

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2007 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A L Gosslin

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

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

Mr. C. N. Platts, Highways Safety Manager, Kirklees was in attendance.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. Court and Mrs. Hobson.

06 92 Disclosure of Interests

None were declared.

06 93 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED: That items 12 (War Memorials) and 13 (Contractor) on the agenda be taken in private session due to the confidential nature of the items.

The Chairman sought the permission of the Members to move item 11 CCTV cameras to this point on the agenda. This was agreed.

06 94 CCTV Cameras

Mr. C. N. Platts had offered to attend the meeting to give Members further details of the proposal to upgrade links from the Holme Valley to the CCTV control room. He indicated that the system in Holmfirth and Honley had never been totally successful in that there had always been difficulties with using standard telephone links and it was now proposed to convert the system to use the Kirklees MC intranet. Members were informed that the Parish Council held funds which remained from the original CCTV system installation for improvements to the CCTV system.

RESOLVED: (1) That the funds currently held be rounded up to £10,000 and that this amount be transferred to Kirklees MC as the Parish Council's contribution towards the cost of upgrading the system.

(2) That the Clerk makes the necessary arrangements for the payment of this amount before 31 March 2007.

Mr. Platts was thanked for his attendance at the meeting. He left the meeting at this point.

1 member of the public was in attendance from this point in the meeting.

06 95 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2007 numbered 06 76 - 06 91 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

06 96 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

Min. No. 06 73(1) - Postwatch - request for HVPC's support re closure of rural post offices: Members were informed that an approach had been made from this organisation to submit comments to the DTI regarding the closure of rural post offices. The Parish Council had already made appropriate comments to the DTI and the local MP. This was noted and no further action taken.

Min. No. 06 73(2) - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust: The Parish Council had forwarded information to the local churches regarding the care of the churchyards. Rev. S. Robertshaw had acknowledged receipt of

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the information.

The Deputy Clerk indicated two further letters had been received which required consideration and sought the Chairman's permission to raise them.

Naming of New Street, Long Lane, Honley: Because of the time constraints it had been necessary to raise this matter at this meeting. Names had been submitted by the Planning Committee and the Council's suggestion had been Short Lane. It was agreed that this suggested name be reiterated.

Min. No. 06 80 - Satellite Navigation Systems (SNS): A letter had been received from the Highways Safety Manager, Kirklees MC. It indicated the problems being experienced in the Holme Valley were duplicated throughout the country. Kirklees MC was in communication with the Department of Transport for dispensation for the use of non-standard 'pictorial' signs. Kirklees MC had made an offer for an Officer to attend one of the Parish Council's meetings. It was agreed that this offer should be accepted and arrangements made for an Officer of Kirklees MC to attend a meeting of the General Purposes Committee at some time in the future.

06 97 Complaints Procedure

The Deputy Clerk reported on the action taken in response to complaints -

- Daisy Lane - complaint regarding water run-off: Members were informed that complaints had been received that water run-off was causing difficulties in inclement weather. This was a private street. The matter had been passed to Kirklees MC.
- Hollowgate - damage to bridge: Following an accident at this location the bridge had been badly damaged. Local residents had asked that full consultation should take place prior to its repair to minimise inconvenience to local residents. This request had been passed to Kirklees MC as that was the authority responsible for the repair. This was noted.
- Waste collection and disposal - changes to collection arrangements: A complaint had been received from a local resident following a recent press release which indicated the waste collection service was to change whereby green and black bins would be collected on an alternate week basis. This was a change to the current system whereby black bins were collected each week and green bins monthly. The complainant felt it was an erosion of the service. She had been informed that the collection of waste was a Kirklees MC function but that the concerns would be passed to Kirklees. In further discussion the Members felt the Holme Valley presented difficulties because of the narrow roads and pavements and the inability to site wheelie bins at some locations. It was agreed that the concerns be passed to Kirklees MC.
- Highways signs - the sign at the junction for Netherthong on Thick Hollins Road had been turned to indicate Greenfield was in the direction of Netherthong. Although not in this Council's area the Deputy Clerk would report this to Kirklees MC.

06 98 Recreational Facilities

a) Play area - Oakes Avenue, Brockholes: Members noted that the play area at this site had been completed. Councillor Spencer indicated it was hoped to have an official opening shortly to which local dignitaries would be invited. Further details would be supplied when the information was available.

RESOLVED: That arrangements be made for the official opening of the play area.

b) Victoria Park, Holmfirth : Members were informed that as part of the refurbishment of Victoria Park it was hoped to remove the shelter and re-locate the facade elsewhere in Holmfirth. There were no firm details about this proposal at this stage. However, the refurbishment of the park was to be discussed at the Holme Valley South Area Committee on Tuesday, 27 February 2007 and Members indicated they would be in attendance at that meeting when more information would be available regarding the intended refurbishment of the park.

RESOLVED: That the outcome of the discussions at the Holme Valley South Area Committee be awaited regarding this proposed refurbishment and the removal of the shelter in the park and the subsequent re-use of the entrance of the shelter elsewhere.

During discussion of the above item it was reported that the residents of Holme had asked for the shelter in Victoria Park to be re-sited in Holme village: The stone had originally come from Yateholme and it was felt appropriate that it be used to rebuild the entrance to the children's play area in the village centre. Planning permission would be required for this purpose and preliminary discussions had

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been held with the Peak Park Planning Authority. At this stage there had been no objection from that Authority.

RESOLVED: That further information be awaited following discussions at the Holme Valley Area South Committee.

06 99 Bus Shelters and Seats

a) Future responsibility for bus shelters in the Holme Valley area: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the Working Party formed to discuss the future responsibility for bus shelters in the Holme Valley had met on 5 February 2007. A number of requests had been made to Metro regarding this provision and a letter was circulated which had been received since preparation of the agenda. The Working Party had identified some stone shelters which it felt should be removed, these were - Sycamore (New Mill Road), Banksville (New Mill Road), Bradshaw Road, Honley and New Road, Netherthong. However, the Members of the General Purposes Committee did not feel these shelters should be removed. Further information was required as to their structural soundness before taking any decision.

RESOLVED: That the Working Party should meet, as indicated; if this was not possible then another meeting should be arranged; that the negotiations with West Yorkshire PTE should continue and the recommendations of the Working Party should be reported formally when available.

b) Wagstaff, Scholes Moor Road, Holmfirth: Following the recent Council meeting the conditions at this shelter with regard to anti-social behaviour were reported to Kirklees MC and West Yorkshire Police. A reply had been received from the CCTV Manager which indicated the mobile CCTV van could be deployed shortly. It was felt by Members that more regular Police presence was needed at this site. To help in this situation Councillor Mrs. Spencer indicated she would contact Officers in the Noise Abatement Unit to ascertain if some measuring of noise levels could be taken.

The Council had asked the General Purposes Committee to consider lighting provision in this shelter but no further action was taken at the current time. It was felt Members should make representations regarding this shelter at the Area Committee's meeting on 27 February 2007.

RESOLVED: (1) That contact be made by Cllr. Mrs. Spencer with the Noise Abatement Unit with regard to monitoring noise levels.

(2) That representations be made at the forthcoming Holme Valley South Area Committee with regard to Police patrols in the area.

(3) That consideration of lighting provision in the shelter be left to a future meeting pending the outcome of the above requests.

c) Request for removal of bus shelter - Sycamore, New Mill Road, Holmfirth: A request for the removal of this shelter had been received from a local resident and had been forwarded to the Parish Council from West Yorkshire PTE. Currently the shelter was in a good state of repair but it had been identified by the Working Party for possible removal and replacement with a cantilever shelter. However, it had been indicated that Kirklees MC were possibly looking at the provision of a pedestrian crossing at this site. Should this be the case then it would be appropriate to consider the issues at this shelter when more information is available from Kirklees MC.

RESOLVED: That the issues at this shelter be considered when further information is available from Kirklees MC regarding the possible provision of a pedestrian crossing.

Seats

d) Seat at Heys Road, Holmfirth: No further information had been received regarding the request to remove this seat. In view of this it was agreed that the matter should be left in abeyance and no further action taken at the present time.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken at the present time.

06 100 Future Initiatives

Holmfirth Art and Music - Creativity in the Pennines: Members had been circulated with a Discussion paper submitted by Cllr. Otterburn. The proposal was to create an 'umbrella type organisation' to bring together all aspects of the arts and music in the area. As put forward it was felt the proposal was not fully inclusive and should incorporate all areas of the Holme Valley and its creativity. This proposal would not involve Parish Council staff time.

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RESOLVED: That the Parish Council can support the initiative in principle provided it is broadened to include all areas of the Holme Valley and all aspects of arts and music; the logo to be concentrated on the Holme Valley and not Holmfirth and the Pennines.

06 101 Arts Trail

Application to the Arts Council: Members had been circulated with a copy of the proposed submission to the Arts Council. Members indicated they were very happy with the statement and thanked the Clerk for her work in its preparation. With regard to future provision and the possible need for planning permission in some cases, it was agreed that the costs of obtaining any necessary planning permission should be funded from the budget costs already allocated for Arts Trail provision.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk proceeds with the application to the Arts Council
(2) That the Clerk be thanked for her work in connection with its preparation.
(3) That any planning permission costs be funded from within the budget allocation for arts projects.

Holme Valley Riverside Way Steering Group: Members had been circulated with the notes of meeting held 5 February 2007. It was reported that a change of date may be achieved for the next meeting; this would enable Parish Council Members to attend the Steering Group more easily. The suggested date clashes with Parish Council meetings.

RESOLVED: (1) That the notes of the meeting held 5 February 2007 be noted.
(2) That the Clerk pursues the possibility of a change of date for the next meeting of the Steering Group.

In discussions Councillor Bellamy indicated he wished to publicise the Yateholme Walk in the Upper Holme Valley. He indicated he would discuss this at a future meeting of the Steering Group should he be able to attend.

06 102 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 disclosed are of a confidential nature (agenda items 12 (War Memorials) and 13 (Contractor)).

06 103 War Memorials

Maintenance of War Memorials: The Deputy Clerk reported on the current situation in respect of the repair of three War Memorials in the area. Difficulties had been encountered with all three tenderers for various reasons. Currently, the Council did not have any quotations available and it would, therefore, not be able to apply for grant aid during the current period which expires on 30 April. However, because of the situation the Deputy Clerk had spoken with the Council's contractor and had obtained prices for the refurbishment of two other Memorials - these were Netherthong and Hepworth. The figures supplied by the contractor had been reported to the Working Party held prior to the General Purposes Committee meeting and it had been recommended by the Working Party that the General Purposes Committee be asked to consider the maintenance of one Memorial in the area, namely Netherthong, at a cost of £900. Further consideration of maintenance of Memorials would be discussed following this trial.

RESOLVED: That the contractor be authorised to clean and maintain the Netherthong War Memorial at a cost of £900.

Upperthong Church - Lychgates - further request for repair of the gates - The Deputy Clerk indicated that a further approach had been made from St. John's Church, Upperthong for the repair of the lychgate. There was, however, a question as to the Council's responsibility for this feature and it was agreed that consideration of this matter should be deferred to enable the Deputy Clerk to investigate previous decisions made by the Council.

RESOLVED: That this matter be deferred at the current time to enable investigations as to the implications of previous decisions; St. John's Church to be informed of the current situation.

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06 104 Contractor

Maintenance of seats and shelters, cleaning of shelters and maintenance of the closed churchyard at New Mill church: Members were asked if they wished to renew the contract for this work.

RESOLVED: That the current contractor's contract be renewed for a twelve month period and that the contractor be awarded a 3% increase in his hourly rate; the mileage rate to remain as now.

06 105 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