

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2007 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr C M Kaye

Vice-Chairman : Cllr T Bellamy

Councillors : Cllr L Bailey, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr G Christofi, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr T Dearnley, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr J M Greenwood, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr Mrs B E Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick, Mrs E Hirst

Public Question Time

Two members of the public were present, but had no questions to put to the Council.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Otterburn and K. Smith.

07 63 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED: That item 16 of the agenda be taken in private session owing to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

07 64 Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman and Vice Chairman reported on events attended on behalf of the Council:

- AGM of Agbrigg Girl Guides
- Remembrance Sunday services throughout the Valley were attended by Members of the Council
- Tidy Trader award ceremony
- Kirkburton Parish Council Civic Service at Flockton.

Members were also informed that they could respond individually, if they wished, to the letter circulated to all Members by the Saddleworth White Rose Society regarding a campaign to create a South Pennines Borough.

07 65 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 October 2007 numbered 07 46 - 07 58 inclusive be confirmed.

07 66 To confirm the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 22 October 2007 numbered 07 59 - 07 62 inclusive be confirmed.

Members were circulated with a response from FirstBus in reply to the Council resolution in Minute number 07 61. This letter would be discussed at a future meeting and was circulated for information only at this point. Members were reminded that they could, if they wished, correspond individually with the company, but only on a personal basis, and not on behalf of the Council.

07 67 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 October 2007 numbered 07 82 - 07 88 inclusive and on 22 October 2007 numbered 07 89 - 07 98 inclusive be confirmed.

07 68 To receive the Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee held on 15 October 2007 numbered 07 15 - 07 19 inclusive be received and adopted.

07 69 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 15 October 2007 numbered 07 14 - 07 22 inclusive and on 5 November 2007 numbered 07 23 - 07 29 inclusive be received and adopted.

In connection with Minute number 07 17 Members were circulated with Member Feedback Forms, and were encouraged by the Chairman to complete these forms as part of the review process. Members were also reminded of the need to observe confidentiality in respect of staffing discussions.

07 70 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 15 October 2007 numbered 07 48 - 07 62 inclusive be received and adopted.

Cllr. Mrs. Roberts thanked the Committee for information in relation to the Rural Transport Partnership which had facilitated the award of a grant to the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme from this partnership.

In connection with Minute number 07 61, it was reported that four applications for grant for works to War Memorials had been submitted, within the deadline.

07 71 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 5 November 2007 numbered 07 28 - 07 38 inclusive be received and adopted.

The Clerk was thanked for making all the necessary arrangements for re-scheduling this meeting. Members were informed that details of guidance available from the Information Commissioner could be obtained from the office.

07 72 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for October 2007 totalling £12,833.44 be approved.

Cllr. T. Dixon declared a prejudicial interest in the payment of one account and withdrew from the meeting.

07 73 Reference from a Committee

- Strategy and Policy Committee Minute number 07 18 - the Chairman outlined to the Council ideas which had been proposed by the Conservative group to the Strategy and Policy Committee for future budget policy. The Strategy and Policy Committee had not taken any resolution in this respect; the Council was now asked to consider these proposals. The Conservative Group on the Council was confident that such a reduction could be achieved.

RESOLVED: That the Council will aim to reduce its precept by 25% over the next three years, with a 10% reduction in each of the next two years, followed by a 5% reduction in year three.

07 74 Representation

(1) As discussed at the Finance and Management Committee (Minute number 07 36(1)), a nomination was sought to represent the Council on a proposed EU Leader partnership covering parts of Kirklees, Bradford and Calderdale presuming that this bid progresses to the next round of consideration.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Kaye represents the Council on the Stakeholder Group for this bid, provided that the Council's request for such representation is accepted.

(2) Reports of attendance at the following events were received and noted:

(i) Picture of Kirklees 2007 - Conference - 11 October 2007 - Cllr. Kaye commented on proposals within Kirklees for Localities Management and that these would have a significant impact locally. The Parish Council needed to be kept informed and to seek to be actively involved in the process.

(ii) Holmfirth Community Breakfast - 16 October 2007 - Cllrs. Kaye and Bellamy reported on three focus areas which were discussed: anti-social behaviour, areas of deprivation within the Valley, and family support for those suffering deprivation. It was agreed that some aspects of these discussions should be discussed further by the General Purposes Committee.

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(iii) Lupton Fawcett - Employment Law seminar - 31 October 2007 - Cllr. Kaye indicated that advice offered at this seminar in relation to employment law and recruitment was invaluable to the Council in view of the forthcoming recruitment process the Council would have to undertake. The Council must comply with all such legislation.

(iv) YLCA - South Pennine Branch Meeting - 7 November 2007 - In the absence of Cllrs. Kaye and Greenwood, the Clerk had been asked to attend this meeting and she reported on issues discussed. The Branch had supported Holme Valley Parish Council's request that pressure be put on Central Government to tackle the problem of vehicles using routes suggested by satellite navigation systems which were unsuitable for the size of vehicles. This request would now be considered by the Joint Executive Board of YLCA, for possible consideration by NALC. There had also been a useful discussion on the bid for EU funding as mentioned earlier.

(v) YLCA - Supporting Larger Councils - 8 November 2007 - Cllr. Kaye had attended this inaugural forum meeting. Although there had been consensus that there was no requirement for a more formal grouping of larger Councils, it was agreed that twice yearly informal liaison meetings were helpful. There had been an interesting presentation on the newly enacted Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, which had important implications for Parish Council. The Chairman highlighted one aspect of the new Act concerning Parish Reviews and it was reaffirmed that any Parish Review by the Principal Authority needed to be undertaken in consultation with existing Parishes. It was agreed that this point should be emphasised to Kirklees MC given the forthcoming planned Parish Review. It had been a useful day, and he would encourage all Councillors to take up such opportunities to undertake training and participate in networking opportunities.

RESOLVED: That the reports be received and all thanked for their attendance on behalf of the Council.

07 75 Local Area Committees

Holme Valley North Area Committee Meeting - three main issues had been discussed: the creation of a Quiet Zone at Magdale, Honley, which would be the first in the north of England; a proposed bridleway through Honley Old Wood, and the development of Meltham Greenway.

Holme Valley South Area Committee Meeting - scheduled to take place on Tuesday 13 November 2007.

RESOLVED: That the above report be received.

07 76 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED: That the business of the Council now to be transacted be not open to the public and press on the grounds that the matters to be discussed are of a confidential nature.

07 77 To consider motions received

The following motion was considered by the Council:

"To receive and consider evidence of misconduct, irregular and offensive behaviour and breach of confidentiality by a Councillor, and if upheld to implement provisions in Standing Order 8.2 for removal of the Councillor from all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council. Reinstatement to Committees to be reviewed in 3 months".

RESOLVED: (1) That, having considered the evidence laid before the Council, the Councillor so named be removed from all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council to which previously appointed, in accordance with Standing Order 8.2, with immediate effect, for a period of three months, to be reviewed after expiry of this period

(2) That, in confirmation of Council Minute number 07 07(6), the Councillor so named will receive agendas and accompanying papers for full Council meetings and will be sent copies of all agendas of Committee meetings; should further information be requested from the office, such requests will be referred to the Council before supply.

As a consequence of the above, it was further

RESOLVED: (1) That Cllr. Dearnley be appointed to fill the resulting vacancy on the Staffing Committee with immediate effect

(2) That Cllr. T. Dixon be appointed to fill the resulting vacancy on the Publications and

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Communications Committee with immediate effect.

07 78 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