of the Digley car park, this should be referred again to Yorkshire Water with a request that action be taken to alleviate the problems.

(5) Play area - Complaint of mole damage - Cllr. Chilton reported a play area in the area had been affected by moles. Since the meeting this play area had been identified as the site at Sycamore. It was

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agreed that the matter be referred to Kirklees MC Leisure Services.

(6) Parking in Holmfirth: Issues of parking in and around the streets of Holmfirth were raised. The complainant was requesting the issue of parking permits for business use between the hours of 9.00 - 5.00. In view of this it was agreed that the matter should be deferred and included on the next General Purposes Committee agenda.

05 99 Community Development Service

Community Payback: (Minute No. 05 89): Members had been asked to consider areas in their Wards which may be appropriate for consideration under this scheme. Two suggestions had been put forward previously, ie clearing the footpath behind Somerfield, Honley and removal of thistles from highway verges. Two suggested footpath clearance schemes were put forward. These were 'Pop Alley' (Well Hill to Dunford Road) in Underbank and the path which runs adjacent to Netherthong J & I School (School Street/Thong Lane to Dean Brook Road). In the first instance it was agreed that the Council required to know the costs involved in this work.

RESOLVED: That the organisers of the Community Payback Scheme be asked to give costs for the clearing and making safe of the two sites, namely Pop Alley and adjacent to Netherthong J & I School.

05 100 Community facilities

Event at Holmfirth High School - 15 March 2006: Members were asked if they wished to participate in an event being organised at Holmfirth High School on the above date with regard to the extended schools agenda. In order for the Parish Council to be involved the screens and information it held would have to be updated; the timescale available for this was very short. Members felt the event was not entirely aimed at the Parish Council and on this occasion it was agreed that the Council should not participate. However, some Members indicated they would be attending the event and would report back on the topics covered.

RESOLVED: That the organiser of the event be informed that the Parish Council is not able to participate on this occasion. Any feedback from the event would be welcomed for future reference purposes.

05 101 Highway matters

(1) Highways Act 1990 - Section 119 - Kirklees MC (Public Footpath Holmfirth 131 (part) near High Bank, New Mill - Public Path Diversion Order 2005: Members had been circulated with a copy of the above confirmed Order and Notice. It was noted the objection period expires on the 27 March 2006.

RESOLVED: That no further comments be made on the above proposal.

(2) Village Signs, Wooldale: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that this matter had been ongoing for some time and to date no agreement could be reached on the position of the village signs. Consultations had been sent to the Kirklees Ward Members but a response had not been received. The Civic Society had indicated that the sites suggested by the Parish Council were acceptable to the majority but it was felt the sign for Town End Road should be on the major road not the side road. Subject to the site for this sign being agreed it was felt this matter could now proceed. However, it was agreed a further approach should be made to the Civic Society to get the agreement of the Society to the site for the sign at Town End Road. It was indicated by the Deputy Clerk that Kirklees MC was not prepared to arrange for the manufacture and siting of the signs until all the sites had been agreed.

RESOLVED: That the above course of action be taken.

05 102 Bus Shelters and Seats

Damage to Bus Shelters:

(1) Hepworth: The central clear panel had been damaged. A clear panel was now required.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made to replace the central panel with clear polycarbonate.

(2) Huddersfield Road, Honley (outside Drake's): Two panels had been broken.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made to replace the two broken panels, as appropriate.

(3) Damage to shelter - Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth: It was reported this shelter had been completely

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destroyed due to accidental damage. The Police had been involved in the matter and it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should pursue the matter with the West Yorkshire Police to obtain further details so that an insurance claim can be pursued for the costs of a replacement shelter.

RESOLVED: That the above course of action be agreed.

(4) Sycamore shelter: The stone shelter had been damaged with graffiti. It had been repainted by the maintenance contractor but had again been damaged. The cleaning contractor had been able to remove the graffiti and currently the shelter was in a reasonable condition.

RESOLVED: That the action taken in at this shelter be confirmed.

(5) Members noted that a new shelter had been provided at the bottom of Greenhill Bank Road in New Mill. This was part of the improvement scheme undertaken in New Mill.

Requests for replacement shelters:

Requests for replacement shelters had been received in respect of the following sites -

Hepworth - that this shelter be added to the list of other sites requiring new shelters and that costs be obtained for a 3 bay shelter with end panels.

Compo's Greenfield Road, Holmfirth

Penistone Road (bottom of Church Street) New Mill - the Deputy Clerk was in the process of getting costs for replacement shelters at the above sites.

RESOLVED: That the above costs be obtained.

Holmfirth Road, New Mill - a local resident had written to Metro requesting a new shelter at this location. Metro had indicated the request could not be considered as there was insufficient space on the pavement for the type of shelter requested. This information was noted.

Public Seats: Members had been circulated with a request that a seat at Hullock, Scar Hole Lane, Jackson Bridge, be taken over and maintained privately as a memorial seat.

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the usual practice when providing Memorial Seats was for a new seat to be obtained through the Council and for all the costs to be covered by the family requesting the seat and that a sum of money be given to the Council for future maintenance.

RESOLVED: That in the first instance, the Deputy Clerk, contact the applicant and discuss this provision, the above information being considered by the applicant prior to taking any further action.

05 103 Recreational Facilities

Thongsbridge Play Area - Luke Lane, Woodlands: Members had been informed that the tender process was almost complete. Further information was required as to the exact position of the teen shelter and it was agreed that a south-east orientation would be acceptable to the Council, as recommended by Kirklees MC. The question of a path was considered but it was not thought that this provision was a necessary part of the scheme.

Members had also been supplied with a copy of a letter from Kirklees MC Housing Services which confirmed that all the necessary funding was in place and that Leisure Services had indicated it would take on the maintenance of the site in the future.

RESOLVED: That the above comments regarding the orientation of the teen shelter, the Parish Council's contribution to the scheme, be passed to Kirklees MC as soon as possible.

05 104 Arts Trail

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the appropriate letters had been sent to the three artists selected. Schemes had been chosen at Magdale and in the centre of Holmfirth in the first instance with a further third scheme proposed which involved the Magdale Bridge, Honley but this was dependent on funding from the Arts Council.

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Magdale - Mural: The artist selected would consult with the appropriate school. The proposal was for a mural to be affixed to the wall at the entrance to Magdale. Work would be required to make the surface of this wall suitable for such a piece of artwork and enquiries would need to be undertaken to ascertain the ownership of the wall.

RESOLVED: That the consultation with the school be undertaken and the enquiries regarding ownership of the wall made with Kirklees MC.

Stone Bench - Riverside Rest, Holmfirth: The artist selected was already working in conjunction with Holmfirth J & I School. In order for this scheme to proceed an application would require to be made to the Valley's Area Committee for funding. It was felt that a representative of the Council should visit the school to inform the children who had been involved in the preparation of the scheme to date of the current situation and the timescales involved.

RESOLVED: (1) That funding be sought from the Valley's Area Committee for this scheme
(2) That a visit be made to the Holmfirth J & I School to inform the children of the current situation.

In connection with the application to the Arts Council for funding for the future provision of artwork on the Arts Trail it was

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the application to the Arts Council, as detailed in Minute No. 05 88, and that the necessary discussions with the other interested parties, eg Kirklees MC Countryside Management Unit and the Civic Society, be pursued.

05 105 War Memorials

Survey of War Memorials: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the survey of the War Memorials had been completed recently and the reports including photographic evidence would be received shortly. The consultant had indicated he would be happy to help the Council with its applications for grant assistance as and when appropriate.

This information was welcomed.

In the case of the Lychgates at St. John's Church, Uppertong, the Deputy Clerk informed Members that a further quotation for the supply of new gates had been received. It was agreed, however, that the Council should await the receipt of the appropriate report before taking any further action.

RESOLVED: That the quotation be received at this stage but that the survey reports be awaited before taking further action.

05 106 CCTV Cameras

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that an enquiry had been made as to the upgrading the of the CCTV cameras in Holmfirth and if any proposals were in hand to improve the lines of communication of the cameras with the control room in Huddersfield. The request asked that pressure be put on Kirklees MC to provide information in this respect.

RESOLVED: That authority be given to the Deputy Clerk to pursue this matter with Kirklees MC.

05 107 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 discussed are of a confidential nature (agenda item 15).

05 108 Contractor

Handyperson: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that a good response had been received in this respect. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of General Purposes Committee together with the Chairman of the Council had opened the tenders and had selected a short list. Members requested that they be informed of the names of those selected. It was also reported that a standard check list of questions had been formulated.

It was suggested that the 5 tenderers selected be informed of this and that they be asked to supply

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contact numbers for the Council to seek references with regard to work carried out etc. When all the information is to hand it was agreed that those selected be invited for a short talk and that a decision be made as to the successful candidate. This process needs to be completed by the full Council Meeting on the 20 March 2006 so that it could be confirmed for the contractor to be in place by 1 April 2006. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of General Purposes Committee and the Chairman of the Council had indicated they could help in this process.

RESOLVED: That the action taken to date be confirmed and that authority be given to pursuing further details of the applicants and that the results and the appointment of a contractor be put to the full Council Meeting for confirmation.

05 109 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