

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 APRIL 2007 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr P Robinson

Councillors : Cllr M Bower, Cllr C E Collins, 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 Mrs. Bower, Christofi, Firth, Garrod, Macpherson and Mrs. Smith.

06 98 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

06 99 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that item 13 of the agenda (Awarded Quarries) be taken in private session owing to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

06 100 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Meeting held on 5 March 2007 numbered 06 83 - 06 97 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

06 101 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

Minute number 06 47 - Premises Licenses under the Licensing Act 2003 - Members noted information from Kirklees MC that public access to the premises register was now available on the Kirklees website. Members felt, however, that this did not answer the Parish Council's request for reinstatement of the Council as a statutory consultee. It was also noted that this point had been raised at the YLCA South Pennine Branch Meeting and that the issue has already been raised at national level. Outcome of these discussions would be awaited, as it was felt that pressure applied nationally might have a greater impact.

06 102 Investment of Income

The Clerk indicated she had not been able to obtain the current rates of interest applying to the Council's accounts and the investment of the Council's income in time for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the interest rates be reported at the full Council Meeting.

06 103 Annual Accounts

(1) RESOLVED: That the Financial Summary, Comparison and Income as at 31 March 2007 be approved.

(2) RESOLVED: (1) That the Interim Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 March 2007 be approved and presented to the full Council for adoption, and presented at the Annual Parish Meeting

(2) That the Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Supporting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2007 be approved and presented to the full Council for adoption.

(3) RESOLVED: That the Statement of Account for the year ended 31 March 2007 for the Holme Valley Partnership be approved.

(4) The Clerk reported that the information relating to the Annual Audit for 2006 - 2007 together with the necessary forms had been received and she asked for authority to proceed with the necessary

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arrangements and completion of the forms prior to presentation for approval by Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to make all necessary arrangements for the audit process, and to take the necessary actions to complete the Annual Return, for presentation to the Council.

06 104 Applications for Grant

(1) Holme Valley Business Association - Holmfirth Festival of Folk - 11 - 13 May 2007: Members considered an application in respect of the Festival of Folk.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100 be awarded to the Holme Valley Business Association towards the Holmfirth Festival of Folk.

(2) Hepworth Band: Members considered a request for a contribution towards the commission of a new piece of music for Hepworth Band.

RESOLVED: That an amount of £200 be awarded towards the commissioning of new work, and that the Band be requested to acknowledge publicly the Parish Council's assistance towards this, whenever possible.

(3) The Clerk explained that several requests had been received from individuals seeking financial support for projects being undertaken for organisations such as the World Challenge Organisation. Although all the individuals lived in the Holme Valley, the projects were being undertaken abroad, and there was some concern that the commensurate benefit to the Holme Valley, of awarding a grant, would not be readily identifiable, as was required under the Local Government Act 1972 s137. Members discussed this at some length and reluctantly came to the view that the Council would not on this occasion be able to assist the young people who had contacted the Council in this respect. It was felt, however, that each such approach should be considered by Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Council regrets that it is unable to assist on this occasion and asked the Clerk to explain to the young people why this was not possible.

06 105 Administrative Matters

(1) Joint Meeting of Parish and Town Councils with Kirklees MC - 22 March 2007:

RESOLVED: That the notes of the above meeting be noted.

(2) Two items in particular had been raised at that meeting and the Clerk had been asked to make further inquiries: training for Councillors had been discussed, and it was possible that training could be offered by YLCA for Parish and Town Councils in the Kirklees area, but this was likely to be later in the year, perhaps in Autumn. Training evenings would be offered by YLCA earlier in the summer at different venues across the YLCA area. It has also been suggested that a Kirklees MC Planning Officer would be prepared to come to a training meeting to assist and advise new Councillors.

Members discussed the various options, and agreed that training for Councillors was important, whether Councillors had experience or not. It was felt that, in the first instance, it would be helpful to Holme Valley Parish Council if specialist advice on planning, and the legal aspects of this, could be made available to the whole Council. The Clerk was asked to discover if Kirklees officers from Planning and Legal Services would be prepared to come to a meeting of Holme Valley Parish Council.

It was also felt that Councillors should be encouraged to attend one of the YLCA regular training sessions which will be on offer in the early summer, and that the idea of a joint training session of all the Parish and Town Councils in Kirklees could be followed up later in the year. It was also felt that the offer from the Isle of Wight Council should be left on the table for consideration by the new Council.

Cllr. Rogers indicated that he felt that it would be helpful to Parish Councillors to discover if it were possible to take up any spare places on training courses run by Kirklees MC for its Councillors.

RESOLVED: (1) That all Councillors be circulated with information about training events being organised by YLCA during the summer and that they be encouraged to attend if at all possible

(2) That the possibility of a joint training session of all Parish and Town Councils be explored for later in the autumn

(3) That inquiries be made of Kirklees MC if officers from Planning and Legal Services would be prepared to attend a meeting of Holme Valley Parish Council to offer training and advice to

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Members on planning issues

(4) That the offer from the IoW Council be left on the table for consideration by the new Council.

(3) RESOLVED: That it be noted that information relating to the Lyons Inquiry Report and a statement by NALC in response is available in the office.

(4) New Councillor Pack - The Clerk asked Members for some guidance on what information had been helpful to them when they started as Councillors. A pack of information was being collated for new Councillors and she would offer informal sessions in the week before the Annual Council to introduce new Members and assist them in their first weeks as Councillors.

Various suggestions were made and discussed which the Clerk would take on board. It was also reiterated that ID cards would be useful to Councillors as they went about their business. The Clerk indicated that she was waiting for costs in this respect and would report as soon as possible about this. This was noted.

(5) West Yorkshire Pension Fund - Information about the new regulations and contributions was available. It was felt important that some Members be aware of the impact of such regulations and it was, therefore, suggested that this matter be referred to the Staffing Committee so that some specialist expertise could be built up within the Council.

It was reconfirmed that the Council supported its officers being in membership of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund and that any new regulations and changes to the Council's contribution rate for the scheme would be accepted by the Council, as part of its commitment to the Scheme.

RESOLVED: (1) That the new regulations in respect of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund be moved, and that further consideration of this matter be referred to the Staffing Committee to ensure that specialist knowledge can be built up within the Council membership

(2) That membership of the Pension Fund for the Council's officers be reconfirmed, and any implications thereof in terms of contribution rates, etc, accepted.

06 106 Representation

(1) Brockholes Village Hall 170th Anniversary: Members had received an invitation to appoint a representative to assist in the 170th Anniversary arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the above matter be put before the Members of the newly elected Council for its consideration.

(2) NALC - Pilot Media and Communications Workshops - 30 April and 1 May 2007 London: Members did not wish to appoint a representative to attend the above Workshops. This was noted.

(3) Westminster Briefing - 27 June 2007 - London: Details of the Westminster Briefing were discussed. No interest was expressed in attending the Briefing. This was noted.

(4) SLCC Regional Conference - 15 May 2007 - National Coal Mining Museum: Representatives were invited to attend the above Conference.

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to the full Council Meeting for further consideration.

(5) SLCC and University of Gloucestershire - Summer Seminars at the Spa - 11 - 12 July 2007 - Cheltenham: Representation at the above Seminar was considered. It was agreed that the matter be deferred for consideration by the new Council, when elected. This was noted.

(6) SLCC National Conference - 26 - 28 October 2007 - Coventry:

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to attend this Conference; all delegate fees and associated travel costs to be paid by the Council.

(7) Lupton Fawcett - Trustee Responsibilities - 25 April 2007 - Leeds: Members were asked to appoint a representative to attend the above Seminar.

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RESOLVED: That no representative be appointed on this occasion.

Members were also informed of details of an event to be held at Hepworth Village Hall on 27 April 2007 which had only just been received. This was being organised by Yorkshire Rural Community Council and would cover "Energy Efficiency in Rural Community Buildings". Members noted this information but did not feel that a representative could be appointed at this meeting.

06 107 Consultations

Members had been asked to respond to a consultation from the Audit Commission regarding a Corporate Assessment of Kirklees MC. Further details had been circulated to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to complete the online survey together before the appropriate deadline.

06 108 Rural Transport

RESOLVED: That it be noted that papers relating to a meeting of the Kirklees Passenger Consultative Committee were available.

06 109 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).

06 110 Awarded Quarries

(1) Voluntary Registration - the Clerk reported that documents had now been signed by both parties in relation to Towns Quarry and submitted to the Adjudicator. A decision was now awaited. An invoice had been received from Lupton Fawcett for charges up to the end of March 2007 in this respect.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted and payment of the invoice approved.

(2) Cliffe Quarry - A request had been made by a local resident to rent a garage site at this location; this had previously been for a commercial tenancy and was, therefore, a bigger site than the standard domestic garage site. The resident wished to store his van and tools in a secure garage. He would be seeking planning permission prior to erecting a garage and would let the Council have sight of the design and plans. The Clerk had queried whether there was any possibility of his operating his business from the site, but he had no plans for this.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council agrees to enter into a new tenancy agreement with the local resident with effect from 1 April 2007

(2) That, in view of the size of this garage site, the rent be set at £100 per annum, renewable annually

(3) That the Council would wish to have sight of the design and plans for the garage to be erected.

(3) Wellhouses, Cartworth Moor - The Clerk confirmed the tenant's interest in a future purchase of his site, but, in the meantime, he wished to create hardstanding on the site for parking his vehicle.

RESOLVED: That the tenant's interest in a possible purchase of the site be noted, and that the Council has no objection to the creation of some hardstanding on the site.

Members also had no objection to the tenant at Jackson Bridge renaming the former public conveniences for postal and billing purposes.

(4) White Wells, Chippings Dump, Scholes - Members considered letters received in connection with this site, and noted correspondence from Estate Management (Scotland) Ltd., as there was no change in the Council's position regarding possible sales of awarded quarry sites.

An approach had also been received, via Cllr. Sims, from the local primary school inquiring about use of this site for additional parking. Members considered the implications of such a use and the potential costs that might be involved in levelling and surfacing the site. It was noted that the Council could only enter into some form of short-term agreement, as it would be obliged to consider longer-term options for the land which took into account maximum benefit for the community. The charitable scheme

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which would be established would require the Council to optimise any such benefits.

RESOLVED: (1) That the correspondence received re a possible disposal of this site be noted, but that the correspondent be informed again that the Council can take no action until the charitable scheme is established

(2) That Kirklees MC, via Cllr. Sims, be informed that the Council would consider entering into a short-term agreement for 12 months with the Primary School, if it wishes, to allow it to create additional parking for the staff, but that it be made clear that the Council could only consider a short-term arrangement as it would be obliged to look at long-term issues in relation to the land, as required by a charitable scheme.

(5) White Wells, Youth Club site - Members noted correspondence received relating to encroachment on to the Council's land at this site and reiterated their previous views on this matter, and how the matter should be resolved. Members would challenge some of the comments made in the letter.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be instructed to convey the Council's views to the Legal Advisers for relaying to the resident's solicitors.

06 111 Chairman's Thanks

The Chairman thanked Members for their work on the Committee during this term of office.

06 112 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