

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 30 APRIL 2007 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A R Otterburn

Vice-Chairman : Cllr C M Kaye

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr M Bower, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J R Chilton, Cllr C E Collins, Cllr Mrs M P Court, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr A C Garrood, Cllr A L Gosslin, 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 Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr R Rogers, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick, Mrs E Hirst

Two members of the public were present.

Public Question Time

No questions were put to the Council.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christofi, Firth, Mrs. Hall, Macpherson and Mrs. Smith.

06 130 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

06 131 Admission of the Public

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

06 132 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed the two members of Kirkburton Parish Council to the meeting. Councillor Otterburn thanked all Councillors for their work over the last year and in particular the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the various Committees and the Council's Officers. Councillor Otterburn thanked Members for their support at his civic events and, in particular, Councillors Mrs. Spencer and Andrea Gosslin for their help at those events. He then reported on the official functions he had attended on behalf of the Council, all of which had been most enjoyable. He still had to attend the Scouts AGM. Councillor Otterburn had also presented Mr. W.H.H. Oldham with a certificate from the Council and Mrs. Oldham with flowers. This was in recognition of Mr. Oldham's service on the Council of some 39 years.

He would be giving donations to Holmfirth Music Festival and the Holme Valley Band Contest Committee in addition to further donations to his Chairman's Charities. He hoped still to collect further monies from future sales of Christmas Cards.

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Kaye had attended the opening of the play area at Oakes Avenue, Brockholes. He was thanked for representing the Council on this occasion. Councillor Mrs. Spencer was thanked for her work in this connection.

Councillor Otterburn, together with children from Brockholes J & I School, the Headteacher and representatives of the Honley Civic Society and Village Trust had attended the unveiling of the mural at Magdale; this piece of art had been commissioned by the Council and created by Sue Jenkins as part of the Arts Trail. The event had been most enjoyable.

At this point it was agreed that progress should continue with the items on the agenda. Item 6 on the agenda would be taken when the Girl Guides arrived at the requested time.

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06 133 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 March 2007 numbered 06 111 - 06 129 inclusive be confirmed.

06 134 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 26 March 2007 numbered 06 106 - 06 118 inclusive be received and adopted.

Comments were made in respect of the following Minutes -

Minute No. 06 111 - Holmfirth Art and Music Initiative - This initiative in the Holme Valley had been launched, with a changed strapline to "Creativity in the Holme Valley". It was well supported by groups throughout the Holme Valley. This information was noted.

Minute No. 06 116 - Tidy Trader - No further information had been received from Kirklees MC and action would need to be taken soon to get the scheme running for Summer 2007. It was stressed that Kirklees MC should be informed of the action the Parish Council proposed to take to develop this scheme.

06 135 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

(1) RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 27 March 2006 numbered 06 35 - 06 40 inclusive be received and adopted.

A point was raised in connection with minute number 06 39 regarding the timing of appointment of new staff. This matter would be discussed by the Staffing Committee, when appropriate.

(2) Staff Development Scheme: Councillor Chilton reported on the completion of the trial run of the Staff Development Scheme. He had hoped more Councillors would have responded and indicated that more information would be made available in the future. An amendment had been made to the scheme which allowed those subordinate to the Clerk to have the opportunity to speak to someone other than the Clerk, should this be necessary. This was agreed.

He also reported that the Review had been completed and actions plans agreed with the officers and approved by the Committee as laid out in the Scheme.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Staff Development Scheme, as now before the Council, be adopted and that the procedure outlined be followed in future years

(2) That it be noted that the review had been completed satisfactorily and the action plans so produced approved

(3) That Councillor Chilton be thanked for his work in establishing the scheme.

(3) Contracts: Contracts for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk had been prepared. These were in line with the model contracts as agreed by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks, but altered to reflect the Council's current contracts with its Officers.

Councillor Dixon raised issues regarding this, and his preference that the signing of contracts be left to the new Council.

RESOLVED: That the Contracts, as prepared, be approved and signed by both parties.

06 136 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 2 April 2007 numbered 06 167 - 06 183 inclusive and on 23 April 2007 numbered 06 184 - 06 193 inclusive be confirmed.

06 137 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 23 April 2007 numbered 06 98 - 06 112 inclusive be received and adopted.

Minute Number 06 102 - the Clerk reported the interest rates applicable at the present time. These were noted.

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Minute Number 06 107 - The Audit Commission had requested a meeting with the Clerks of the five Town and Parish Councils within the Kirklees MC area. It was agreed that the Clerk be authorised to attend such a meeting.

Minute Number 06 110 (1) The Clerk informed Members that a further invoice had been received from the Council's Legal Advisers which was included in the payments for April 2007. Members noted and approved this action.

The Chairman of the Council congratulated the Chairman of the Finance and Management Committee, Councillor Robinson, on the successful completion of the registration of the awarded quarry sites. This was a major achievement and would enable the Council to proceed further with this matter.

06 138 Report from Recipient of Grant

As agreed earlier in the agenda this item was now taken to allow Amy Kaye and Emma Knutton, local Guides, to report on their attendance at an International Guide event in Canada in 2006. The Chairman welcomed Amy and Emma to the meeting and invited them to speak regarding their experiences. Both girls indicated the event had been very enjoyable; they had gained experience from attending such a large event and meeting guides from many other countries and they particularly wished to thank the Members for the grants given to them.

Questions were invited from Members; these were addressed by the Guides.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Guides be thanked for attending the meeting
(2) That the Guides be asked to supply a short article and photographs for inclusion in the Council's newsletter and on its website.

The Guides left the meeting at this point.

06 139 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for March 2007 totalling £40,888.06 and for April 2007 totalling £12,272.07 be approved.

It was also resolved that the Council's contractor be thanked for the work he has completed at Netherthong War Memorial. Thanks for this work had also been received from All Saints Church, Netherthong.

06 140 Audit of Accounts

- (1) To approve the Annual Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2007:
- (2) To approve the Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Supporting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2007:
- (3) To approve the Statement of Account for the Holme Valley Partnership for the year ended 31 March 2007:

The Chairman of the Finance and Management Committee asked that the accounts, as detailed above, be received and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Statement of Receipts and Payments, the Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Supporting Statements, and the Statement of Account for the Holme Valley Partnership, all in respect of the year ended 31 March 2007, be received and approved.

06 141 Local Area Committees

(1) Holme Valley North Area Committee Meeting: Councillor Rogers reported on the recent well attended meeting which had discussed various issues relating to the Meltham area. It was also reported that bicycles were once again being supplied to local Community Constables.

(2) Holme Valley South Area Committee Meeting: Councillor Bellamy indicated that 'bobbies on bikes' would also be evident in the Holme Valley South area. Issues regarding parental participation in children's schooling had been discussed, with Hinchliffe Mill J & I School being identified as a flagship school in this respect. Roadways, access and parking had also been discussed.

With regard to policing, some local problems had been experienced in the centre of Holmfirth. A quick response had been made by the Community Police Officers and there had been a strong police presence

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in the centre of Holmfirth at weekends in recent weeks.

RESOLVED: That the reports be received.

06 142 Representation

Invitations had been issued to the following events -

- (1) Peak Park Parishes' Forum - Seminar on election of Parish Members to the PDNPA - 5 May 2007 - Bakewell
- (2) PDNPA - Funding Opportunities for Village Groups - 9 May 2007 - Bakewell
- (3) SLCC Regional Conference - 15 May 2007 - National Coal Mining Museum
- (4) Yorkshire Rural Community Council - Community Buildings Conference - 19 May 2007 - Kirkby Malzeard Village Institute

Because of the closeness of the dates to the elections and other pressures it was

RESOLVED: That, on this occasion, no representatives be appointed to attend the various meetings/events listed above.

(5) The Clerk informed Members of a meeting to be held in connection with the proposed bypass in Mottram/Tintwistle. Again because of elections and the close proximity of the date to such elections, it was decided that a representative could not be appointed at this stage.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted but no representative appointed at this stage.

(6) Similarly a Play Seminar was to be organised by Kompan Ltd. to be held on the 16 May 2007 at Magna. There was interest in this Seminar and it was suggested that two places should be booked as there was no charge, with Members notifying the Clerk if they wished to attend. This was so resolved.

06 143 Administrative matters

(1) The Clerk informed Members that one vacancy would be left on the Council following the elections. This should be filled by co-option by the new Council and arrangements would be made for an appropriate item on the agenda of the Annual Council meeting. In the meantime, information about the vacancy would be placed on the Council's noticeboard and on the website.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted, and the actions proposed by the Clerk approved.

(2) NALC Clerk of the Year Award 2007: The Chairman indicated he wished to nominate the Clerk for this Award. He indicated to Members information which would be included in the application.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports and endorses the nomination of the Clerk for this award and would ask the Chairman to make the necessary arrangements to submit the entry by the due date.

06 144 Provision of Bus Shelters

The Chairman reported that to date no response had been received from Metro regarding the transfer of responsibility for some of the Council's bus shelters following the Council's discussions at the last meeting. Unfortunately, the matter had not been discussed at Metro's recent Board meeting due to lack of time.

The Chairman indicated to Members that it had been indicated that there might be an issue in respect of the colours requested by the Parish Council for cantilever bus shelters in the area. He indicated that from his personal point of view, the use of the colours chosen, black and cream, was very important and he hoped the new Council would not allow this choice to be overridden by Metro, and that if this was the case, then he hoped that discussions would be re-opened. There was agreement with this point of view.

RESOLVED: That Metro's response to the Council's letter be awaited prior to any further discussion taking place.

06 145 Chairman's Thanks

The Chairman thanked all Members for their work during this term of office; he hoped they had

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enjoyed their time on the Council. He wished Councillor Kaye, the Vice-Chairman, every success during his year of office and expressed best wishes to those Members seeking re-election for a successful election campaign.

06 146 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