

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 05 FEBRUARY 2007 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A R Otterburn

Vice-Chairman : Cllr C M Kaye

Councillors : 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 R N Haynes, 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 P D Searby, Cllr Mrs H P Smith, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick, Mrs E Hirst

Public Question Time

1 Member of the public was present. The gentleman concerned wished to bring the Members attention to the problems which were occurring at the bus shelter at Wagstaff corner, Scholes Moor Road, Holmfirth. Anti-social behaviour had been a long-standing problem at this shelter and he asked if the shelter could be removed. His family were being upset by what was happening at the shelter.

The Chairman indicated the Council was currently looking at the situation with regard to the stone shelters. It was felt that this shelter would benefit from being lit. The Chairman asked that the General Purposes Committee look again at the issues relating to this shelter in view of the resident's concerns. The Police were aware of the problems.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact West Yorkshire Police again about the situation at the shelter and that the Harrassment Team at Kirklees MC be asked for help and advice. The resident was also advised to raise this matter at the next Holme Valley Area South Committee on 27 February, where the Police are usually present.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Bellamy, Christofi, Collins, Firth, Garrood, Gosslin, Mrs. Hall, Macpherson, Oldham, Mrs. Rodgers and P.J. Rodgers.

06 91 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

06 92 Admission of the Public

Members were advised that item 20 on the agenda (Awarded Quarries) should be taken in private session, in view of the confidential nature of the information to be considered and that, in view of potential budget implications, this item should be taken prior to item 19.

RESOLVED: That item 20 be taken in private session but considered prior to item 19.

06 93 Report from Recipient of Grant

Although Damian Armitage and Natalie Smith, local Explorer Scouts, had indicated they could attend a meeting of the Council to report to the Council on their participation in the UK Expedition to South Africa, they were not present at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the Explorer Scouts to attend a future meeting.

06 94 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman reported on various events he had attended on behalf of the Council: He was also due to attend a Breakfast meeting organised by Holmfirth High School, together with the Clerk of the Council. Tickets for his Civic Concert would be available shortly and he asked Members to support him in attending this event and bringing their friends and family.

Holme Valley Parish Council

Members were also reminded to respond to Cllr. Chilton on the details of the new Staff Development Scheme.

06 95 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 December 2006 numbered 06 74 - 06 90 inclusive be confirmed.

06 96 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 January 2007 numbered 06 125 - 06 135 inclusive, and on 29 January 2007 numbered 06 136 - 06 146 inclusive be confirmed.

06 97 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 15 January 2007 numbered 06 76 - 06 91 inclusive be received and adopted.

06 98 To receive the notes of the meeting of Finance and Management

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting held on 22 January 2007 be received and the Financial Report, as submitted, be approved.

06 99 To approve minutes of Finance and Management Policy and Quality Council Sub Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Policy and Quality Council Sub-Committee held on 18 January 2007 numbered 06 25 - 06 31 inclusive be received together with the recommendations regarding a new Committee Structure to be brought into effect from May 2007 and proposed delegated powers.

One Member indicated the structure should not be changed but other Members indicated the new structure would enable the new Council to operate in a more efficient manner and commended the report.

06 100 Accounts for Payment

(1) Arts Trail: The Clerk reported that some extra expenses had been incurred in the preparation of the mural to be sited at Magdale.

RESOLVED: That the artist's increased costs be met accordingly.

(2) Accounts for Payment:

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for January 2007 totalling £12,903.12 be approved.

06 101 Local Area Committees

Holme Valley North and South Area Committee Meetings: Cllr. Mrs. Bower reported a well attended meeting had been held in Holme Valley North. Matters discussed had included pedestrian crossing facilities, street scaping, lighting, parking bays etc. Heritage funding had been provided for improvement works to Church Street and the Youth Team had been involved in outreach work around the village centre. Problems were being encountered in the Old People's Park and a meeting had been arranged for 5 March 2007 to which Councillors were invited.

Members for Holme Valley South indicated the Committee had not met since the last Council meeting. A meeting was due to be held towards the end of February 2007. The Clerk would pursue an answer from Kirklees MC with regard to voting rights on the Area Committee for Parish Council Members.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be noted.

06 102 Representation

Members considered representation at the following events:

(1) West Yorkshire Pension Fund - seminar relating to the Draft Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2007- Bradford - various dates: The Clerk indicated she wished to attend this Seminar.

Holme Valley Parish Council

RESOLVED: - That the Clerk be authorised to attend on a date of her choice.

(2) Seminars organised by Lupton Fawcett - No representative was appointed.

(3) SLCC Inaugural Conference for Medium-sized Councils - 2-3 March 2007 - Stoke on Trent: The Deputy Clerk was authorised to attend this Conference. She indicated she was only available to attend as a day delegate.

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Clerk be authorised to attend the above Conference; associated expenses to be met by the Parish Council.

(4) YRCC - Parish Government Conference - 2- 4 March 2007 - Scarborough - No representative was appointed.

(5) Introducing Local Produce to the Region's Market Towns - seminar - 19 February 2007 - Skipton: Councillor Bellamy had indicated he was willing to attend this Seminar.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bellamy be authorised to attend on behalf of the Council.

(6) Local Government Information Unit - Good Practice Seminar - How Parish and Town Councils can do more in Partnership - 8 March 2007 - London - No representative was appointed.

(7) SLCC West Yorkshire Branch Training Day - Continuous Professional Development - 16 March 2007 - Bramhope, near Leeds: No further representatives were appointed. Councillor Chilton and the Clerk were already attending this event.

(8) Elmwood Practice - Patient Participation Panel - The Clerk sought the permission of the meeting to raise this topic. The Parish Council had been invited to appoint a representative to this panel; it would be helpful if the representative were also a patient at the practice. Cllr. Mrs. Roberts expressed an interest in serving on such a panel, if one were to be appointed by the Oaklands Practice.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs. R. Bratt be appointed as the Council's representative.

06 103 Local Government Review

Members noted information received from Kirklees MC relating to a proposed review of parish arrangements in the Kirklees area.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and the outcome of the investigations awaited.

06 104 To appoint Chairman and Vice-Chairman Elect

Civic year 2007-08: Nominations were invited for the appointment of the Chairman-Elect for the Civic Year 2007-08. It was proposed and seconded and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That Councillor C. Kaye be nominated Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2007-08.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman Elect: Nominations were invited for the appointment of the Vice-Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2007-08. In Councillor Bellamy's absence it was proposed and seconded and

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bellamy be nominated Vice-Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2007-08. If Councillor Bellamy did not wish to accept this appointment, then the item should be referred back to a future Council meeting for further consideration.

06 105 Provision of Bus Shelters

(1) General Purposes Working Party - meeting held with WYPTE - 5 February 2007: Councillor Otterburn reported on the meeting held with Metro earlier in the day. It had been a positive meeting with some progress being made. The following ideas had been discussed -

a) Stone shelters - most to be retained by the Parish Council but Metro to be asked to look at providing lighting within the shelters and at making them DDA compliant. The Parish Council to look at all stone

Holme Valley Parish Council

shelters and identify any which might be suitable for replacement with a cantilever shelter.

b) Cantilever shelters - to be handed over to Metro, provided there is no cost to the Parish Council, and that Metro upgrades, as a priority, the cantilever shelters on the Holmfirth Connection Route, eg Honley - Holmfirth - New Mill - Honley, with cantilever shelters not on this route being upgraded at a later date.

c) Cantilever shelters to be provided in black and cream with no advertising material allowed on shelters in sensitive sites; shelters to be identified by the Parish Council where advertising material might be allowed.

d) Steps to be taken to ensure the Parish Council is fully consulted with regard to the loss of shelters in the future.

e) Metro was requested to consider the provision of a plaque indicating shelters are provided as part of a joint venture with the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the above points be submitted to the next General Purposes Committee together with details of the stone shelters it was considered could be replaced with cantilever shelters.

(2) To discuss, if appropriate, Council's position re responsibility for shelters, following outcome from this meeting:

No further discussion took place on this subject but Members were informed a further meeting of the Working Party was to be held on 5 March 2007 by which time Metro should have responded on various points identified above, eg no payment to be required from the Parish Council; funding for lighting in shelters to be provided, etc.

RESOLVED: That the necessary steps be taken to ensure progress is made regarding this provision prior to the next meeting on 5 March 2007 and following consideration of the matter at the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on 26 February 2007.

06 106 Community facilities

- Picturedrome, Holmfirth - The Chairman reported on the current position in terms of progress with the application to English Heritage for the building to be listed, which had passed the first assessment. He also reported on meetings attended with the current owner and with the pressure group set up locally. Discussion ensued regarding the condition of the building; its possible use as a community building, alternative options for providing film provision in the Valley, and the Parish Council's possible role in this matter. It was accepted that, as much of the current activity was outside the Council's control, and given the private ownership of the building, the Parish Council could only hold a watching brief, and offer support as a facilitator to any interested party or group.

It was agreed that in the meantime, the Parish Council should await the decisions of both English Heritage and Kirklees MC in respect of the building and the planning application, and should consider any possible facilitating role that it may be able to play in the future.

06 107 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.

Councillor Mrs. Roberts left the meeting at this point.

06 108 Awarded Quarries

Town's Quarry: Members had been circulated with correspondence and information supplied by the Council's Solicitor, together with a report prepared by the Clerk setting out possible options for progressing this matter. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should explore alternative ways of resolving the matter, as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk be delegated power to liaise, negotiate and if possible, reach an agreement with the parties concerned to achieve the best possible resolution to this matter, within the limitations discussed by the Council, and that she be authorised to take any necessary action to progress this matter to a satisfactory conclusion

(2) That she be assisted in this matter by Councillors Chilton and Robinson

(3) That she takes advice as necessary from the Council's Legal Advisers, or involves them

Holme Valley Parish Council

as required in any aspect, to achieve the above result.

06 109 Precept and Budget

Members considered the draft budget and precept level for 2007-08, as proposed by the Council's Standing Committees.

The recommendations of the Finance and Management Committee were as indicated in the draft budget. In the case of the General Purposes Committee, further provision of £5,000 had been included to allow provision for the showing of film in the area. However, having considered the matter further, it was agreed that this additional sum of £5,000 should be taken out of the budget.

- RESOLVED: (1) That the budget, as before the Council, be reduced by £5,000 as indicated
(2) That the budget, as before the Council, taking into account the above amendment, be approved and adopted
(3) That the Council issues a precept on Kirklees MC of £165,000 and that the Clerk takes the necessary action to issue such a precept notice by the due date.

It was further

- RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk prepares the necessary information for inclusion with the Council Tax leaflet as required by legislation, and that she be delegated to agree this information before it is submitted to Kirklees MC
(2) That, in due course, an appropriate press release be issued by the Council explaining the reasons for the increased precept, together with information about the proposed new Committee structure.

06 110 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