

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19 MARCH 2007 -

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 D M Firth, Cllr A C Garrood, Cllr A L Gosslin, Cllr R N Haynes, Cllr Mrs R Jackson, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick, Mrs E Hirst

Public Question Time

Four members of the public were present but had no questions to put to the Council.

Prior to opening the meeting, the Chairman asked Members to join him in a minute's silence in memory of the young local man killed in a road accident.

06 111 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Christofi, Collins, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Hobson, Kaye, Macpherson, Mrs. Rodgers, Rodgers, Rogers and Mrs. Smith.

06 112 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

06 113 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that, due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, item 18 (Awarded Quarries) of the agenda should be taken in private session.

06 114 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Roger Batley, representing Stotts Coaches, to the meeting. Mr. Batley had been responsible for providing free Boxing Day bus services and now wished to present a cheque to the Chairman for his charities, representing donations collected from passengers. The Chairman thanked Mr. Batley for giving up his time to provide such a service and thanked the passengers for their generosity.

He also reported to Members on events which he had attended on behalf of the Council since the last meeting.

The Clerk sought guidance from the Council about an issue raised with Cllr. Dixon by one of the local Doctors'. As this was not on the agenda, no decision could be reached, but it was agreed that the matter should be considered at the next meeting of the Planning Committee and that the Clerk should make some further investigations in the meantime into what action is being sought from the Parish Council.

06 115 Report from Recipient of Grant

(1) Damian Armitage and Natalie Smith, local Explorer Scouts, reported to Members about their participation in the UK Expedition to South Africa, and answered questions on what they had gained from this experience.

(2) Frances White also reported to the Council about her participation in a BSES Expedition to South America and what this had meant to her.

Members thanked the young people for coming to the Council meeting to explain what they had achieved with the grants which had been awarded by the Council. Full reports of their visits would be made available on the Council's website; the Editor wished to thank the young people for supplying their reports and some excellent photographs.

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The three young people left the meeting at the end of this item.

06 116 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council held on 5 February 2007 numbered 06 91 - 06 110 inclusive be confirmed.

06 117 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19 February 2007 numbered 06 147 - 06 155 inclusive, and on 12 March 2007 numbered 06 156 - 06 166 inclusive be confirmed.

06 118 To receive notes of Publications and Communications Committee

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting held on 26 February 2007 be received and the recommendations approved.

The Chairman reminded Committee Chairmen that their reports for the Annual Report 2006-07 would be required by the Editor by 16 April 2007.

06 119 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 26 February 2007 numbered 06 92 - 06 105 inclusive be received and adopted.

In connection with Minute number 06 101 the Clerk was asked to organise a small ceremony to mark the completion of the new mural at the beginning of the Holme Valley Riverside Way, and to ensure that the children who were involved in designing tiles be invited.

It was also noted that the local Ward member, Cllr. Mrs. Spencer, was hoping to organise an official opening of the new play area at Oakes Avenue, Brockholes; the equipment was already proving very popular with the children.

06 120 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee meeting held on 5 March 2007 numbered 06 83 - 06 97 inclusive be received and adopted.

06 121 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 7 March 2007 numbered 06 32 - 06 34 inclusive be received and adopted.

06 122 Administrative matters

(1) Vice Chairman Elect - Civic year 2007-08:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Trevor Bellamy be nominated Vice Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2007-08.

(2) It was reported to Members that Cllr. W.H.H. Oldham had tendered his resignation to the Council, due to personal circumstances. Members paid tribute to his long and valued service on Holme Valley Parish Council and its predecessor Council, Holmfirth UDC. Members agreed to mark his years of service, and appropriate arrangements would be put in place.

It was also agreed that the Chairman would visit Mr. Oldham and present him with a certificate acknowledging his personal contribution to the work of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk makes appropriate arrangements for the above actions.

Given the fact that elections would be held in early May, it was not necessary to take any further action in respect of this vacancy.

(3) Members were informed of significant dates in respect of the election procedures and of an additional form which had not been included in packs handed out early on in the process. This information had been placed on the Council's website, to assist members of the public. This was noted

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by Members.

In connection with the elections and arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Council, the Clerk explained that as the count was not being held until the Friday afternoon following the elections, and a Bank Holiday then followed, there could be insufficient time to get necessary papers out for all the new Councillors in time for the Annual Meeting of the Council, currently scheduled for the following Monday. The Clerk asked Members to consider re-arranging this date.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Meeting be re-scheduled to Thursday, 17 May 2007, and that the Planning Committee be rescheduled to 21 May 2007.

06 123 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for February 2007 totalling £8,571.21 be approved.

06 124 Local Area Committees

(1) Holme Valley North and South Area Committee Meetings - Cllr. Mrs. Bower reported the recent meeting had discussed improvements to the streetscape in Honley and that there would be temporary traffic lights through the village for 22 weeks, commencing 16 April 2007, with one way traffic in the centre of the village, and some road closures. Other matters considered were ideas for redevelopment of the People's Park in Honley, and a future consultation about the conservation area in Oldfield.

Cllr. Mrs. Osborn reported on a well attended meeting of Holme Valley South Area Committee, which discussed the new flats being built adjacent to Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, and possible refurbishments to Victoria Park, and the proposed Heritage Garden.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be received.

(2) Parish Council Representatives - Voting Rights at Meetings of Area Committee - Members had been circulated with correspondence from Kirklees MC Democratic Support Service which indicated that Holme Valley Parish Councillors had never had voting rights on Area Committees. This did not accord with Members' recollections of the matter. Cllr. Firth indicated that, as Mayor of Kirklees MC, he would take this matter further at Kirklees MC.

RESOLVED: (1) That it be noted that Cllr. Firth intends to raise with matter with Kirklees MC
(2) That the Clerk raises the issue again with Kirklees MC, with the historical background, and inquiring how such a change had come about.

06 125 Representation

(1) Members considered attendance at the following event: Yorkshire and Humber Market Towns Network - Your Town as a business - focus on Town Centre Management - Castleford - 21 March 2007, but no representation was agreed.

An invitation had also been received for four Members to attend the Mayor of Kirklees MC's Civic Reception to be held on 15 May 2007 to recognise the work of, and contribution made by, voluntary and community organisations. The Chairman indicated that, unfortunately, he was not available on that date.

RESOLVED: That the Council be represented at this event by Councillors Gosslin, Mrs. Osborn, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Spencer.

(2) Reports were received of attendance at the following events:
- NALC Shaping Communities - 13 February 2007 - Cllr. Otterburn
- Introducing local produce to the region's market towns - 19 February 2007 - Cllr. Bellamy
- SLCC Medium-Sized Local Councils - 2 March 2007 - Deputy Clerk
- West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership - 8 March 2007 - Cllr. Mrs. Court.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be received and the Members and Deputy Clerk thanked for attending these events.

Cllr. Mrs. Roberts raised an issue of concern following the report of the meeting of the West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership, in that she had heard that the Patient Transport Service operating in the

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Holme Valley was to lose its funding. It was agreed that this item be discussed at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

06 126 Provision of Bus Shelters

The Chairman summarised, briefly, for Members discussions which had taken place with Metro during two meetings of the Working Party. The proposals were now before the meeting; the arrangements on offer represented, on the whole, improvements for the shelter provision for the people of the Holme Valley. There had been some success in achieving an offer of 50% funding towards the provision of lighting in stone shelters on the Holmfirth Connection route, and in the colour scheme to be adopted for all cantilever shelters. Discussions had been robust on other points, and every effort had been made by the Working Party Members to convince Metro's officers to waive any financial contribution from the Parish Council, but without success.

Clarification was sought that such a financial contribution had a limited timespan; it was confirmed that contributions from the Parish Council in respect of the cantilever shelters would cease after five years. Members regretted that such a firm stance was being taken by Metro on this point and were unhappy about the Council being asked to contribute financially for shelters which had already been paid for by the Parish Council. It was emphasised that the package should be considered in totality, and that there would be an overall improvement in shelter provision in the Holme Valley, over a period of time. After further discussion about individual elements of the package on offer, it was proposed and seconded and

RESOLVED: (1) That the arrangements and offer from Metro in respect of cantilever shelters in the Holme Valley be accepted as stated and in all aspects listed in the correspondence before the Council
(2) That arrangements be made to transfer ownership and responsibility for all cantilever shelters in the Holme Valley to West Yorkshire PTE.

Discussion followed regarding the position with stone shelters and the opportunity of 50% funding towards lighting such shelters. It was proposed and seconded that no lighting should be provided in stone shelters, and that no further consideration should be given to this suggestion. This motion was defeated.

An earlier proposition was then seconded that the Council should thank Metro for this offer, and further consideration of it should be passed to the appropriate Committee, to examine the proposal over the next twelve months. It was, however, then proposed and seconded that the offer to assist financially with the provision of lighting, as laid out in Metro's letter, should be accepted and the funding requested in the future, as necessary. In view of this, the earlier proposition was withdrawn.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council informs Metro that it accepts the offer currently on the table to fund 50% of the procurement and installation costs together with the provision of supervision for the contract to supply and fit lighting to the Parish Council's stone shelters on the Yorkshire Bus Initiative route in the Holme Valley, but will come back to Metro on this, once it has considered the matter further
(2) That the Council notes Metro's comments regarding the issues arising from the Disability Discrimination Act and will consider the offer to carry out a condition survey of the stone shelters, when considering the provision of lighting, etc, further.

RESOLVED: That the report and correspondence in connection with the above discussions be accepted, and the Clerk be asked to take all necessary actions.

06 127 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.

06 128 Awarded Quarries

The Clerk reported that following the instructions of the Council at the last meeting, a meeting had been held with the other party involved in the potential adjudication. Following further clarification and a written acceptance, she had instructed the Council's Legal Advisers to draw up a joint Consent Order for signing and submission to the Adjudicator within the necessary timescale.

Members were informed of the terms of the agreement which had been reached with the party. The Councillors authorised to pursue this matter felt that this was a satisfactory resolution for both the

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Council and the other party, without penalising the residents of the Holme Valley with escalating legal costs.

RESOLVED: (1) That Cllrs. Chilton and Robinson and the Clerk be thanked for achieving a satisfactory outcome to the matter

(2) That the Clerk be delegated to take action to ensure that the appropriate documents are signed and submitted as necessary within the due timescale, and to take action as necessary to progress this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

06 129 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