

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 09 OCTOBER 2006 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A R Otterburn

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J R Chilton, Cllr Mrs M P Court, Cllr R P Dixon, 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 Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr R Rogers, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

4 members of the public were present.

Public Question Time

Members of the public were present but no questions were asked.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christofi, Collins, Firth, Garrod, Mrs. Hall, Haynes, Kaye, Macpherson, Oldham and Searby.

An apology for absence was received from Mrs. M. A. Bewick, Clerk.

06 44 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

06 45 Admission of the Public

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

06 46 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman informed Members of his attendance at various events on behalf of the Council: NALC Conference in Liverpool where he had received a Certificate awarding the Council third place in the National Newsletter of the Year Competition.

Together with representatives of Kirklees MC he had presented the Tidy Trader Trophy. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Mrs. Court for her help with the judging. It was hoped to broaden the Tidy Trader competition to include Honley.

His Civic Concert had been a great success and Councillor Otterburn wished to thank Councillors Spencer and Gosslin and Councillor Osborn's daughter and granddaughter who had provided the refreshments. He also wished to thank Ben and Matthew for their help on the day.

The Chairman now welcomed representatives of Friend to Friend Club (Mildred Liversedge, Janet Martin and Andy Macleod) and Garry Wilkinson from Kirkwood at Elmwood. He presented cheques for £250.00 and indicated a similar cheque would be sent to SNAP.

Councillor Otterburn thanked all who had helped in any way. He indicated that Christmas Cards were now available for sale and asked that Members help to promote the sale of the cards.

The Members of the public left the meeting at this point.

06 47 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 August 2006 numbered 06 29 - 06 43 inclusive be confirmed.

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06 48 To confirm the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee held on 4 September 2006 numbered 06 10 - 06 17 inclusive be confirmed. Councillor Otterburn wished to thank the Editor of the Newsletter for the excellent edition, this being her first production as Editor.

06 49 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 5 September 2006 numbered 06 16 - 06 22 inclusive be received and adopted.

06 50 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 11 September 2006 numbered 06 32 - 06 47 be received and adopted. In approving the Minutes Members noted the General Purposes Committee's recommendations in respect of Metro's offer with regard to transfer of responsibility for bus shelters but FURTHER RESOLVED: That this matter be discussed fully at the next Council Meeting.

It was noted that Mr. Beswick of West Yorkshire PTE had offered to attend a further meeting and this offer was accepted and it was agreed that he should supply the Council with as much information as he can regarding the Kickstart bid etc.

Minute No. 06 44 - It was hoped to hold a further meeting of the Working Party before the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

06 51 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committees held on 30 August 2006 numbered 06 64 - 06 69 inclusive and dated 18 September 2006 numbered 06 70 - 06 80 inclusive be confirmed.

06 52 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 25 September 2006 numbered 06 38 - 06 51 inclusive be received and adopted.

A question regarding the membership of the Quarries Working Group was raised. This would be dealt with at item 15(1) on the agenda.

With the Chairman's permission, the Deputy Clerk mentioned one of the quarry sites and indicated that although the tenant had terminated the agreement with the Council she had not removed the garage from the site. This had now become a matter for Kirklees MC. The ex-tenant had contacted the office to indicate she wished to have a bonfire on the site. She had been asked to contact Kirklees MC direct. This was noted.

06 53 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for September 2006 totalling £10,013.61 be approved.

06 54 Local Area Committees

Holme Valley North and South Area Committee Meetings: The representatives on the Area Committees indicated that there was nothing to report currently as meetings were to be held in the very near future. This information was noted.

06 55 Attendance at Conferences and Seminars

Members considered attendance at the following events:

(1) West Yorkshire Police Authority - consultation event - 10 October 2006 - Huddersfield : Members were reminded to respond if attending the above consultation event. Those attending would report on the event to the next Council Meeting. This was noted.

(2) West Yorkshire Pension Fund - Annual Meeting for Employers - 19 October 2006 - Bradford:

RESOLVED: That the information be noted, but that no representative be sent on this occasion.

To report on attendance at the following events:

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West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership - 5 September 2006: Cllr. Mrs. Court submitted her report. Feedback from the Questionnaires was awaited and this would be used to bid for external funding. It was hoped to provide a ring and ride service. The service is currently only available to those groups who can supply a driver. Cllr. Court urged Members to arrange to return the completed questionnaires.

LuptonFawcett - Risk Management Presentation - 13 September 2006 - Leeds: Councillor Bellamy reported that he and Councillor Rogers had attended this Presentation. Topics covered were the general state of the economy, house prices, risk management issues and race, sex and disability discrimination together with a new category, age discrimination. It had been an interesting event.

Joint Meeting of Parish/Town Councils - 14 September 2006: The notes of the meeting had been circulated to all Members. Regarding devolving services it was up to Parish Councils to approach Kirklees MC as to potential items which could be devolved. Some discussion with the other Parish Councils was required. It was suggested in the first instance the Policy and Quality Council Sub-Committee investigate this further.

RESOLVED: That this item be discussed at a future meeting of the above Sub-Committee.

NALC Annual Conference - 22-24 September 2006 - Liverpool : Councillor Rogers reported on his attendance at this Conference. The Chairman, Councillor Otterburn had also attended to receive the award for the newsletter. The discussions had been wide ranging but it had been stressed that if Parish Councils wished to get involved with devolution of services it was up to the Parish Council to approach the Principal Authority. Councillor Rogers indicated he had a video which would be helpful to the Council and he indicated it could be shown at a future meeting.

It was agreed that the video should be brought to a future meeting for Members' information.

West Yorkshire Pension Fund - Getting to grips with the 2006 New Regulations - 28 September 2006 - Bradford: The Clerk had attended this Seminar on behalf of the Council. Changes had been implemented but currently these did not impact on the Parish Council. The Council will be asked to look at its policies on early retirement, ill health retirement etc once further information has been issued centrally. Members were asked to be aware of flexible retirement options where, with the employer's agreement, an officer may accept a reduced grade or reduced hours, can take benefits but can continue to work at the reduced level. These matters will come to the Members through Finance and Management Committee. The Clerk was thanked for her attendance and report in her absence.

(3) The Deputy Clerk sought the Chairman's permission to raise the following item: Charities and "not for profits" as property owners/occupiers - Free Seminar - 2 November 2006. Details of this Seminar were submitted. The details had only been received in the office on the day of the Council meeting and a response was required by 23 October 2006.

RESOLVED: That no representative be appointed to attend this Seminar.

06 56 Administrative matters

(1) Finance and Management Committee Minute No 06 50 - to appoint an Awarded Quarries Working Party:

Members were asked to appoint a Awarded Quarries Working Party. This matter had been referred from Finance and Management Committee.

RESOLVED: That the following Members serve on the Awarded Quarries Working Party - Councillors Robinson (Chair of Finance and Management Committee) together with Councillors Bellamy, Bower, Chilton and Dixon.

(2) a) Cllr. Bellamy - to report change in political status: Councillor Bellamy indicated he was now to stand as a Conservative member on the Parish Council. He was also standing in the Kirklees MC Elections in May as a Conservative candidate.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

b) Staffing Committee: Members were informed that Councillor Bellamy's change of political status would have an impact on the membership of the Staffing Committee, the make up of the

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Committee being the past Chairman of the Council together with a representative from each political grouping. It was, therefore, necessary to appoint a representative from the Independent group.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs. Bratt be appointed to represent the Independent group on the Staffing Committee.

06 57 Precept and Budget

The Chairman reported that the Working Groups formed to look at longer term planning had met and with the exception of one item in the budget for the General Purposes Committee, it would be possible to prepare figures for submission to the November cycle of meetings for Members to consider.

The Staffing Committee needed to formulate future staffing levels etc and it was recommended that a meeting of the Staffing Committee should be called as promptly as possible on the Clerk's return from holiday.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk prepares a budget for the consideration of Members during the December cycle of meetings. From the information available it would be possible for this to be carried out.

(2) That a Staffing Committee meeting be convened as promptly as possible.

06 58 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.

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Chairman