

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 03 MARCH 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr D M Firth

Councillors : Cllr L Bailey, Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

To accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Christofi and Cllr Mrs Osborn.

Cllrs T Dixon and Greenwood were present as observers.

07 96 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None were declared.

07 97 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

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

07 98 Speakers at meetings

(1) The Chairman welcomed Mr Neil Holt and Mr Alan Bishop of West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, who updated the Council on the impact of the changes to bus services in the Holme Valley which had been introduced in December 2007. Some adjustments had already been made to address identified issues.

The main outstanding issues related to the lack of passengers using service H8/9 which was likely to result in the service being discontinued at the end of the trial period. There were also considerable concerns about services used by young people going to and from Holmfirth High School. Other changes to the timetable were in the pipeline.

Mr Holt also mentioned the discontinuation of service 335 at the end of April 2008 due to lack of use. This might well be replaced with a taxi bus service. Service 61 was also to be withdrawn.

It was agreed that agenda item 11 should be taken at this point in the meeting. It was agreed that whilst there were still problems with people becoming accustomed to the new routes and timetables, after an initially poor start, services had become more reliable since the New Year.

(i) Holme Valley Service Changes: The lack of passengers using H8/9 may mean its withdrawal, and Members discussed whether changes to the minibus services should be investigated to fill this gap in provision.

RESOLVED: That no changes be made in the meantime to Holme Valley Minibus Services, but that this position be reviewed at the end of the trial period for service H8/9.

(ii) School Bus Provision: Problems relating to buses used by school pupils were discussed, including the lack of dedicated school buses, the late, or non-arrival, of such services, overcrowding, and unsuitable timing of buses for school times. Mr Holt confirmed that further changes would be made to make the timings more appropriate for school times, and that FirstBus would be asked to liaise with the High School, so that publicity could be given to such changes before the Easter holiday. Such changes would be introduced after the Easter break.

RESOLVED: That the above information be welcomed.

(iii) Service 335: Information about this service and its withdrawal had already been given to the

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meeting.

Mr Holt and Mr Bishop were thanked for their attendance at the meeting, and left the meeting.

(2) Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme: The Chairman welcomed Ms Helen Kitching, Development Manager, and Dr D S Rawcliffe, GP, of Honley Surgery, who reported on the current position re funding for the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme.

Conflicting information had been received about funding received from the PCT. Ms Kitching confirmed that the last payment the surgeries had received from the PCT was in March 2007. Members were circulated with supporting documents. Members felt that the further information had reassured concerns expressed.

RESOLVED: That the Council should support its previous resolution to provide £2,500 in this financial year and £2,500 next year, towards funding for the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme which served the Elmwood, Honley and Oaklands Surgeries.

Dr Rawcliffe thanked the Parish Council for its support for this scheme. Dr Rawcliffe and Ms Kitching were thanked for their attendance at the meeting. They both left the meeting.

07 99 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 14 January 2008 numbered 07 78 - 07 95 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

07 100 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

(1) Safety at New Mill Road/Bill Lane junction: In connection with Minute number 07 83(b) Cllr B A Smith reported that a meeting would be held at Wooldale Community Centre on 11 March 2008 to discuss the siting of the proposed puffin crossing. Members also noted correspondence from a group of local residents on the same issue.

(2) It was also reported that the contractor had accepted the contract for another year to maintain shelters, seats and the closed Churchyard at New Mill (Minute number 07 94).

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

07 101 Complaints Procedure

(1) Blocked drain at Giles Street/Outlane, Netherthong - problem been rectified in short term, further action to be investigated by Kirklees Council

(2) Seat at Five Lane Ends - block by cars - Ward Councillors to investigate

(3) Request for litter bin outside the toilets in Holme Village provided

(4) Damaged wall on Woodhead Road, Holmbridge - Kirklees Walling Team to inspect and report. Cllr Bellamy to monitor

(5) Wheelie Bins left on footway - Kirklees Cleansing Services aware of problem

RESOLVED: (1) That the above complaints and actions be noted and authorised

(2) That the Publications and Communications Committee be asked to include an article in a future edition of Holme Valley Voice to request that residents remove bins from footways as soon as possible after bins are emptied.

07 102 Highway matters

(1) Experimental Disk Parking: A letter of objection from a local business had been received regarding these proposals:

RESOLVED: That the Clerk acknowledges this letter of objection indicating that the Council will await the outcome of the consultation period before commenting further.

(2) Car parking, Holmfirth centre: Correspondence had been received from a Church member about problems of parking on a Sunday. Members felt that the Sunday permit parking arrangements had worked well, and should address this issue.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contacts the local resident with information about obtaining a car parking permit from the Church Warden of the Parish Church.

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(3) Footway width and safety issues at New Mill near development site: Correspondence had been received from the local school, but the Chairman indicated that he had already spoken with the developer and resolved this issue for the time being. It was agreed that problems were also being experienced with vehicles from the development site blocking the car park, and with mud causing safety problems on the road surface.

RESOLVED: That the school be informed that such problems are already being addressed, but that in the event of any further problems, contact should be made with Cllr Firth.

(4) Huddersfield Road - outside Doctors' surgeries: Following a request for parking restrictions, Members agreed that a traffic and parking survey should be carried out.

RESOLVED: That Kirklees Highways Services be asked to carry out such a survey over a twelve hour period.

(5) New Mill - traffic concerns on A616: Members noted a further letter from local resident and a reply from Kirklees Council (minute number 07 83(e) refers). This letter had already been acknowledged.

07 103 Footpaths and Bridleways

Holme Valley Riverside Way Steering Group: Notes of the meeting held on 11 February 2008 had been circulated. The Clerk reported on the Riverside Way walk taking place on 15 March 2008, and parking arrangements for this.

RESOLVED: That the above information be received.

07 104 Recreational Facilities

(1) Provision of play area at Burnlee (Booth House): A plan of the site was available, but the Clerk reported that Kirklees Council hoped to send the scheme out for pricing shortly. The proposed design had included a teen shelter which had caused local residents some concerns. It was now proposed to omit the teen shelter from the scheme.

RESOLVED: That the proposed design be noted, but that omission of the teen shelter be welcomed.

(2) Provision of skate park - Jagger Lane, Honley: A request had been received from Kirklees Council, Holme Valley North Area Committee regarding the likely shortfall in funding for this scheme; however, it was reported that the Area Committee had, in fact, approved full funding for this scheme.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council is unable to offer financial support to this scheme, as its budget for this heading is already fully committed.

(3) Improvements to Victoria Park: Correspondence had previously been received from a resident inquiring about improvements to local play areas. A copy of the design improvements to Victoria Park was available, and had been sent to the resident in answer to his inquiries. It was also reported that works had now, in fact, commenced.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

07 105 Budget Provision

Budget Provision 2007-2008: Following the earlier discussion and report, it was

RESOLVED: That the first contribution of £2,500 to the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme be released by the end of March 2008.

07 106 Environmental issues

(1) Purchase of dog waste bags: The Clerk reported on price comparisons for a supply of dog waste bags. It was felt that this was very cost-effective publicity for Holme Valley Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That 25,000 biodegradable dog waste bags be purchased from the current supplier, preprinted with the Council's name.

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(2) Brockholes Recreation Ground: Kirklees Cllr Rogers had requested a supply of dog waste bags for a future event to be held at the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That a supply of dog waste bags be provided as requested.

(3) Provision of litter bins at Digley Reservoir: Members had been circulated with copies of correspondence from Kirklees Council and Yorkshire Water in this respect. Yorkshire Water is the landowner and has a 'duty of care', but Kirklees Council can monitor cleanliness standards using its enforcement powers. Kirklees Environmental Services Enforcement Team will liaise with Yorkshire Water about this.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

07 107 Closed Churchyards

Failed Boundary Wall - Christ Church, New Mill: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from the Chairman of the Church Building Committee, indicating that the maintenance of the boundary wall is not the Church's responsibility. An offer was made by the Parochial Church Council to arrange for the removal of a tree, as a contribution towards resolving the matter.

Before considering this offer further, it was

RESOLVED: That it should be established what work is required to the wall, and some comparative costs obtained for undertaking such work.

07 108 War Memorials

Cllr Roberts left the meeting, having declared an interest in item (2) below.

(1) Request from resident for the addition of a name to the War Memorial at Holme Valley Memorial Hospital: Members discussed this request, but had some concerns about the addition of names of casualties, not killed in an active campaign. There was also the difficulty of establishing details of other such casualties.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contacts the resident requesting clarification on the circumstances of his son's death, and explaining the criteria for changing, correcting or adding to existing memorials.

(2) Improvement works and acceptance of quotations: Grants awarded from the War Memorials Trust and English Heritage had now been accepted and the War Memorials Working Party had made recommendations in respect of acceptance of quotations. Further discussions would be necessary with the preferred contractors to ensure compliance with method statements issued in respect of the grants.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted, and the recommendations of the Working Party regarding acceptance of quotations be approved.

07 109 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