

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2006 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A L Gosslin

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs M P Court

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr Mrs S Hobson, Cllr Mrs R Jackson, Cllr Mrs W J Kemp, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr R Rogers, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

Councillor Dixon was present as a substitute for Councillor Mrs. Hall.

Councillor Rogers was present as a substitute for Councillor Mrs. Osborn.

1 member of the public was present.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chilton, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Osborn and Searby.

### **06 48 Disclosure of Interests**

None were given.

### **06 49 Admission of the Public**

RESOLVED: That item 15 (Contractor) (Review of Contract) be taken in private session due to the confidential nature of the item.

### **06 50 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2006 numbered 06 32 - 06 47 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

### **06 51 Correspondence arising from the Minutes**

Minute number 06 30 - Public toilets at Moorbottom, Honley: Correspondence had been received from Kirklees MC which indicated that the refurbished toilets at Moorbottom, Honley would be locked overnight. This information was noted.

Minute number 06 28 - Path improvements in the Holme Valley: The Parish Council had forwarded details of a number of footpaths which needed attention. Kirklees MC had noted the information and would look at the issues and report back to the Parish Council in due course. This was noted.

### **06 52 Complaints Procedure**

Hepworth Church - War Memorial: Concerns had been expressed to the local Ward Member about young people congregating at the site of the War Memorial and litter was being left which was a problem. In the first instance it was agreed that Councillor Jackson should ask the Vicar to speak suitably to the young people concerned and ask them to respect the fact that the lychgate is a Memorial to those who lost their lives in the Wars and to ask them to respect this.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Jackson be asked to speak with the Vicar appropriately.

### **06 53 Holmfirth Town Centre**

(1) Traffic priority on Hollowgate: Members had received a copy of a request from Councillor Collins for the priority for traffic along Hollowgate to be changed allowing priority to traffic travelling east, not west as is the current situation. Members discussed this in detail but felt the situation as it exists is the most suitable for travelling along Hollowgate and it was

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RESOLVED: That the request be noted but no further action be taken.

(2) Use of lay-bye outside Parish Church, Towngate, Holmfirth: The problems at this site had been passed to Kirklees MC and it was understood that various meetings with the Kirklees MC members and the church had been held. The Summer Wine tours continued to run from this lay-bye and the traffic wardens were aware of this. Traffic Wardens would continue to observe this site and act appropriately, when necessary. Members asked if progress had been made with regard to using the Hollowgate shelter for this purpose. The Deputy Clerk informed the Members that the interested person had been in contact with the Clerk but, at the current time, no further approach had been made.

RESOLVED: That the matter be left with Kirklees MC at the current time and that an approach regarding using the Hollowgate shelter be awaited.

In connection with the Summer Wine bus service the Deputy Clerk informed Members of a letter from a visitor to the area which praised the service and hoped the Council would be sympathetic to the operator's needs. This was noted.

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Clerk replies appropriately.

(3) Victoria Street, timing of traffic lights - traffic congestion: The Parish Council had been approached again regarding the timing of the lights at the top of Victoria Street, Holmfirth. A request had been sent to Kirklees MC that it should look at this problem again and Kirklees MC had responded stating that it had instigated a project to carry out a full review of the operational performance of this junction, as well as a study into the impact of existing Traffic Management measures, Public Transport and Pedestrian activity. It was hoped this report would be available by the end of 2006.

In an effort to help in this matter it was suggested that the traffic light outside the Halifax Bank should be moved down Victoria Street and sited outside Travelcare. This would enable larger vehicles to swing round the corner and cause less congestion in the centre of the town. The pedestrian crossing would remain in its present position.

RESOLVED: That this suggestion be forwarded to Kirklees MC.

(4) Sunday Markets - Provision of Markets in Holmfirth town centre and the affect on the highways situation: The Deputy Clerk indicated the question of the sites for markets in the town centre had been discussed at the Planning Committee as part of the application for planning permission but that the comments made at that stage did not appear to have been forwarded to the Officer responsible for markets.

It was agreed that the comments made at Planning Committee be forwarded to the appropriate Kirklees MC Department.

RESOLVED: That the above course of action be taken and that when a response has been received a meeting of the group set up to discuss town centre issues be convened with all interested parties being invited.

### **06 54 Vandalism problems**

New Mill and Holmbridge - vandalism, graffiti issues etc: Members had expressed concerns at a previous meeting regarding vandalism in certain areas of the valley. Responses had not been received from the local Ward Members but it was indicated there were problems in the Kirkroyds and Holmclose areas.

Members indicated there continued to be problems at the Thongsbridge Co-op (Woodlands).

It was stressed that Members and the public should always try to report instances of vandalism or graffiti to the local Police as this built up a record of the situation.

RESOLVED: (1) That a letter be sent to Chief Superintendent Barry South with a copy sent to PC John Clay indicating that complainants are not getting responses from the Police to complaints raised and seeking assurances that efforts will be taken to ensure issues reported are addressed.

(2) That Mr. Swap of Kirklees MC be informed of the situations which have arisen at Kirkroyds and Holmclose and his advice sought.

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(3) That the response be brought back to General Purposes Committee, when received.

### **06 55 General Purposes Committee**

Working Party on longer-term planning for service and programme provision: Members had previously agreed the recommendations put forward by the Working Party convened to discuss longer term planning. A further meeting had been held prior to the last Planning Committee meeting to discuss items 11 and 12 of the report but it had not been possible to consider the issues as fully as was thought desirable. Minor amendments had been made to the report heading.

RESOLVED: That a short meeting be held on Monday, 6 November 2006 at 6.30 pm to discuss the issues in more detail.

### **06 56 Recreational Facilities**

Play areas: The Deputy Clerk reported on the current situation with regard to Play Areas in the Holme Valley, as follows:-

Victoria Park, Holmfirth and Sands, Holmfirth - improvements to the play areas proposed. Schemes will be prepared and passed to the Parish Council for comment. Any suggestions from the Parish Council would be welcomed.

Cliffe recreation grounds, Holmfirth - Members noted the date of the Area Committee and various indicated they would attend. It was agreed that the Council should hear the views of the local residents prior to further discussion on the future of this recreation ground.

Oakes Avenue, Brockholes - Subject to approval at the Holme Valley North Area Committee it was hoped the contract for this scheme would be issued for immediate implementation.

Booth House, Holmfirth - the Clerk had provided Kirklees MC with names of local residents for consultation purposes. Kirklees MC would prepare draft proposals and implement full consultations.

RESOLVED: That the above comments be noted.

Councillor Rogers indicated he had been approached by Upperthong residents with a request for a play area in Upperthong. A meeting was hoped to be held on 23 November 2006 and he would confirm this so that those Members who wished could be involved in a future project. There was no budget provision for a further play area.

### **06 57 Footpaths**

(1) Kirklees Rights of Way Forum - information sheet - 14 September 2006: Members had been circulated with the relevant information.

RESOLVED: That the Information Sheet be received.

(2) Holme Valley Riverside Way Steering Group - Minutes of meeting 18 September 2006: Members had been circulated with a copy of the above Minutes.

RESOLVED: That the information be received and noted.

(3) Holme Valley Riverside Way - parking issues in Holmfirth: Arising out of the above meeting Councillor Bellamy indicated the Group were looking for ways as to how it could encourage people to park at Sands and use the Riverside Way for access to Holmfirth. This would help to alleviate parking problems in the centre of Holmfirth. Councillor Bellamy would welcome any ideas Members could give.

RESOLVED: That ideas be forwarded to Councillor Bellamy as to how the footpath from Sands to Holmfirth along the Riverside Way can be promoted.

### **06 58 Arts Trail**

(1) Application to the Arts Council: Members were informed that the Application to the Arts Council was almost ready for submission. The Clerk was meeting with representatives of the Holme Valley Business Association and the artists involved during the current week and it was hoped when the issues with this part of the application had been resolved that it would be possible to finalise the application.

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RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(2) Final approval of the Application to the Arts Council: Once complete, the Final Application required approval before submission. Members were asked if they wished this to be submitted to the Working Party for such approval.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be given the authority to submit the application once she believes it is complete in all aspects.

(Cllr. Dixon voted against the principle of the Arts Trail)

### **06 59 War Memorials**

Maintenance of War Memorials: Councillor Bratt informed Members that it was proving very difficult for quotations to be obtained. The closing date for applications for grant was 31 October 2006 and because no quotations had been received it was most unlikely the Council would be able to apply for the grants in the current cycle.

RESOLVED: That efforts continue to obtain quotations and the grant applications prepared as soon as possible.

### **06 60 Bus Shelters and Seats**

(1) Seat at Far Lane, Hepworth: This seat had been damaged as a result of a tree falling on it. Local residents had removed the tree and were now looking at how the seat could be repaired. The Parish Council had accepted responsibility for future maintenance but it was questioned if this repair could be classed as maintenance.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted and no further action be taken at the present time.

(2) Greenfield Road, Holmfirth - removal of bus stop: Members had been circulated with copy correspondence from Metro which indicated that it was necessary to relocate a bus stop (Greenfield Road opposite Spring Lane) to allow the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Greenfield Road. This will result in bus stops 450 19123 and 450 19124 being 60 metres apart and for this reason 450 19124 will be removed (a both directions stop just above the primary school). Members commented that work had commenced on the pedestrian crossing.

RESOLVED: That no objection be made to the removal of bus stop 450 19124.

### **06 61 Exclusion of Public and Press**

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

### **06 62 Contractor**

(1) Review of contract in respect of maintenance of seats and shelters, cleaning of shelters and maintenance of the closed churchyard at New Mill: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that a period of six months had elapsed since the appointment of the Council's contractor and it was necessary to review his contract. Members were extremely pleased with the work the Contractor had carried out and it was

RESOLVED: (1) That the Contractor be informed that his contract has been reviewed and it will continue to 31 March 2007 on the same terms and conditions as previously agreed.

(2) That a letter of thanks for all his work be forwarded to the Contractor from the General Purposes Committee.

(2) New Mill Closed Churchyard - Maintenance: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from the New Mill Parochial Church Council addressed to the Contractor in which the thanks of the Church Council were expressed to him for the work he had undertaken at the closed churchyard.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

**06 63 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**