

Holme Valley Parish Council

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

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 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, Cllr Mrs J Spencer

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

Councillor Otterburn was present in his ex-officio capacity as Chairman of the Council
1 member of the press was present

Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were given.

06 106 Disclosure of Interests

None were declared.

06 107 Admission of the Public

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

06 108 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2007 numbered 06 92 - 06 105 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

06 109 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

Members noted the following matters -

(Min. No. 06 97) - Hollowgate bridge - repairs: The bridge was to be repaired in May and the timescale was approximately 3 weeks. Kirklees MC would carry out consultations with local residents

(Min. No. 06 97) - Sign - Thick Hollins Road - this had been re-aligned to give the correct directions to Greenfield

(Min. No. 06 99) - the bus shelter at Bradshaw Road, Honley had been painted - this was noted.

06 110 Complaints Procedure

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

(i) Cinderhills, Holmfirth - Members considered the request for double yellow lines outside the shop adjacent to the bus stop in Cinderhills, Holmfirth. Rather than yellow lines it was suggested a box should be printed on the road indicating the area is a bus stop and preventing its use for parking.

RESOLVED: That Kirklees MC be requested to provide such a road marking.

(ii) Bus stop sign - request for sign: Councillor Mrs. Court indicated there was no bus stop sign at Cinderhills, Holmfirth.

RESOLVED: That Metro be asked to provide a sign at the bus shelter at Cinderhills, Holmfirth.

(iii) Flytipping - Chippings dump - White Wells Road, Scholes: Following a complaint of flytipping, the contractor had removed the offending materials. This was noted. Councillor Mrs. Roberts indicated flytipping had occurred at a quarry site at Knowle Top, Honley. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed at a future meeting as it needed to be ascertained whether or not there was a right of way

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through the area for farm vehicles and the like. If there is no right of way it was suggested the site should be fenced to prevent tipping in the future.

RESOLVED: That this matter be discussed at a future meeting following investigations as to a right of way over the site.

06 111 Future Initiatives

- Holmfirth Art and Music - Creativity in the Pennines - Cllr. Otterburn was present at the meeting and addressed Members regarding this initiative and his wish to promote the arts in the Holme Valley. It was his wish that the logo should concentrate on Holmfirth, as it was widely recognised and well-known and had more impact. Members felt this was divisive and could alienate people within the Valley but outside Holmfirth. Members were concerned that the initiative should be inclusive of all arts in the Holme Valley and wished this to be depicted in the logo.

As, previously discussed, Members felt they could support the initiative in principle provided it is broadened to include all areas of the Holme Valley and all aspects of the arts; the logo to concentrate on the Holme Valley, not Holmfirth and the Pennines.

RESOLVED: That the above comments be noted and that Councillor Otterburn will raise the issue with the new Arts Group, as appropriate.

06 112 CCTV Cameras

Retail radio systems in Holmfirth and Honley: Following the recent discussions regarding CCTV improvements the Parish Council had been approached by Kirklees MC to enquire if it thought local traders would be interested in purchasing retail radio systems. Members did not feel they could answer for the local traders and felt the matter should be referred to the traders through the Holme Valley Business Association. A question was asked regarding the payment of the annual fee of £50 for the system licence, administration and base station maintenance. Members asked for clarification of this amount, eg was it a yearly one off payment or a £50 payment in respect of each retail radio taken up.

RESOLVED: (1) That further information be obtained regarding the system licence fee, as outlined above.

(2) That the matter be referred to the Holme Valley Business Association for that body to canvass its Members to report back on the interest shown.

06 113 Community facilities

The Holme Valley Transport Scheme: This matter had been raised at the last Council Meeting and further information had been sought from the relevant Doctor's Surgery. Information had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

Councillor Mrs. Roberts indicated she had spoken with the scheme organiser at Honley Surgery. Previous fund providers had withdrawn from the scheme but because the scheme was much valued throughout the area it was the wish of the Practice to continue to run a car service. Members indicated their views on the scheme and questioned the cost-effectiveness of withdrawing support for the scheme, which could result in Doctors having to spend more time visiting patients; not a good use of resources.

Councillor Mrs. Court indicated that Yorkshire Forward had taken over the role of the Countryside Agency and the Rural Transport Partnership might be able to provide some financial support for the scheme. Members also raised the question of a minibus running to the Surgeries at Oaklands and Elmwood. This had been trialled many years previously but lack of use had resulted in the service being lost. A question over the rural designation of the Holme Valley was raised and various steps were in place to prove the area was 'rural'. A local transport initiative recognised the rural nature of the area.

Following further discussion members felt this was a matter which should be commended to the next Council, when in place, and indicated budget funds could be available from one of the budget headings. In the meantime it was agreed that an approach should be made to the Primary Care Trust asking that body to explain the cost effectiveness of withdrawing the service and requesting it to supply financial justification for its cessation. The Committee also asked that the PCT's attention be drawn to the possible availability of funding under the Rural Transport Partnership.

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RESOLVED: (1) That a letter be prepared and sent to the Primary Care Trust along the above lines;
(2) That the PCT be informed of the scheme run by the Rural Transport Partnership from which funds may be available;
(3) That the matter be discussed at a future meeting of the Council with a commendation from this Committee as a scheme to be retained for the benefit of the people of the Valley and suggesting that some funds might be made available from the new budget.
(4) That the Honley Practice be informed of the above action.

06 114 Footpaths

Kirklees Public Rights of Way Forum: Members had been circulated with a copy of the Minutes dated 30 November 2006 and a copy of the Information Sheet dated 15 March 2007. These were noted.

RESOLVED: That the documents be received and noted.

Councillor Osborn asked if any progress had been made with regard to the submission of plans for the Pennine Bridleway which crossed land in the Upper Holme Valley. The Deputy Clerk indicated that to date there had been no further information. The matter was still on-going. This was noted.

06 115 War Memorials

(i) War Memorials - The Deputy Clerk indicated the problems being encountered in obtaining quotations to enable the Council to apply for grant funding. She also reported that there appeared to be some question as to how the Condition Surveys were interpreted. In the first instance it was agreed and she and the Clerk should visit each Memorial and check the surveys against the actual memorials.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk and Deputy Clerk inspect all the War Memorials and report back to a future Committee on the findings.

(ii) Upperthong Church - Lychgates: Inspection of the files indicated the General Purposes Committee had accepted that the Memorial Lychgates at Upperthong St. John's Church were a registered Memorial and were similar to gates and Memorials at other locations in the area and for this reason should be treated similarly. The General Purposes Committee had agreed in the past that maintenance of this Memorial should be added to those already the responsibility of the Parish Council, but, that because this was a much later addition to the total number, the maintenance of it would have to await the completion of the maintenance of the other Memorials in the area.

RESOLVED: That the Churchwarden of St. John's Church be informed that the Council is prepared to treat the lychgate and Memorial in the same way as others in the area but, that, it will have to await the completion of the maintenance of other Memorials in the area.

(iii) Memorial Safety - letter from Department for Constitutional Affairs: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from the Department for Constitutional Affairs. This gave some guidance as to how responsible authorities could deal with Memorial Safety. The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the closed churchyard at New Mill.

RESOLVED: That, in the first instance, the Council's contractor inspect the gravestones and memorials at New Mill and his opinion sought on the safety or otherwise of such stones and memorials.

06 116 Tidy Trader Award

(i) Tidy Trader competition 2007: It had been brought to the Parish Council's attention that there were some changes at Kirklees MC and that it had been suggested that the Parish Council could consider taking on the organisation of the Tidy Trader competition, with Kirklees MC Tourist Information Office arranging the floral hanging baskets, as usual.

Members discussed if this was to be the case then it should look at how the competition was organised. In previous years it had been quite difficult comparing the various different types of premises with each other. Councillor Otterburn suggested the scheme should be expanded with other centres being allowed to enter and the current general trophy be presented to the outright winner for the whole area but, in the case of the individual trophies, three categories should be set up and three separate trophies provided each year for the winners to keep. Budget funds had been set aside for expansion of the scheme but this was on a different format to that discussed previously. The Parish Council would organise the judging of the entrants, as in previous years.

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The Parish Council would require help from Kirklees MC in that it did not hold a database of businesses in the Holme Valley and provided this was available electronically then the Parish Council would be able to make the necessary contacts. Kirklees MC should be asked to organise the presentation event which could take place in the Council Chamber, as in previous years.

In order to make progress it was agreed that the competition should be split into three categories -

- a) Retail, Cafes, Restaurants and Hotels
- b) Public and Religious buildings
- c) Offices and business premises

RESOLVED: (1) That, subject to being supplied with an electronic database of businesses etc. by Kirklees MC, the Parish Council would take responsibility for organising the Tidy Trader competition each year.

(2) That Kirklees MC be asked to provide the refreshments at the presentation event; this to be held in the Council Chamber, Holmfirth.

(3) That the competition be split into three categories as indicated above as a trial to encourage entries with the general trophy being presented to the overall winner for the Holme Valley.

(4) That the Clerk enquires of the local Artist if he would be able to provide the necessary trophies and at what cost.

(5) That the competition be expanded to cover the whole of the Parish Council's area.

06 117 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.

06 118 Chairman's thanks

In closing the meeting, the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, thanked the Members and Officers for their support during the year and hoped they had enjoyed their period on the Committee. Members thanked Councillor Gosslin for her efforts during her year of office on behalf of the Council.

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Chairman