

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2006 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr P Robinson

Councillors : Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs M Bower, Cllr G Christofi, Cllr C E Collins, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr R N Haynes, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr R Rogers

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Macpherson, Oldham and Mrs. Smith.

06 67 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr. Christofi declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 9(1) (Grant application from Holme Valley Business Association) and left the meeting during discussion of this item.

06 68 Admission of the Public

It was resolved that item 15 of the agenda (Awarded Quarries) be taken in private session owing to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, and the potential for future legal action.

06 69 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2006 numbered 06 52 - 06 66 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

06 70 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

The Clerk reported that responses had been received from two of the other Parish and Town Councils within the Kirklees area regarding the Council's request to Kirklees MC that it be consulted regarding local applications under the Licensing Act 2003. No response had been received as yet from Kirklees MC.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contacts Kirklees MC again in this respect if no answer has been received by early in the New Year.

06 71 Investment of Income

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's action in the investment and withdrawal of the Council's funds be approved and the current rates of interest applying to the Council's accounts be noted.

06 72 Financial Statement

RESOLVED: That the Financial Summary, Comparison and Income as at 30 November 2006 be approved.

06 73 Policy and Quality Council Sub Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Policy and Quality Council Sub Committee held on 30 October 2006 numbered 06 19 - 06 24 inclusive be approved and adopted.

06 74 Applications for Grant

(1) Holme Valley Business Association - assistance with provision of Christmas Lights: Cllr. Christofi declared a prejudicial interest in that he is President of the Business Association and left the meeting during discussion of this application.

Although Members expressed appreciation of the work of the Business Association in providing the new displays, questions were posed about the previous lights which might have been usable in Honley. Cllrs.

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Rogers and Dixon informed the Committee that the features could not be used for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £500 be awarded to the Holme Valley Business Association towards this provision.

(2) Holme Valley Music Centre - trip to Poland - Easter 2007:

Members were pleased to support the work of the Music Centre which was enjoyed and supported by many Holme Valley young people. The Music Centre bands performed at various local events, and contributed much to the Valley. It was proposed and seconded that a grant of £400 be awarded to Holme Valley Music Centre for this purpose; it was further proposed and seconded that a grant of £340, ie £20 per student from the Holme Valley, be awarded. The amendment, on being put to the vote, was passed, and it was, therefore,

RESOLVED: That a grant of £340 be awarded to Holme Valley Music Centre towards the cost of the music tour to Poland.

(3) Following discussions at the last meeting of the Finance and Management Committee, the Clerk had been in contact with both the Scout and Girl Guiding organisations and had agreed a future procedure for submission of grant applications. The District Explorer Scout Commissioner had asked the Council to consider one further application from 1st Holme Valley (Holmfirth) Scout Group towards expenses of another two Explorer Scouts from Honley to attend the World Jamboree 2007 in line with the award to the previous three Scouts, it was

RESOLVED: That a further £200 be awarded to 1st Holme Valley (Holmfirth) Scout Group on behalf of these Scouts, on the same conditions as before.

(4) As with the above application, Agbrigg Division Girlguiding was seeking support for the four Guides and Young Leaders who had been selected to attend international camps/jamboree during 2007.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £400 be awarded to Agbrigg Division Girlguiding to be split equally between the four Guides and Young Leaders; conditions to apply as per the agreed criteria.

(5) A request for assistance had been received on behalf of a young musician who had been invited to participate in a residential course for the National Children's Orchestra. The Clerk had explained to his parent the conditions under which the Council had to consider such a request. Members were sympathetic towards the request, but as such the Council would not be able to support it, without the involvement of a supporting or sponsoring organisation.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk makes some further inquiries in this respect.

06 75 Administrative Matters

(1) Digital Mapping - Members discussed the possible purchase of such software, but felt that it was not necessary at this moment.

(2) Supply of badges for Past Chairmen - Members agreed that Past Chairman should continue to be presented with a Past Chairman's badge, and that the Clerk be authorised to purchase an appropriate supply with presentation boxes, including boxes for Past Chairman who had not received one at the time.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

(3) Office Accommodation - the Clerk reported that there was a distinct possibility of a meeting room with disabled access be created following the move of the Kirklees Cash office to the Library sometime in the New Year. There would, however, be a cost involved in this use. Members discussed whether such a cost was appropriate and necessary.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk be authorised to enter into an agreement with Kirklees MC Electoral Services regarding use of this room, wherever possible, to assist Councillors and members of the public who may find the stairs to the Council Chamber a problem

(2) That the Clerk endeavours to negotiate further on the price quoted, if at all possible; the sum indicated to be included in the budget for 2007-08, and approved if a reduction is not feasible.

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(4) Kirklees MC Register of Electors - availability of new Register:

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted and the restrictions as to use of the Register again be noted by Members.

06 76 Holme Valley Bus Services

- Holme Valley Minibus Services - a request for an alteration to route H7 had been submitted to the Clerk, to allow a service to Bankfield and Laithe Bank, Holmbridge.

RESOLVED: That the above request be forwarded to Metro and the operator to discover if timetabling would allow such an addition to the present route.

06 77 Miscellaneous Rentals

The Clerk reported that repairs to one section of the walls at Holme allotments had been completed, but that the gentleman undertaking the repairs had indicated that there were further sections which would need to be repaired. Members accepted that there was a need to carry out further repairs but there was some discussion about the timing of such further repairs.

RESOLVED: That the views of the Ward Councillor be sought and the Clerk authorised to take appropriate action following his comments.

06 78 Budget Preparations

- Budget provision 2007-08 - The Clerk had prepared some provisional budget figures for Council and Finance and Management expenditure which took into account previous discussions and recommendations. She also brought to Members' attention the recommendation from Staffing Committee for provision to allow an overlap of staffing prior to the Deputy Clerk's retirement. Information from the Council's legal advisers about possible future legal costs and the costs of a pending adjudication case was also presented to Members and discussed at length.

RESOLVED: That the figures as discussed and agreed be included in the provisional budget provision for 2007-08 with the addition of the amount agreed for meeting room hire, and a contingency amount for legal costs.

06 79 Pension Arrangements

(1) Members noted information from the Department for Communities and Local Government relating to the New-look Local Government Pension Scheme which was due to replace the current scheme from 1 April 2008. Information from Unison in this respect was also noted. Further details about the scheme were available from the Council's office.

(2) Members reviewed proposed Employer's Policy Statements as advised by West Yorkshire Pension Fund; such statements must be published by 31 December 2006. The Committee recommends adoption of Employer's Policy Statements under Local Government Pension Scheme Regulation 106 as attached.

RESOLVED: That the attached Employer's Policy Statements be recommended for approval by the Council.

06 80 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED: That the business of this Committee now to be transacted be not open to the public or press on the grounds that the matters to be considered are of a confidential nature (agenda item 15).

06 81 Awarded Quarries

(1) Voluntary Registration - Members noted that an extension to the period for submission of documents by the respondent had been allowed by the Adjudicator in relation to Towns Quarry. The Clerk was asked to inquire as to the present position and possible timescales of future action.

(2) Members had already discussed information relating to future legal costs under the budget discussions, but agreed that matters had to proceed as already agreed and approved and that necessary budget provision had to be made. It was also felt that the e-mail was sufficient notice of the increase in

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hourly rates to be charged.

RESOLVED: That the information from the Council's legal advisers about possible future costs be noted and taken into account in the budget process.

(3) Cliffe quarry - Members considered correspondence from the owners of 52 Cliff Road relating to the garden area behind the house. The Clerk informed Members of discussions which she had held with the owners, and the information supplied to them about the Council's actions to date regarding registration and the future discussions to be held with the Charity Commission. Whilst Members understood the residents' desire for the matter to be resolved, they were also aware of the requirements of the Charity Commission as to the establishment of a charitable scheme, and in relation to disposal of such sites.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk reiterates to the residents the Council's current position in this respect, and that it will bear their interest and wishes in mind when dealing with the Charity Commission, but that no progress can be made with any possible sale until a charitable scheme has been established and the guidance of the Charity Commission received regarding such matters.

(4) Youth Club site, White Wells, Scholes - Whilst undertaking preparation of plans for the lease for this site, a further encroachment by an adjoining landowner had been reported to the Clerk. The Clerk asked local Ward Members to make local inquiries as to responsibility for this encroachment, following which the Council's legal advisers would be asked to contact the person responsible to vacate the land.

It was also agreed that the lease to the Youth Club should include the whole of the available area, excluding the area where huts, etc had existed over a long period of time. It was also agreed that the Youth Club should be responsible for maintenance of the whole of this available area.

RESOLVED: (1) That, following receipt of information from the Ward Councillors, the Clerk asks the Legal Advisers to contact the person concerned to desist from use of the Council's land

(2) That the Clerk informs the Legal Advisers that the Youth Club should be offered the whole of the available area, excluding long-standing huts, etc. and that the Youth Club be responsible for maintenance of this area.

06 82 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