

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 21 JANUARY 2008 -

Those present :

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs B E Smith

Councillors : Cllr M Bower, Cllr T Dearnley, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr P Robinson

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors R. P. Dixon, Greenwood and Otterburn.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. B. E. Smith took the Chair.

07 51 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

07 52 Admission of the Public

It was agreed that no items required to be taken in private session, unless any question arose during discussion of items which was felt to be confidential.

07 53 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2007 numbered 07 39 - 07 50 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

07 54 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

Members noted receipt of an acknowledgement from the Holme Valley Piscatorial Association of the grant awarded by the Council.

07 55 Investment of Income

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's action in the investment and withdrawal of the Council's funds be approved and the current rates of interest applying to the Council's accounts be noted.

07 56 Financial Statement

RESOLVED: That the Financial Summary, Comparison and Income as at 31 December 2007 be approved.

07 57 Applications for Grant

Members considered an application from Holmfirth Festival of Folk for financial support towards the costs of providing family street theatre at the Festival.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £250 be awarded to Holmfirth Festival of Folk towards this provision.

07 58 Conferences and Seminars

Members considered the Clerk's report detailing various conferences and training opportunities on offer during the year. The Chairman of the Council commented on the number of opportunities and the different formats available to both Members and officers to attend such events; he would encourage less experienced Members to take up these opportunities.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council approves the recommendations for attendance at conferences and seminars as shown in the attached report

(2) That attendance at occasional or regional events be considered subject to the content on offer

Holme Valley Parish Council

(3) That such a report be considered each year at an appropriate time in the civic year.

07 59 Administrative Matters

(1) YLCA - South Pennine Branch Meeting - the Clerk informed Members that the next meeting of YLCA South Pennine Branch was scheduled to be held at Holme Valley Parish Council Chamber. It was normal practice to provide refreshments before and after the meeting, in view of the distances Members had to travel.

RESOLVED: That the date of the meeting be noted (12 March 2008) and that the Clerk be authorised to make the necessary arrangements, including refreshments, the likely cost of which was approved.

(2) Councillors' Surgeries - It had been requested that the Council should consider holding Councillors' surgeries at locations other than the Council Chamber. Details and costs of various venues were available. It was suggested that some wards could be grouped together for such surgeries, and it was noted that some venues would be available free of charge, provided the venue was already open.

The following groupings and locations were suggested:

Holmfirth Central - to continue to use the Council Chamber
Honley Central and East, South and West and Brockholes (?) - to meet in Honley Library
Fulstone, Hepworth, Scholes and Wooldale - to meet in New Mill Library

Brockholes - check with Ward Members as to suitable location, if preferred
Netherthong)
Upper Holme Valley) - Ward Members to be consulted as to suitable locations.
Upperthong)

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council pilots for one year, holding surgeries at locations other than the Council Chamber, and that the above groupings and locations be trialled from the beginning of the new Civic year

(2) That all such surgeries be held quarterly

(3) That Councillors be responsible individually for ensuring that there is Council representation on their behalf, if not able to attend

(4) That Councillors be responsible for recording information relating to residents' inquiries, and for relaying this information to the Council offices, so that items can be placed on agendas, if necessary

(5) That the Clerk be asked to make the necessary arrangements for the new Civic year.

07 60 To consider quotations

(1) Annual Service of Public Clocks - the Committee considered further quotations for the annual servicing of public clocks in the Holme Valley.

RESOLVED: That a contract be entered into in the sum of £510 for the annual servicing of the public clocks, subject to obtaining satisfactory references.

(2) Repairs to Chairman's Chain of Office - the Clerk reported on investigations carried out into obtaining quotations for further repairs to the Chairman's Chain of Office. Experienced jewellers capable of undertaking repairs to the enamel of the Chain did not live locally, and would have difficulty in providing a quotation without sight of the Chain of Office. Some possible ranges of costs were indicated depending on the amount of work which might prove necessary.

RESOLVED: That a sum of £600 be set aside in the budget for possible repairs to the Chairman's Chain of Office, and that the question of arranging for such repairs be considered again in the future.

07 61 Budget Preparations

Members considered information relating to its previous recommendations for budget provision 2008-09; some amendments were suggested in view of the Clerk's report, and the earlier decision relating to the Chairman's chain of office needed to be taken into account.

RESOLVED: That the amendments to the budget as discussed be incorporated into the Committee's recommendations for the budget provision 2008-09.

Holme Valley Parish Council

07 62 Awarded Quarries

(1) Lupton Fawcett - Members noted the change of personnel at the company, and the current progress of a few outstanding items.

(2) Discussions with Charity Commission - Members approved the response to the Charity Commission prepared by the Clerk, and approved the letter and information to be enclosed, but wished the point regarding the urgency to make progress emphasised more strongly.

RESOLVED: That the letter be sent to the Charity Commission as soon as possible, amended as discussed.

(3) Youth Club site, White Wells, Scholes - having examined the land registered to the Council in conjunction with the submitted planning application, it was felt that the planning application for the adjacent land did not actually impact on the Council's land.

RESOLVED: That the planning application on the adjacent site be noted, but as it is not felt to be encroaching on the Council's land, no action needed to be taken at the moment.

(4) Sude Hill, New Mill - In accordance with minute number 07 26, the Clerk had contacted residents who may use this land for parking, or who would have to drive over the area to access their property. The Clerk reported that many of the residents contacted wished to request the Council's permission to cross the site to access their property and parking spaces. It was also noted that one resident was in the process of selling his property and he would ask permission to pass such permitted access to any purchaser to the site.

RESOLVED: That the residents be granted permission, as requested, to park on the site and/or to cross the Council's land in order to access their properties.

(5) Knoll Lane, Netherthong - to consider provision of litter bin as requested -

RESOLVED: That the purchase and installation of a litter bin at this site be approved, and the Clerk be asked to make the necessary arrangements.

With reference to minute number 07 21, the Clerk also reported urgent action she had taken in relation to a potential insurance claim in connection with Wooldale Cliffe Road. This was noted and her action approved.

07 63 Freedom of Information Act 2000

RESOLVED: That, under the Council's Publication Scheme, supporting papers for any item within the public session be made available, if requested, after approval of the minutes by the full Council.

.....

Chairman