

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2005 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr J R Chilton

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr C E Collins, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr A L Gosslin, Cllr Mrs W J Kemp, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr R Rogers, Cllr Mrs H P Smith

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick, Mrs E Hirst

12 Members of the public and press were present

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Bower, Michael Bower, Mrs. Court, Firth, Mrs. Hall, Haynes, Mrs. Hobson, Mrs. Jackson, Kaye, Macpherson, Oldham and Searby.

05 74 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

05 75 Admission of the Public

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

05 76 Health Services

The Chairman welcomed representatives from the various organisations involved in the Consultation 'Looking to the Future'. The representatives were -

Dr. Jo Bibby	Project Director, 'Looking to the Future'
Mr. David Wise	Consultant Surgeon Clinical Director, Surgical Services Division - Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust
Mr. Kevin Holder	Chief Executive Huddersfield Central & South PCT
Dr. Yvette Oade	Consultant Paediatrician - Director of Children's and Women's Services
Diane Whittingham	Chief Executive - Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust
Alison Lovatt	Community Midwifery Service

The Chairman also welcomed representatives of the Honley Ambulance Service. It was regretted there was no official representation from WYMAS.

It was agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes fully with an opportunity for questions at the close of each stage of the proceedings.

(1) NHS - Looking to the Future:

The representatives gave presentations on three main areas of concern previously expressed by the Council, ie surgical services, children's and women's services and future proposals for the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital. The need for changes to the current services was explained: Specialists were required to maintain high levels of relevant practical experience to be able to offer patients the best possible care. This necessitated concentrating each such specialist facility in one centre rather than two. Members were assured that for many people there would be little change in their experience of delivery of the health services they required. Different specialist facilities would be available at each hospital but improvements would be developed locally in terms of clinics, day treatment centres, a midwife-led delivery unit, etc wherever possible to avoid the need for unnecessary inconvenience.

Members were given the opportunity to raise particular concerns about the proposed changes, in

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particular infrastructure difficulties such as parking and the issue the longer journeys in inclement weather.

Members were also given information about improvements which had been made and were planned for services and facilities at Holme Valley Memorial Hospital. Further details of these are attached to the minutes.

The Council thanked the representatives for taking time to come to the Council and explain the proposals. Mr. Holder remained in the meeting during discussion of the next item; the other representatives left the meeting.

(2) Honley Ambulance Station - proposals to cut emergency cover provided by WYMAS in the Holme Valley: It was regretted that no representative was present from WYMAS despite an invitation to the meeting. The Chairman, therefore, invited Members of Honley Ambulance Station staff to inform the Council of their concerns. It was pointed out that Honley Ambulance Station already covered a wide area and the possibility of one crew being removed from the station, leaving only one ambulance available, could endanger the service provided not only to the Holme Valley but to adjoining areas.

A consultation would be launched in the New Year on a proposal to merge the three ambulance services of North, South and West Yorkshire. This could also have implications for the level of patient care. There was some discussion and some concerns about varying interpretations of statistics and achievement of targets. It was felt, however, that until some information could be obtained from WYMAS, further comment on these issues should be deferred.

Denby Dale Parish Council had suggested that a public meeting be called in a central location to include all the Councils affected, ie Meltham, Holme Valley, Kirkburton and Denby Dale.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Council wishes to meet with West Yorkshire MAS to discuss the proposals regarding emergency cover in the Holme Valley.

2) That the suggestion of a public meeting covering the four Councils' areas be welcomed and pursued.

The Council thanked the staff members for bringing the question to the meeting and for giving up their time to attend the meeting. Mr. Holder was thanked for staying on for this item and for his contribution to the information available, and to the discussion.

(3) In view of the time taken on the previous discussions the Chairman suggested that the Council's response to the Health Services Consultation be formulated at the full Council Meeting on 19 December 2005.

RESOLVED: That this action be taken.

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Chairman