

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2006 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A R Otterburn

Vice-Chairman : Cllr C M Kaye

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J R Chilton, Cllr G Christofi, Cllr C E Collins, Cllr Mrs M P Court, Cllr A L Gosslin, Cllr Mrs S Hobson, Cllr Mrs R Jackson, Cllr Mrs W J Kemp, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr R Rogers, Cllr P D Searby

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick, Mrs E Hirst

### Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Dixon, Haynes, Macpherson, Oldham, Mrs. Roberts, Robinson, Mrs. Rodgers, Rodgers, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Spencer.

### 06 74 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

### 06 75 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED: That items 14 (Bus Shelters) and 15 (Budget) needed to be taken in private session, due to the confidential information to be considered by Members.

### 06 76 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman informed Members of his attendance at various events on behalf of the Council:

Friend to Friend Concert

Switching-on of the Christmas Lights

Presentation to Holmfirth Library by Ahmadiyya Muslim Association.

Cllr. Kaye has also attended a concert by Holmfirth Choral Society.

Initial sales of his Charity Christmas had been very good, which had prompted a repeat order; Members were encouraged to support him by buying cards, but it was likely that a surplus would remain, which he proposed to pass on to the Vice Chairman for another year. He thanked everyone who had supported this initiative by purchasing these cards.

### 06 77 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 November 2006 numbered 06 59 - 06 73 inclusive be confirmed.

### 06 78 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 20 November 2006 numbered 06 23 - 06 31 inclusive be received and adopted.

Cllr. Chilton apologised that he had been unable to provide the Clerk with details of the Staff Development Scheme in enough time for them to be circulated to Members of the Council. It was agreed that these should be circulated to all Members once available; Members were asked to submit any significant comments to Cllr. Chilton for consideration before trialling the scheme before the end of the current civic year.

RESOLVED: That the above course of action be followed, and the Staff Development Scheme approved following Members' comments.

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### **06 79 To confirm the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee held on 23 November 2006 numbered 06 18 - 06 25 inclusive be confirmed.

Website host provider - Minute number 06 22 (2) refers: the Clerk reported that the website was currently unavailable, and asked for the Council's approval for transferring the website to a new host provider.

RESOLVED: That the Council approves this transfer to the Phone Co-op for website hosting at an annual cost of £99 plus VAT.

### **06 80 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 27 November 2006 numbered 06 64 - 06 75 inclusive be received and adopted.

### **06 81 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 November 2006 numbered 06 98 - 06 103 inclusive, on 4 December 2006 numbered 06 104 - 06 116 inclusive and on 18 December 2006 numbered 06 117 - 06 124 inclusive be confirmed.

### **06 82 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 11 December 2006 numbered 06 67 - 06 82 inclusive be received and adopted.

In connection with Minute number 06 76, the Clerk informed Members that Alan Bishop hoped to return to work mid January 2007 and asked if the investigations requested by the Parish Council could await his return. This was agreed.

Minute number 06 81 (1): Members were informed that the respondent had submitted his documents within the extended period. This was noted.

### **06 83 Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for November 2006 totalling £8,148.79 and December 2006 totalling £9,275.37 be approved.

### **06 84 Local Area Committees**

Holme Valley North and South Area Committee Meetings - The Chairman reported on the last meeting of the Holme Valley South Area Committee which had been well attended dealing with health issues and the proposed development at Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, the future refurbishment of Victoria Park, and a proposed reconsultation about Cliffe Recreation Ground.

The question of voting rights for Parish Councillor representatives on the Area Committees had also been raised and clarification of this issue would be supplied by Kirklees MC.

There had been no meeting of the Holme Valley Area North Committee since the last report; the next meeting was scheduled for 16 January 2007.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be noted.

### **06 85 Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED: That the business of the Council now to be transacted be not open to the public and press on the grounds that the matters to be discussed are of a confidential nature.

### **06 86 Provision of Bus Shelters**

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow free discussion of this item.

The Chairman outlined briefly the issues relating to any possible transfer of responsibility for bus

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shelters, and Members highlighted their concerns, namely: potential loss of stone shelters; public perception about the validity of the Council paying Metro for such shelters, when they had been publicly funded; Metro colours being unsuitable for the area, as would advertisements on shelters. Members were keen to preserve the distinctive character of the Holme Valley and indicated public support for the retention of the stone shelters, although it was accepted that some needed improvement, and lighting might be advantageous, although this, in itself, might create vandalism issues.

Standing Orders were resumed.

RESOLVED: That the offer as presented by Metro officers be rejected.

RESOLVED: That the Council seeks a negotiated arrangement or partnership agreement with Metro regarding the bus shelters.

After further discussion about possible ideas and options for such an arrangement, it was

RESOLVED: (1) That a small Working Party, reporting to the Council, be appointed to meet with Metro to discuss and, if possible, negotiate over possible arrangements or partnership working  
(2) That the following Members be appointed to serve on this Working Party: Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, Cllrs. Michael Bower, Mrs. Court and Oldfield.

Members discussed briefly action to be taken relating to sites requiring replacement shelters, which had not been actioned because of the above discussions. The Clerk was asked to begin to make preparations for replacing the shelter on Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth which was the subject of an insurance claim to be confirmed at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee which was also asked to take on board consideration of the other such sites.

### **06 87 Precept and Budget**

Members considered preliminary budget proposals prepared by the Clerk following instructions from the Committees. The Chairman highlighted some budget figures which had been increased or included for the first time, because of significant potential impact for the Council. Further information was awaited which might alter these figures prior to the Council making its precept decision.

After discussion on the above points, there was a proposal that the budget, amended as discussed, should be accepted. After further discussion, however, it was proposed and seconded formally that the budget be referred back to Committees for further examination and possible amendment, before presentation to the next Council. The original proposal was not therefore pursued. The Clerk was asked to add projected figures for 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 to the report already prepared before presentation to the Committees.

RESOLVED: That the preliminary proposals as amended above be referred to the Committees for further consideration.

### **06 88 Re-admittance of Public and Press**

RESOLVED: That the public and press be re-admitted to the meeting.

### **06 89 Community facilities**

- Picturedrome, Holmfirth - Councillors were asked for their views as to any action which the Council could or should be taking with regard to public concerns about the possible loss of the cinema facilities in Holmfirth. Cllr. Christofi reported on the recent public meeting, and the action that was being taken locally.

The Chairman asked Members' views on the possibility of seeking listed status for the Picturedrome in view of the historical significance of the building in the early development of the UK film industry. There was unanimous support for this idea, and it was felt that this could usefully be undertaken and co-ordinated by the Parish Council to assist local campaigners.

RESOLVED: That the Council prepares and submits an application for listing building status as soon as possible.

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It was further resolved that the Council should appoint representatives to the local committee "Save the Picturedrome"; Cllr. Christofi was asked to take this on board, in his capacity of Chairman to this group; the following Councillors were so appointed: Cllrs. Bellamy and Otterburn, with Cllr. Searby as reserve.

**06 90 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 after approval of the minutes by the full Council.

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**Chairman**