

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 07 AUGUST 2006 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A L Gosslin

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs M P Court

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J R Chilton, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr Mrs S Hobson, Cllr Mrs R Jackson, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

1 member of the public was present.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Mrs. Kemp, Mrs. Rodgers and Rodgers. Cllr. Bellamy apologised for his late arrival at the meeting.

06 17 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

06 18 Admission of the Public

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

06 19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2006 numbered 06 03 - 06 16 inclusive be received and adopted as a correct record of the meeting.

06 20 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

- Min. No. 05 115(1) - Parking restrictions - Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth (near Elmwood Health Centre) - it was reported that Kirklees MC were unable to participate in the survey proposed by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council should proceed with the survey as follows:
 - it should be carried out in September 2006 when the schools had returned to obtain a true picture of the problem (and temporary traffic lights removed) on a weekday
 - Councillors who have volunteered to carry out the survey should organise a rota to cover the period
 - survey should cover the whole day, ie 8.30 to 18.30
 - photographs should be taken of problems, issues, using the Council's digital camera
 - issues to be covered: number of available car parking spaces at surgery and hospital site
 - vehicles parked on road
 - traffic movements in and out of surgery entrance/exit
 - busiest periods of day compared to quieter periods.

RESOLVED: (1) That a traffic survey be carried out at this site as described above
(2) That Councillors Mrs. Roberts, Searby and Mrs. Spencer, who have volunteered to carry out this survey, be asked to organise it and to make arrangements to cover the day.

Cllr. Bellamy arrived during this item and apologised for his late arrival.

06 21 Complaints Procedure

(1) A request had been received from a local resident for 'Give Way' Road markings to be placed at the junction of Acre Lane with Hollin Brigg Lane, Holmbridge. Kirklees MC Highway Services had indicated that they were reluctant to make any changes to this junction as no personal injury accident had been reported at this location in the last ten years. This did not take into account minor collisions, nor the recent planning application which had been submitted which would increase traffic.

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RESOLVED: That the letter be noted, but that the situation be kept under review.

(2) Traffic Lights - Victoria Street - A local resident had complained that the timing sequence of the traffic lights at the top of Victoria Street was disrupting the flow of traffic from New Mill Road, Victoria Square direction in particular. The sequence of the lights had recently been adjusted, and it was thought that this had alleviated the problem, but this resident believed that there was still a problem.

RESOLVED: That the complaint should be forwarded to Kirklees MC Highways Services, and the resident so informed.

(3) Cllr. Bellamy had been informed that footpath and roadside signs had been removed illegally in the area of Acres Lane/Digley Royd Lane, Holmbridge.

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to the Kirklees Public Rights of Way Unit for action.

06 22 General Purposes Committee

The Clerk reminded Members that it had been agreed that a Working Party should be appointed to consider programme plans and ideas for future projects which would facilitate longer-term planning, and budget preparation for the next three years.

RESOLVED: (1) That the following Councillors serve on this Working Party - Councillors Gosslin, Mrs. Court, Chilton, Mrs. Osborn and Mrs. Spencer

(2) That the first meeting of the Working Party be held at 18.00 on Wednesday, 30 August 2006, prior to the meetings of the Planning Committee and the full Council.

The member of the public present left at the end of this item.

06 23 Bus Shelters and Seats

(1) Future responsibility for bus shelters - West Yorkshire PTE had indicated that a transfer would be possible, but that the terms of any such transfer would be different from those originally indicated. No further details had been given to the Council, despite requests that information be made available to the Committee. West Yorkshire PTE had, however, requested a meeting with representatives of the Parish Council on 31 August 2006 to discuss this possible transfer and any implications thereof. In view of the fact that the Council does not yet know on what conditions this offer will be based, it was felt that it would be more appropriate for officers of the PTE to attend the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee. Any Councillors attending a meeting on 31 August 2006 would not be in a position to discuss conditions or come to any decision, as the General Purposes Committee and the Council would not have had the opportunity to discuss the matter.

RESOLVED: That, in view of the fact that currently no detailed information is available for the Committee's consideration, officers of West Yorkshire PTE be invited to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee to inform Members of the terms upon which any possible transfer would be undertaken before any decision is taken by the Committee and the Council or detailed discussions held with officers on this matter.

(2) Bradshaw Avenue, Honley - Cllr. Gosslin had been approached by a local resident with appropriate expertise, who wished to re-do the graffiti art in this bus shelter. He was willing to undertake this for the cost of the materials, which was likely to be in the region of £25.

The Clerk reminded Members that this shelter had been painted in this style in 1993 as an experiment following regular vandalism and graffiti problems. The original artwork had not been touched until comparatively recently.

RESOLVED: That this offer be accepted and the resident authorised to undertake repainting of this shelter with new graffiti art, and that the Council will reimburse him for the materials used.

(3) West Yorkshire PTE - installation of timetable information in shelters - it had been reported at the last full Council meeting that Metro signs were being placed on all the Council's shelters. These were, in fact, timetable cases; the Committee had previously been informed that timetable cases were being sited at all shelters; wherever possible, attached to the bus stop pole, but if not, to a perspex panel. Permission had been given at the last meeting for a timetable case to be affixed to the rear of the stone shelter at Smithy Place Lane, Brockholes.

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RESOLVED: That this information and explanation be noted.

(4) Sites for new seats - Members were asked for suggestions for the siting of some new seats. One seat had already been placed in the recently re-opened Hollowgate shelter. The following sites were agreed:

Wooldale, Cliff (on the track) replace missing seat with new, another repaired seat to be sited here
Far Banks, Honley (outside house known as Hillcrest)
Stake Lane, Wooldale
Verge near to "Watery Cottages", Digley Royd Lane - replacing old seat painted white - ? provided privately.

This would leave one new seat in stock. It was felt that the other site suggested of Hassocks Lane, Honley could wait until further stocks were available. The Clerk was also asked to make inquiries in respect of missing seats at the following sites:

Thurstonland Bank, (lower down than Bank End/Knoll Road (Cllr. Mrs. Spencer)
Green Cliffe, Honley - going towards cemetery (Cllr. Searby).

RESOLVED: That the seats be placed on sites as above, and that the Clerk and the Contractor check re the missing seats.

Cllr. Mrs. Hall inquired about the policy relating to the provision of memorial seats and long-term maintenance thereof. Although it was now practice to request a sum of money towards the maintenance of such memorial seats, this did not cover replacement of such seats where replacement is needed due to time, wear and tear, etc.

RESOLVED: That as a policy for the future, if a memorial seat requires replacement because of longevity, every effort be made to contact the original donor or his or her family to discover if another memorial seat will be funded.

06 24 Highway matters

- Planting of roadside verges - A request had been received from the Rotary Club for the Parish Council to consider erecting signage in acknowledgement of the work carried out by the Rotary Club providing roadside verge bulb planting.

It was felt that more information was required before this proposal could be considered, particularly if the Council was being asked to provide financial assistance with such signage.

RESOLVED: That further details be obtained from the Rotary Club of where the planting has been carried out, what sort of signage is requested and a view obtained from Kirklees MC Highways Service about such provision.

06 25 Recreational Facilities

(1) Oldfield Recreation Ground - Members were informed that a photo opportunity had been arranged for Saturday, 19 August 2006 at 4.00 pm to mark the opening of the newly improved play area. This was proving popular with young people. All Members were invited to attend and an article would appear in the next newsletter and on the website.

RESOLVED: That this date be noted, and it was hoped that as many Members as possible would attend.

(2) Thongsbridge Play Area - Opening Ceremony - It was noted that Kirklees MC had arranged to mark the opening of this Play Area on 21 August 2006 at 3.00 pm and that this would be carried out by the Mayor of Kirklees MC. Members were encouraged to attend this opening.

RESOLVED: That this date be noted, and it was hoped that as many Members as possible would attend.

(3) Victoria Park and Sands, Holmfirth - A local resident had inquired when improvements would be made to the recreations grounds in Victoria Park and Sands, Holmfirth; this had been forwarded to Kirklees MC. A meeting was scheduled with a Kirklees MC Ward Members for later in August 2006 to discuss improvements to Victoria Park which will include the play area. Members were asked for any suggested input to this meeting. There was some discussion about information which had appeared in

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the local newspaper about the removal of the shelter in Victoria Park, and some suggestions were made about possible solutions to the problems which centred around this shelter.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Parish Council would like to be involved in any meetings to be held to discuss possible improvements to Victoria Park

(2) That the newly appointed Working Party considering longer-term ideas and projects should take on board some of the ideas arising from this discussion

(3) That the letter from Kirklees MC in response to the resident's inquiry be noted.

(4) Holme Play Area - A request had been received from a resident for signage at this site and for the gates to the play area to be closed every evening. Members considered his requests but did not feel able to support them, as it would not be acceptable to restrict the usage of the play area in this way.

RESOLVED: That the resident be informed that the Parish Council is unable to support his request but, if he wishes, he should forward his suggestions for such restrictions to Kirklees MC.

In connection with the play provision to be made at Oakes Avenue, Brockholes, the Clerk was asked to inquire as to progress, as the work had been expected to commence early in this financial year, and the Ward Member was concerned that no progress would be made before the schools returned in the autumn.

06 26 Arts Trail

Cllr. Gosslin reported that she had been approached by a local businessman who wished to provide a mural on the wall at his premises on Woodhead Road, Honley outside the Business Park. He wondered if this could complement the Arts Trail. Members felt that it was an interesting idea in principle, but that further information was needed before the Council could consider offering its support.

RESOLVED: That the businessman be asked to supply further information about the idea, such as location, size, initial design ideas, eg theme to be developed, materials to be used.

06 27 CCTV Cameras

The Clerk reported that further investigations were taking place and it was hoped to trial new technology which would improve the quality of pictures from the CCTV cameras. The Clerk had been asked to investigate the possible disposal of the funds held over from the previous CCTV project, but she asked for the Committee's agreement to await the outcome of these investigations before taking any further decisions about this fund.

Members informed the Council that the Kirklees CCTV Manager was due to attend a meeting of the Crime Prevention Committee, where the opportunity would be taken to ask for further details about this new technology and how the CCTV cameras could be made more useful, as they were felt to be of limited value in the present conditions.

RESOLVED: That the information given to date be noted and further information awaited.

06 28 Footpaths

(1) Highways Act 1980 - Public Footpath, Holmfirth No. 156 Daisy Lea, Penistone Road, Hade Edge - Diversion Order 2006:

RESOLVED: That the above Diversion Order be noted.

(2) Application for Definitive Map Modification Order: Addition of Public Footpaths, Homfirth - Cattle Market: Members considered correspondence relating to this application for a modification order. Whilst there was evidence that this path had been used regularly, Members indicated that this had caused the occupant of the land some problems. There was also now a locked gate across the entrance to the Cattle Market which would affect access to the proposed route.

RESOLVED: That this information be passed to Kirklees MC.

(3) Footpaths Working Party - The Committee noted the outcome of a recent meeting of this Working Party and made the following suggestions for where improvements could be made to public footpaths:

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- path running down the side of Netherthong J&I School to Dean Bridge Bottom - cobbles slippery and steps at bottom dangerous, lighting shrouded by vegetation
- Pop Alley to Swan Bank Lane, Holmfirth
- Greenfield Road up towards Parklands - surface slippery and overgrowing vegetation
- Duck Hole to Oakes Avenue, Brockholes - poor drainage
- top of Stubbin Lane to Upper Stubbin, Holmbridge - one light not working
- Green Cliffe/Sentry to Netherton - blockage - no access through.

RESOLVED: That the above suggestions be submitted to Kirklees MC as priority projects.

Cllr. Mrs. Court also indicated that Kirklees MC was looking for young volunteers who would be offered training in undertaking such work and would then be able to participate in Environment Working Groups.

06 29 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to purchase 7 wreaths of the normal style for this year's ceremonies and that she be authorised to make all the necessary arrangements, including requesting flying of the flag and floodlighting of the Memorial.

RESOLVED: That the time and date of the Service at Holy Trinity Church, Holmfirth and the later service at the War Memorial, Holme Valley Memorial Hospital be noted; arrangements for placing of wreaths at other War Memorials to be made nearer the date.

It was also suggested that a small service, held on the actual Remembrance Day at the War Memorial at the Holme Valley Hospital, would be appreciated by local residents. After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Hobson should speak with Di Ellerton who serves as Hospital Chaplain to see if this was feasible. If this proved possible, then suitable publicity would need to be given to the fact that such a service was to be held.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Mrs. Hobson be authorised to speak with the Hospital Chaplain about this suggestion and she reports back to the next meeting.

06 30 Environmental issues

(1) Public conveniences - Holme - Members noted that it was hoped to complete the refurbishment of these facilities by 1 September 2006 and welcomed the fact that temporary facilities had been made available in the meantime.

(2) Public conveniences - Honley - Members noted that Kirklees MC is providing a disabled facility at the this location which will occupy the Council's redundant bus shelter. This provision is in addition to the refurbishment of the existing facilities.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted and welcomed in relation to the public conveniences at both locations.

The Clerk was asked to check if the facilities at Honley would be locked each night given previous problems. It was also noted that the conveniences at New Mill were also closed for refurbishment. It was regretted that the dates of the closures of these facilities had not been notified to the Parish Council prior to the works being commenced.

(3) Cliff shelter, Holmfirth - Cliff Neighbourhood Meeting - Cllr. Bratt reported on problems at this site, and the action being taken by local residents.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Ward Member be noted, and that she be thanked for attending the meeting.

It was also reported that flytipping had taken place on this land which was now registered to the Parish Council. The Clerk was investigating costs for its removal, which could be carried out by the Council's Contractor but a licence to take such rubbish to the waste disposal site would be required. Alternatively, Kirklees MC could be requested to remove this rubbish; the cost of this would be charged to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk investigates the costs of the two options, and is authorised to choose whichever option is the most cost effective for this work to be carried out.

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(4) Holmfirth Clean Up Day - This suggestion from a local resident had been considered previously by the Committee but further comment had awaited the return to work of the street cleaner. The resident had asked the Council to consider her idea again.

Members supported the idea in principle, but agreed that there were a number of issues which would have to be tackled in organising such an event. Schools could be involved in a litter campaign; the Parish Council could provide an anti-litter badge, or provide protective gloves or materials for collecting rubbish. There would, however, be significant work involved in developing and initiating these ideas, and it was felt that the Council had already taken on a number of new projects at the current time, and to develop and lead such a litter campaign would put additional pressure on the officers' workload.

RESOLVED: That, whilst the Parish Council would support such an idea in principle, it does not feel that it has the resources to develop and undertake this project at the current time, and would suggest that the idea be put to other local organisations, such as the Civic Society, Rotary, or perhaps the local newspaper.

(5) Dog Waste Bags:

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to purchase a further supply of dog waste bags; it is recommended that double the previous order be purchased.

06 31 Freedom of Information Act 2000

RESOLVED: That, under Council's Publication Scheme, supporting papers for any item within the public session of the meeting be made available, if requested, following approval of the Minutes by the full Council.

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Chairman