

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr C M Kaye

Vice-Chairman : Cllr T Bellamy

Councillors : Cllr L Bailey, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr J M Greenwood, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr A R Otterburn, 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

Public Question Time

5 members of the public were present; one of whom wished to address the Council.

He wished to alert Members to a serious incident which had occurred outside Holmbridge Parish Hall following a private booking; both he and his son had been assaulted and he was concerned about the slow response on the part of the Police to attend at the incident, to take witness statements as a result of the incident and the lack of action in respect of the perpetrators.

Members were deeply concerned by his report, and individual Councillors agreed to take this up with the Parochial Church Council, and for it to be raised at a forthcoming Farmwatch meeting with the Police. The gentleman was also invited to come to that meeting, if he so wished, to raise the matter directly with the Police. Details of the meeting were later passed to him.

Report from Recipient of Grant

Members of Holme Valley Music Centre were in attendance to address Members about their concert tour of Poland for which a grant had been received. The young musicians present explained briefly about the tour, how much the concerts had been appreciated by the audiences, and what they had gained from the experience of performing, particularly in another country. The Music Centre Co-ordinator also spoke in support of the benefit the Band had gained from such a trip and thanked the Council for its financial support.

The Chairman thanked them for coming to the meeting, and indicated that the Council had been delighted to assist the Music Centre in this venture.

To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Christofi, Dearnley, Mrs. Hall and K. Smith.

07 92 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr. T. Dixon declared a prejudicial interest in the payment of one account (agenda item 13).

07 93 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

RESOLVED: That item 20 of the agenda be taken in private session owing to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

07 94 To receive Chairman's report

The Chairman indicated that there had not been much activity to report to Council but he wished to congratulate the Clerk on being accepted as a Founder Member and Fellow of the new Institute of Local Council Management. Members congratulated the Clerk on this achievement.

The Vice Chairman reported that he had attended Saddleworth Civic Dinner on behalf of the Council which had been very enjoyable.

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07 95 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17 December 2007 numbered 07 79 - 07 91 inclusive be confirmed.

07 96 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 December 2007 numbered 07 118 - 07 126 inclusive, on 9 January 2008 numbered 07 127 - 07 138 inclusive and on 4 February 2008 numbered 07 139 - 07 151 inclusive be confirmed.

In connection with Minute number 07 150 the Clerk sought Members' agreement to a further change in the date. Election Officers at Kirklees Council had sought permission to use the Council Chamber in preparation for the elections on 1 May 2008; a meeting on 28 April 2008 would cause problems for both the Council and Election Services. It was agreed that the meeting could be brought forward to 21 April, to be held after the Finance and Management Committee meeting scheduled for that evening.

07 97 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 14 January 2008 numbered 07 78 - 07 95 inclusive were received and adopted.

Minute number 07 87, Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme, it was confirmed that some of the concerns raised had been allayed, but it was felt that it would still be helpful for further information to be given to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

The Clerk reported briefly on the outcome of deliberations by the General Purposes War Memorials Working Party (07 92); acceptance of the Council for the various grant offers would be sent, and arrangements for works to be carried would be put in hand. This information was noted.

07 98 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 21 January 2008 numbered 07 51 - 07 63 inclusive be received and adopted, with one correction to the list of attendance.

07 99 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 28 January 2008 numbered 07 36 - 07 44 inclusive and on 4 February 2008 numbered 07 45 - 07 49 inclusive be received and adopted, with the following addition to Minute number 07 39, that the Interview Sub Committee be authorised to readvertise the post and restart the recruitment process, in the event that no appointment is possible during the current process.

The Chairman reported briefly on the meeting which had been held earlier that evening. The Staff Development Review had been successfully completed and he sought the Council's approval of this. The Chairman thanked the Members and the Officers for their co-operation in this procedure, and indicated that there had been an increased response from Members this year.

The Staffing Committee has also discussed some arrangements suggested during the Deputy Clerk's absence on leave when the Clerk would be operating on her own. Members were asked to keep visits and calls to a minimum to assist the Clerk. She had also been authorised to carry over to the next financial year, holiday due to her, but that it was hoped she would be in a position to take holiday in the month before the Deputy Clerk's retirement.

Members were also informed that interviews for the new post would be held that week.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman's report of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 18 February 2008 be noted and the actions outlined approved.

07 100 To receive the Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee held on 28 January 2008 numbered 07 20 - 07 26 inclusive be received and adopted.

It was noted that the draft budget and precept decision would be discussed later in the agenda.

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07 101 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment for December 2007 (part II) totalling £13.57 and January 2008 totalling £11,810.10 be approved.

07 102 Representation

(1) The Council received reports of attendance at the following events: NALC Northern Conference - Skipton - a written report had been circulated to Members, but the information about a Youth Council had been particularly interesting, and it was indicated that this might be a topic for future discussion by the Strategy and Policy Committee. It was agreed that Cllr. Mrs. B. E. Smith should be invited to the meeting when this item was on the agenda.

Holmfirth Community Breakfast - Cllr. Bellamy reported that this had been a most useful networking event, which had concentrated on family and children's issues. It was hoped to open a Children's Centre in the Holme Valley South area.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be received and the Councillors thanked for their attendance.

(2) Members considered representation at the forthcoming events, some of which were training opportunities (Finance and Management Minute number 07 58 refers).

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk be authorised to attend the SLCC Larger Local Councils Conference as part of her training commitment for the year; delegate fees and associated expenses to be met by the Council

(2) That Councillors Bellamy and Mrs. Roberts be authorised to attend the Peak Park Parishes' Forum; delegate fees and associated expenses to be met by the Council

(3) That the information about other events be noted and the recommendations of the Finance and Management Committee approved.

07 103 Local Area Committees

Holme Valley North Area Committee: Members indicated the issues discussed at the last meeting, ie Magdale and its potential designation as "a quiet road", the skatepark to be created at Jagger Lane, and local residents' desire that work be carried out on this project before the works to the People's Park.

Holme Valley South Area Committee: There had been significant discussion about policing issues, works at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme, and the proposed Experimental Disk Parking scheme. An issue highlighted by the Area Committee relating to Wooldale Cliffe would be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and Management Committee.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be received.

07 104 To receive and consider reports

(1) RESOLVED: That the appointment of Mazars as External Auditors to Holme Valley Parish Council for a five year period be noted

(2) RESOLVED: That the action taken by the Clerk in respect of a potential accident claim at Wooldale Cliffe Road be approved and that this matter be left in the hands of the Council's Insurers

(3) RESOLVED: That the consultation on Orders and Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England - Department for Communities and Local Government be noted as were the Clerk's comments in this respect.

07 105 To appoint Chairman and Vice-Chairman Elect

Civic year 2008-09: Nominations were invited for the appointment of the Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2008-09. It was proposed, seconded and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That Councillor Trevor Bellamy be nominated Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2008-09.

Nominations were then invited for the appointment of Vice Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2008-09. It was proposed, seconded and

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UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs. Judith Roberts be nominated Vice Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2008-09.

07 106 Precept and Budget

Members considered the draft budget and precept level for 2008-09, as proposed by the Strategy and Policy Committee.

RESOLVED: (1) That the budget for 2008-09, as before the Council, be approved and adopted
(2) That the Council issues a precept on Kirklees Council of £148,500 and that the Clerk takes the necessary action to issue such a precept by the due date
(3) That the Clerk prepares the necessary information for inclusion with the Council Tax leaflet as required by legislation, and that she be delegated to agree this information before it is submitted to Kirklees Council.

07 107 To review membership of Standing Committees

Membership of Standing Committees was reviewed by the Council as agreed in minute number 07 77.

RESOLVED: (1) That membership of the Finance and Management Committee be as follows:
Councillors Mrs. Bower, Dearnley, R.P. Dixon, T. Dixon, Greenwood, Kaye, Oldfield, Otterburn, Robinson, Beryl Smith and K. Smith
(2) That membership of the Planning Committee be as follows:
Councillors Bailey, Bellamy, Mrs. Bower, Mrs. Bratt, Christofi, Cropper, Dearnley, R.P. Dixon, T. Dixon, Greenwood, Mrs. Hall, Kaye, Oldfield, Mrs. Osborn, Mrs. Roberts, Searby, Basil Smith, Mrs. Beryl Smith, K. Smith and Mrs. Walker
(3) That no change be made to the other Committees as currently appointed.

07 108 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED: That the business of this 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.

07 109 To consider action to be taken regarding requests for information

Members considered requests for information submitted by a solicitor on behalf of a Councillor and by the Councillor; some of the information requested was covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000, some by the Data Protection Act 1998, in addition to requests for other information.

Given the nature of the requests, it was

RESOLVED: (1) That a Special Committee, to be chaired by the Chairman of Council, comprising the Chairman of the Council, the Vice Chairman of the Council, and the Chairmen of the General Purposes, Planning and Staffing Committees, be appointed to consider these requests and to resolve how to deal with them
(2) That this Committee be delegated authority to resolve any problems relating to these requests to bring the matter to a close; to respond to the requests appropriately under the different legislation, following advice received
(3) That this Committee be delegated authority to incur expenditure on such legal advice as may prove necessary or advisable.

07 110 Freedom of Information Act 2000 - to agree what information will be made available to the public

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