

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2006 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Mrs H P Smith

Councillors : Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs M Bower, Cllr C E Collins, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr R N Haynes, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr R Rogers

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. Robinson, due to work commitments, the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. H. Smith, took the Chair for the meeting.

It was also agreed that item 4 of the agenda, presentation by Kirklees Community Support Services on the Kirklees Corporate Policy for Community Buildings, should be taken when the officer had arrived.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Christofi, Firth, Garrood, Macpherson, Oldham, Otterburn and Robinson.

06 38 Disclosure of Interests

Councillors Dixon and Rogers declared personal interests in agenda item 10(2) - grant application from Holme Valley Business Association, in that they were members of the Association.

06 39 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that item 13 of the agenda should be taken in private session, given the confidential nature of the matters to be discussed.

06 40 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2006 numbered 06 23 - 06 37 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

06 41 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

(1) Cliffe - garage site - the Clerk reported that discussions had taken place and action was being taken by the ex-tenant and Kirklees MC to clear the remains of the garage building from this area.

(2) Hollowgate Shelter - Kirklees MC Enforcement Officer had confirmed closure of her file on the breach of planning conditions.

(3) Members noted thanks from grant recipients, Natalie Smith and Damian Armitage.

(4) The Clerk reported that work had commenced to repairs to the walls at Holme allotments. She asked Members to check if the work had been completed.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

06 42 Administrative Matters

- Kirklees Corporate Policy for Community Buildings - Lesley Whiting, Buildings Resources Co-ordinator, addressed Members about the background to this report and the audit findings which would shape future action plans for community facilities. The audit had concentrated on traditional community facilities, eg village halls, both Kirklees owned and privately run or in partnerships. A full copy of the report was available in the Council offices, for any Member who wished to study it.

The findings indicated that there was a lack of community involvement in decisions relating to such community facilities; that in the case of Kirklees-owned buildings, there were inconsistencies in charging and fee policies depending on which service had responsibility; that charging policy was a barrier. In terms of the Kirklees-owned facilities, the findings had led to the formulation of four aims, the principles of which would underpin future action plans. It was likely that actions plans would be

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developed on an area to area basis and would involve Kirklees Area Committees. It was possible, that, where appropriate and where there was a clear indication of local interest and desire, consideration would be given to handing over a community facility to the community in terms of management and day to day running.

In reply, Members asked that contact information and facility details should be placed on the Kirklees website to allow easy access to residents seeking to make a booking. Members also queried what action was being taken to assist organisations to meet DDA requirements. It was also felt important by Members that the Parish Council should be consulted directly on future action plans for the Holme Valley, rather than via the Area Committees. This would allow a view to be taken by the Parish Council which could be communicated to Community Support Services and would allow Parish Council representatives on the Area Committee to speak with knowledge of the Parish Council's agreed views.

Lesley Whiting agreed to take note of these comments, and would liaise with the Council on future developments. Before leaving, Members thanked her for attending the meeting.

06 43 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 44 Financial Statement

RESOLVED: That the Financial Summary, Comparison and Income as at 31 August 2006 be approved.

06 45 Policy and Quality Council Sub Committee

(1) RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Policy and Quality Council Sub Committee numbered 06 07 - 06 12 inclusive be approved and adopted.

(2) RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Finance and Management Policy and Quality Council Sub Committee in respect of longer-term planning be approved and the recommendations in the report adopted.

(3) RESOLVED: That the date of next meeting be confirmed for 4 October 2006 at 6.30pm or earlier, following the Tidy Trader Award ceremony.

06 46 Applications for Grant

(1) The Clerk reminded Members that minute number 06 32 had been referred back from the last Council meeting in that concern had been expressed about the suggestion that, where an organisation or grant recipient attended a Council meeting, a report for the Council's newsletter should be created by the Clerk or Deputy Clerk from notes taken for minute purposes. The Editor had indicated that the style of reporting and the language used for minute notes might not reflect how the grant recipient might express themselves.

The use of different styles of reporting added to the interest of the newsletter, and Members were, therefore being asked to reconsider this suggestion. After further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the following alterations be made to the criteria for grants:

(1) Recipients of grants from the Council may be required to attend a meeting of the Council to inform Members how the grant has been expended;

(2) All grant recipients are required to provide the Council with a brief report of how the grant has been utilised, how it has assisted the organisation and what it has achieved; and such report may be published in the Council's newsletter; if requested, assistance will be offered by the office with the typing up of any notes provided by grant recipients

(3) Acceptance of a grant will be taken as permission for the Council to publish such articles in its newsletter.

(2) Holme Valley Business Association - application for assistance with Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival - Councillors Dixon and Rogers declared personal interests in this application, in that they are members of the Business Association. Members expressed concerns about access problems encountered by local residents with the closure of Hollowgate for the Festival, and other traffic problems.

Members considered the application as submitted, but in the absence of any financial details or costings, and concerns expressed relating to section 137 expenditure, it was

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RESOLVED: That further consideration of this application be deferred until a future meeting; the Clerk was asked to point out to the applicant some of the concerns highlighted and the information which was required to accompany the application.

06 47 Administrative Matters

(1) Members noted details of Local Democracy Week, 16 - 20 October 2006. It was also noted that Kirklees Ward Councillors would be visiting schools in the area during this week.

RESOLVED: That the information and suggested ideas be noted, and Kirklees MC's actions noted.

(2) Kirklees MC Draft Gambling Policy Consultation - Members discussed aspects of this consultation, and asked the Clerk to make the following points in response:

- it would be helpful if the Parish Council were informed of permanent establishments within the Holme Valley with such licences
- it would be helpful if the Parish Council could be informed of applications from permanent establishments wishing to be so licensed, and could make comments on such applications (as used to be the case with Justices' Licences)
- further clarification about the impact of these requirements on community events would be helpful.

RESOLVED: (1) That the above points be forwarded to Kirklees MC in response to this consultation
(2) That the Clerk inquires about the current position re Justices' Licences.

06 48 Rural Transport

(1) RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership - South Kirklees Community Transport held on 5 September 2006 be noted; it was also noted that information relating to the Business Case for this project had been forwarded, answering questions raised at the last meeting.

The Clerk was asked to point out a necessary correction to the title of the Council (ie not Holmfirth Parish Council). Further reports would be available from the Council's representative, Cllr. Mrs. Court.

(2) Holme Valley Minibus Services - The Clerk reported feedback from West Yorkshire PTE relating to possible changes to routes H1/H2 and H5. Both the operator and Metro officers believed that no change should be made to route H1 in view of the implications of the possible change on the service through Scholes.

The H5 service had altered to run via the Oval instead of Leas Avenue because of problems caused by parked cars on that road. This situation was unaltered and a reversion to the previous route could not be recommended. Cllr. Rogers indicated that he had asked Kirklees MC to consider providing lay-byes on Leas Avenue to alleviate the situation, but no funding was available for this suggestion.

RESOLVED: That these recommendations be accepted and no alterations to these services be contemplated at the moment, until or unless local conditions changed.

06 49 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 13).

06 50 Awarded Quarries

(1) Voluntary Registration - Members considered correspondence from Lupton Fawcett regarding the information to be supplied to the Adjudicator in relation to Towns Quarry. The Clerk had already submitted copies of correspondence, minutes, etc which were held on file, but it was suggested that Cllr. Dixon with his personal knowledge might wish to submit a signed written statement of his knowledge of the site over a long number of years.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk confirms the information already sent to the Council's Legal Advisers
(2) That Cllr. Dixon prepares a statement as suggested within the necessary deadline and that this be submitted to accompany the Council's case.

(2) The Clerk had circulated Members with a report suggesting some actions to be taken in relation to

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Awarded Quarry sites prior to initiating discussions with the Charity Commission about the establishment of a charitable scheme.

Members agreed and authorised action to be taken by the Clerk in relation to various of the sites; she was asked to take legal advice prior to writing to all the Council's tenants, indicating the Council's voluntary registration, and its intention to establish a charitable scheme. Approaches from various interested residents in respect of any possible future sales were noted, and the Clerk was asked to reply appropriately, in that Charity Commission guidance would be required. Some anomalies and inconsistencies in dealing with these sites needed to be resolved, and the Clerk was asked to seek legal guidance regarding this.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be accepted and the actions indicated authorised.

It was further

RESOLVED: That the full Council be asked to appoint a small Working Group to report back to the Finance and Management on future action to be taken relating to the disposal or use of Awarded Quarry sites, following the establishment of the necessary charitable scheme; such Working Party to be non-political, and to comprise no more than 5 Members who are interested or have relevant knowledge; Councillor Dixon expressed interest in serving on this group; the Chairman or Vice Chairman of Finance and Management Committee to serve on the group.

06 51 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