

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2007 -

Those present :

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 W J Kemp, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P J Rodgers, Cllr Mrs H L Rodgers, Cllr P D Searby

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrea Gosslin and Mrs. Spencer.

In the absence of Councillor Gosslin, Chairman of General Purposes Committee the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs. M.P. Court was appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

Councillor Otterburn was present in his ex-officio capacity as Chairman of the Council.

### **06 76 Disclosure of Interests**

None were given.

### **06 77 Admission of the Public**

RESOLVED: That item 15 - Budget Provision - be taken in private session due to the confidential nature of the item.

### **06 78 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 November 2006 numbered 06 64 - 06 75 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

### **06 79 Correspondence arising from the Minutes**

a) (Min No. 06 54) - Anti Social Behaviour - Kirkroyds, New Mill and Holme Close, Holmbridge - letter from Kirklees Anti-Social Behaviour Unit: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from Kirklees MC. The information in the letter and the telephone number of the unit was welcomed. (Kirklees Safer Communities Partnership - Telephone number 01484 416764 - for Councillors not at the meeting). Following recent reports of anti-social behaviour in the Upper Holme Valley, it was reported that some arrests had been made. This information was noted.

b) (Min. No. 06 54) - Vandalism issues in the area - letter from West Yorkshire Police: Members had received a copy of a letter from West Yorkshire Police regarding vandalism issues and the apparent lack of information following report of such incidents. It was stressed that the local Police and Community Support Officers were keen to keep local councillors and members of the community well informed through various means. Some success stories had occurred in the area and arrests had been made.

Members expressed their concerns, as before, that Community Support Officers had very little powers and although they appeared to be Police Officers, this was not the case, and they only had citizens' power of arrest.

It was agreed that the letter from West Yorkshire Police be noted and the information welcomed.

c) (Minute No. 06 73) The Deputy Clerk informed Members that a response had been received from the Department of Trade and Industry regarding the future of rural post offices. This was in response to a letter sent to the dti indicating the Parish Council's support for local Post Offices and their importance to local communities. The information was received and noted.

In connection with this item, the Deputy Clerk informed Members that an acknowledgement of the

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same letter had been received from Kali Mountford, MP. She indicated she would emphasise the importance of the community role of rural post offices to the Minister concerned. This was noted.

### **06 80 Complaints Procedure**

Substation at Woodlands (A1100) : Following recent reports of anti-social behaviour in this area, the Community Support Officer had reported that the above substation was in a very poor condition. It had now been confirmed by YEDL that the site would be tidied and the necessary repairs to the substation carried out. This was noted.

RESOLVED: That the site be checked and the YEDL thanked.

Seat at junction of Heys Road/Miry Lane, Woodlands: The seat at this site was in a poor condition. An anonymous request had been made that the seat be removed from the site. The local Ward Member was in the process of contacting residents of the nearest houses so seek opinions as to the suitability of this site. One of the Councillors indicated she had observed gatherings of young people at the seat.

RESOLVED: That the outcome of the survey of the local residents be awaited before any action is taken with regard to removal of the seat from the current site.

Satellite Navigation systems - large vehicles using unsuitable roads in the area: A local resident had raised concerns that heavy good vehicles were being directed on to unsuitable roads because drivers were depending on satellite navigation systems rather than maps and road signs. This was a common problem throughout the district but the original complaint was in respect of Magdale. Local Ward Members indicated problems within their Wards and, in particular the Woodhead Road through Holme was mentioned. It was felt some thought should be given to alternative signing at certain points, either multi lingual or visual.

RESOLVED: That the problems currently being encountered be reported to Kirklees MC Highways with a request that the Authority consider alternative ways of signing problem areas. It was suggested Kirklees MC should look at multi lingual, or visual, signs. This was suggested as many of the vehicles coming through Holmfirth and over the A6024 Holme Moss Road were foreign and the drivers were possibly not able to understand the current signage.

### **06 81 Footpaths**

Public Rights of Way Forum : The agenda and Information Sheet for the meeting held on 30 November 2006 had been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED: That the agenda and Information Sheet be received and noted.

### **06 82 Highway matters**

Survey of Parking Problems outside Elmwood Surgery: It was reported no further progress had been made with regard to completing the survey of traffic at the above location. The Councillors involved would arrange to complete the survey and report back to the Committee in due course.

### **06 83 Recreational Facilities**

Booth House, Holmfirth: Members were informed that Kirklees MC had carried out a consultation exercise with residents in the Booth House area. It was hoped a scheme would be available for Members to consider in the near future and money was included in the budget.

RESOLVED: That the local resident concerned be informed of the above and that following the consultation exercise it was hoped a scheme would be available for comment and that funding had been included in the budget for this provision.

### **06 84 Bus Shelters and Seats**

a) Members were informed that a local resident had requested the relocation of the bus shelter at Bradshaw Avenue, Honley. The request had been directed to Metro and that Authority had responded stating that when the shelter was erected this would have been subject to road safety checks and would have been sited in the safest location available.

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RESOLVED: That the information from Metro be noted but no further action be taken currently pending the outcome of the Council's negotiations with Metro as detailed below.

b) Future responsibility for bus shelters in the Holme Valley area: Councillor Otterburn indicated that the first Working Party appointed to consider this further had met. The Working Party had formulated points on which further discussion was required eg future ownership of the cantilever shelters, design and cleaning; ownership of the stone shelters, possible lighting improvements and whether some of the old stone shelters should be replaced. Members were circulated with a copy of the relevant issues. The Deputy Clerk indicated she had approached Metro with some suggested dates for a meeting but nothing had been arranged, as yet.

RESOLVED: That the issues as raised by Councillor Otterburn be the basis of the discussions with the representatives of Metro and that the necessary arrangements be made for a meeting in the near future.

c) Replacement shelter at Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that she was in the process of obtaining the necessary quotations for this shelter. It was hoped to submit these to the Insurance Company involved in the very near future. This action was approved.

### **06 85 Community facilities**

a) Kirklees MC - Changes to Cash and Information Service: Members had been circulated with information regarding the changes to come into force on the 24 January 2007 in respect of the Cash Office. This was to move into the Library in Holmfirth and would no longer take cash payments.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

b) Information Point: A local resident had asked if Holmfirth could have an Information Point as had been provided at other locations in the Kirklees MC area. This request was noted but no further action taken.

c) Community Notice Board: Councillor Bellamy indicated he had no positive feedback following his approach to the Holme Valley South Area Committee for funding.

RESOLVED: That the matter be left in abeyance currently.

d) Holme Valley Riverside Way Steering Group: The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2006 had been circulated to Members for information.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Holme Valley Riverside Way Steering Group be received.

### **06 86 Closed Churchyards**

Closed churchyards - Stability Test Force on Memorials: Members had been circulated with copy information regarding safety aspects of memorial stones in churchyards. The Deputy Clerk informed Members that specialist help would probably be needed to assess the safety of the gravestones in the site for which the Council is responsible. She was asked to seek further information and to report back to the Committee when appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the further information be obtained regarding stability tests on memorial stones in churchyards.

### **06 87 Representation**

Action for Market Towns - A Focus on Town Centre Management - 17 January 2007 - Newmarket: Because of the very short notice it was RESOLVED: That no representative be appointed to attend the above course.

### **06 88 Arts Trail**

HVBA Heritage Garden project: Members were asked to consider whether or not the Clerk of the Council should give assistance to the Holme Valley Business Association in completing grant funding applications. Members felt this was something which should be advisory only and that the Business Association should be responsible for completing such applications.

RESOLVED: That the Business Association be informed that Clerk to the Council can only assist in an

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advisory capacity.

**06 89 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 on the grounds that the matters to be discussed are of a confidential nature (agenda item 15 - budget provision).

**06 90 Budget Provision**

a) Members agreed that the second item under this heading (Picturedrome, Holmfirth) should be discussed first as it could have some bearing on the budget provision for 2007-08. Councillor Otterburn reported that following the Council's instructions, an application was now ready to be forwarded to English Heritage requesting that the Picturedrome be listed. Progress had been made and meetings held with other interested groups. Some grant aid had been awarded to the Valley Theatre Film Association, a local non-profit making group, and it was felt the Council should have some funding in the budget to assist with providing film in the valley, if required.

RESOLVED: That the current budget for New Projects be carried forward allocated to possible provision of film showings in the valley and that a further £5000 be included in the budget for 2007-08 for the same provision

b) Budget Provision 2007-2008 - to consider the future budget. Members had been circulated with a copy of the budget report. It was proposed and seconded and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That, with the addition of the above amount of £5000, the draft budget, as presented, be recommended to the Council from the General Purposes Committee.

**06 91 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**