

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2006 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A L Gosslin

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr Mrs R Jackson, Cllr Mrs W J Kemp,
Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs J
Spencer

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

One member of the public arrived during the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Chilton, Mrs. Court, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Hobson and Mrs. Roberts.

06 64 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr. Bellamy declared a prejudicial interest in item 11(a) of the agenda (future of local post offices) and left the meeting during discussion of this item.

06 65 Admission of the Public

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

06 66 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2006 numbered 06 48 - 06 63 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

06 67 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

Minute Number 06 30 - following an article in the Council's newsletter one approach had been received from a local resident who was interested in being involved in a Clean Up Day in Holmfirth. It was suggested that the Clerk puts this resident in touch with the originator of the idea, and suggests that they might like to pilot the idea in a small area.

Minute number 06 25 - Members noted a letter of thanks from a local resident appreciative of the new play area at Oldfield.

Minute number 06 52 - request for a litter bin at Hepworth Church - the Clerk reported that Kirklees MC Environmental Services had replied indicating that the service would be unable to empty such a litter bin, as the site was off the route served by the cleaning teams. A litter bin could be purchased by the Parish Council but separate arrangements would have to be made to empty such a bin.

The Ward Member reported that, in fact, the Church had already provided a litter bin at the site, and was also prepared to empty the litter bin.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted, and the suggestion that the Parish Council purchases a litter bin from Kirklees MC declined; that the Church be thanked for taking this action.

06 68 Complaints Procedure

A complaint had been received about the overgrown verges between Holme Banks and Wheat Close, Holmbridge/Holme. This had been referred to Kirklees MC Highway Services who had replied that this route was not on the list of verges cut on those services' behalf.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contacts Kirklees MC Highway Services and seeks information as to which routes are so cut, what criteria determines whether a road is included or not, and how the service is

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monitored to ensure that the number of cuts to verges is as expected.

06 69 Footpaths

(1) Footpath No. 80 - Holmbridge - numerous complaints had been received about this footpath which had been blocked off by the owner. Initial information from Kirklees had indicated that this was not recorded as a right of way, but following information from the Parish Council, this information was corrected as it was on the definitive map, and the owner had, therefore, removed the signs and opened up the path again.

RESOLVED: That the action taken by the Parish Council in resolving this situation be noted.

(2) Public Rights of Way Forum - Minutes of Meeting - 14 September 2006

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the above meeting, and the date of the next meeting, be noted.

06 70 Highway matters

- Signage on roadside - Rotary Club of Holmfirth - a request for the Parish Council to provide signs had previously been considered by the Committee and further information had been requested. The Clerk reported that bulb planting had been carried out in the autumn on Greenfield Road from the Ford Inn down towards Holmfirth.

Members considered this request, but felt that there was a potential danger to motorists in providing informational signs along a main route. It was felt that it would be preferable for the Parish Council to acknowledge the Rotary Club's activity in the Council's newsletter.

RESOLVED: That the above course of action be taken and the Rotary Club informed of the reasons for this decision.

06 71 War Memorials

- Honley War Memorial - Councillor Gosslin reported that following the recent Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial, a suggestion had been made that the Council might look into providing slabs in front of the memorial to provide easier footing for people visiting the memorial, as the grass had been slippy and muddy on the day of the service.

The Clerk expressed some concerns about the Council undertaking such an alteration, as stone slabs were often very slippy if wet. If mould or moss were allowed to develop on the slabs it could result in work having to be undertaken regularly to ensure that such slabs did not in themselves exacerbate the situation.

An alternative suggestion was made that, as a community project, those interested in the memorial could develop, preferably with a landscape gardener, a project to provide some drainage for the area in front of the memorial by, say, providing a gravelled area. Such a community project would then be eligible for grants from various sources, including perhaps the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee takes this suggestion to local interested people to see if it can be taken on board as such a community project.

06 72 Bus Shelters and Seats

(1) Shelter at Bradshaw Road, Honley - graffiti art - following previous discussions, an offer to recreate the graffiti art again had been accepted by the Council, and an order for the work issued. Nothing had been heard since from the gentleman concerned, and the artist who had originally created the work had now contacted the Council to offer to paint the shelter again, at a cost to be agreed.

Members discussed whether this painting work should now, in fact, be carried out, given the discussions which were taking place in respect of the Council's shelters.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk contacts both artists and indicates that the matter should now be left in abeyance until after a decision is taken by the Council at its meeting in December

(2) That the Chairman of the Committee speaks with the gentleman to whom the order has already been issued to check that he is interested in undertaking such work.

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(2) Seat at junction of Miry Lane/Heys Road, Thongsbridge - the Clerk had received an approach, via one of the local Community Support Officers for this seat to be removed, as there were problems with young people collecting at the site.

Members had concerns about agreeing to such a request, as the seat was also used by walkers and local people who wished a rest.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk obtains more information about the source of the request and detail of the reasons for this request

(2) That the local Ward Members be requested to visit the site to make some inquiries of local residents and to monitor the problem, if any.

06 73 Community facilities

(1) Countryside Alliance - future of local Post Offices - Members had been circulated with information from the Countryside Alliance concerned about the future of local Post Offices, and of the potential impact on communities from the loss of such a facility. Members shared concerns about this and

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council writes to the Minister responsible for Post Offices, with a copy to the Local Member of Parliament, indicating its support for local Post Offices and their importance to local communities and asking that subsidy be given to small local post offices to ensure their survival.

Cllr. Bellamy withdrew from the meeting for this item in view of his interest.

(2) Yorkshire Living Churchyard Project - details of this scheme had been circulated to Members. The Council had responsibility for maintaining the closed churchyard at New Mill, but no other involvement with other local churchyards.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk brings this scheme to the attention of all the Churches in the area, and indicates the Council's support for this idea.

06 74 Budget Provision

(1) Budget Provision 2006-2007 - to consider the current budget position and the allocation of budget funds - Members considered the Clerk's report concerning the current budget funds and authorised the Clerk to carry forward the following budget provision not expended or not expected to be expended before the end of the financial year:

War memorials, new projects, play area improvements to Booth House, and Arts Trail
Provision for new bus shelters to await the decision of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to earmark such funds to carry forward to the budget for 2007-2008.

b) Budget Provision 2007-2008 - Notes on the General Purposes Working Party on this matter were approved by the Committee and the implications of these recommendations had been taken into account by the Clerk in preparing the budget information now before the Committee. She had outlined two options which took into account forthcoming discussions by the Council in relation to bus shelters. Members indicated that they agreed with the figures put forward by the Clerk and the two options which would be put before the Council.

RESOLVED: That the figures and the options submitted by the Clerk be approved for inclusion in the budget options for 2007-2008, and the report of the Working Party approved.

06 75 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