

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr D M Firth

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs J M Osborn

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

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

Cllr. Kaye was present in his ex-officio capacity as Chairman of the Council.

1 member of the public was present.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Roberts.

### **07 78 Disclosure of Interests**

None were declared.

### **07 79 Admission of the Public**

RESOLVED: That item 17 (Renewal of Contract) on the agenda be taken in private session due to the confidential nature of the item to be discussed.

### **07 80 Speakers at meetings**

CCTV provision: The Chairman welcomed Mr. B. O'Brien of Vetatech and his colleague to the meeting. Members watched a video presentation of how CCTV cameras were deployed and were informed of their effectiveness in presenting cases to court for prosecution. Because of the smallness of the camera involved they were easy to install at sites such as bus shelters and public buildings and it was very easy to re-site them. Pictures were transmitted to a control room which was sited locally. The pictures were of a very high clarity and cameras operated at 25 frames per second. The average costs involved were £2500 for a camera which included monitoring and management; this cost could be spread over 5 years ie £500 per annum. There was a cost involved when re-siting cameras.

Mr. O'Brien and his colleague were thanked for their attendance at the meeting. A general invitation was given to Members to contact the Vetatech office and arrange to see the operation in action.

### **07 81 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 19 November 2007 numbered 07 63 - 07 77 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

### **07 82 Correspondence arising from the Minutes**

Min. No. 07 66 - Digley car park - request for litter bins: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from Kirklees Council regarding this matter. Members were disappointed that there appeared to be an unwillingness to provide facilities at Digley and that Kirklees Council would not be prepared to empty litter bins at the site. Members were concerned that the letter was unhelpful and the Deputy Clerk was asked to write to the Head of Service indicating the Parish Council was unhappy with the tone of the letter. This was agreed.

In discussing the above issue, Members indicated their concern at the amount of polystyrene containers discarded in the town. Once again it was felt that take-away food shops should be made responsible for disposing of the containers and the Deputy Clerk was asked to write to Kirklees Council with a request that take-away outlets should desist from using such containers or be made responsible for their disposal. The problem had been particularly bad on New Year's Day. This was not a criticism of the

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local street cleaner as he was not working on that day and the Council is particularly grateful for the excellent service provided by him.

Min. No. 07 50 (2) Parking at Moorlands: A copy of a letter from Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing had been supplied to all Members. The letter indicated Kirklees Council would be contacting the complainant and would keep the Parish Council involved of future developments. This information was noted.

CCTV camera, Holmfirth: Members noted a communication which indicated a CCTV camera had been sited at a local trouble spot in effort to combat anti social behaviour. This had been arranged with one of the local Kirklees Councillors.

### **07 83 Highway matters**

a) Disk Parking - Visit to Harrogate/Knaresborough - 14 January 2008: Cllr. Mrs. Osborn indicated the visit had not happened and that arrangements would be made for such a visit. This was noted.

b) Proposed Puffin crossing - New Mill Road, Sycamore, Holmfirth: Local Ward Members had attended a site meeting with Kirklees Council and Metro. The proposal as outlined to them indicated the puffin crossing was to be placed directly in line with the Council's bus shelter. This would necessitate demolishing the bus shelter; leaving the platform for use as part of a safe route to school and re-siting the bus shelter on the other side of the junction opposite the bus shelter used for up-journeys to Holmfirth. The Chairman indicated that no agreement had been reached to date on the siting of the puffin crossing and he would contact Highways Services to discuss this matter further and report to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the outcome of the Chairman's discussions with Highways be awaited before any further action is taken with regard to this shelter and crossing and that this information be passed to the appropriate Officer at Kirklees Council.

c) Acre Lane/Hollin Brigg Lane, Holmbridge - request for 'give-way' markings: Members were informed a local resident had requested give-way markings at the above site. Such markings had been requested previously.

RESOLVED: That a request for such markings at the junction of Acre Lane/Hollin Brigg Lane, Holmbridge be passed to Kirklees Council.

d) A635(Penistone Road - Sally Wood) and A6024 (Woodhead Road - Hagg Wood): A request for tree branches to be lopped had been received from a local resident. The Chairman indicated that trees along the A635 had been lopped during Summer 2007. However, this was a Kirklees Council issue and the concerns were noted but the complainant should take the matter up with Highways Services at Kirklees Council.

e) New Mill - traffic concerns on A616: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from a local resident which highlighted the difficult conditions which occur at New Mill Square with the increasing useage by heavy goods vehicles. Members sympathised with this but it was indicated it was very difficult to prevent hgv's using particular roads. Better signage could be provided by Kirklees Council in the town centre to encourage vehicles to use the main route to Sheffield from Huddersfield.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted and the complainant informed of the situation; the Deputy Clerk to raise the issue with Kirklees Council.

Areas where problems of a similar nature also existed were discussed but it was agreed that until pictorial signs were allowed no further action could be taken.

### **07 84 Complaints Procedure**

No further complaints had been received.

### **07 85 Footpaths and Bridleways**

a) Kirklees Public Rights of Way Forum:

RESOLVED: That the Notes and Information Sheet be received.

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b) Holme Valley Riverside Way Steering Group - Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2007 were noted. Cllr. Bellamy indicated it was proposed to walk the Riverside Way on 15 March 2008 and Members of the Parish Council were invited to participate. It was hoped to organise a minibus to return walkers to their cars at the end of the walk. Cllr. Bellamy indicated it would be preferable to walk the route from Holmbridge to Honley as there was better parking provision in Holmbridge, possibly at the Parish Room. This suggestion would be put to the organiser of the event.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received and the above suggestion made to the appropriate Officer at Kirklees Council.

c) Harrison Lane bridleway: This topic had been placed on the agenda in error. Harrison Lane was actually in the Meltham area. This was noted.

### **07 86 Recreational Facilities**

Provision of play area at Burnlee (Booth House): Members again noted that it was hoped the above play area was to proceed during the current financial year and funds were held to contribute to this scheme. A plan of the site had been requested for the meeting but this had not been received. The Deputy Clerk to enquire as to progress of the scheme before the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the plans be awaited but that the Council continues to hold the funds earmarked for this scheme in the budget.

### **07 87 Transport issues**

a) Holme Valley Service Changes: A copy of a letter from Metro had been circulated to all Members. Several revisions to the initial proposals had been put in action and these were detailed by Metro. To try and reduce the loss of service along Sheffield Road between New Mill and Jackson Bridge and the withdrawal of links between the local villages of Scholes, Hepworth and Jackson Bridge to New Mill a 'use it or lose it' service had been provided for the next six months. The letter indicated a detailed review of the existing Holme Valley minibus network would be carried out to determine if changes would be possible to incorporate operation along Sheffield Road at a future date. This would be discussed with the Council prior to any changes to the existing service.

RESOLVED: That the letter be received and noted.

b) Holme Valley Service Changes: Members had been circulated with copy letters from Dr. Jennison of Elmwood Health Centre and Hirst Cottage Homes (New Mill). Both letters raised issues for local people in either getting to the surgery or in loss of services in New Mill. The letters had been sent to the Council for information and were noted. One of the Members indicated he had received a copy of one of the local Church magazines and this gave details of how residents could get to the local doctors. It was indicated some areas of the Valley had benefited from the bus changes but there had been some losers. Local residents in the Upper Holme Valley could get a through bus to the Surgeries but it involved a 15 minute wait in the bus station in Holmfirth.

Arising from the above discussions concerns were expressed regarding the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme which had been discussed at the last General Purposes Committee meeting.

From the further information available it was agreed that the Manager of the Primary Care Trust for the area and Helen Kitching, Scheme Administrator, should be invited to the next General Purposes Committee meeting to discuss the matter again. Cllr. Firth indicated he would contact the gentleman concerned at the Primary Care Trust in the first instance.

c) School bus provision: The concerns regarding the increase in the fare structure for school buses were noted but all fares had increased in the New Year and it was felt this was part of the overall fare increase. Concerns had been raised with regard to ordinary bus services being deployed at certain times to collect children from the local High School. This was found to be unsatisfactory in that it made journey times longer.

RESOLVED: That the above concerns be noted.

d) West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership Update: Members noted the availability of the above document.

**07 88 Budget Provision**

Budget Provision 2008-09: Members had been circulated with a copy of a report prepared by the Clerk with regard to budget provision for 2008-09. A question was raised as to funding for future restoration of War Memorials, the Council being half way through the programme. The Deputy Clerk indicated that when grants were paid this money would be earmarked for future works on War Memorials and would be added to the amount shown in the budget for the coming year. This was noted.

No further issues were raised in connection with the budget provision. Should Members wish to make provision for possible expansion of CCTV provision of other new project it would have to do so at the Strategy and Policy meeting to be held before the budget is agreed and the precept fixed.

RESOLVED: That the budget recommendations as put before the General Purposes Committee be agreed.

**07 89 Environmental issues**

Purchase of dog waste bags: Concerns were expressed that although this provision was one which the Council wished to continue it was felt it would be preferable to provide bio-degradable waste bags for dog waste. The costs of the current bags provided was discussed. It was possible to obtain bags at a very low cost and it was agreed that 5000 waste bags should be obtained through Cllr. B.A. Smith for the interim period but that the Deputy Clerk should investigate the use and purchase of bio-degradable waste bags before obtaining further supplies.

RESOLVED: (1) That the above course of action be taken.

(2) That an invoice be raised before payment is made for the waste bags supplied through Cllr. Smith's contact.

**07 90 Arts Trail**

Application for grant - Awards for All: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the Holme Valley Civic Society had offered to assist the Council by preparing the grant application form in this matter.

RESOLVED: That the offer of Holme Valley Civic Society be accepted on this occasion.

**07 91 Bus Shelters and Seats**

Tipping arrangements: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the contractor required an authority from the Council to take non-domestic waste to the appropriate point for disposal. Invoices could be raised for this and the Council would pay on receipt of such an invoice.

RESOLVED: That such a letter of authority be given, this being personal to the current contractor and only to be used for the Council's waste from maintenance work carried out by the contractor.

In discussion of this item the Deputy Clerk informed Members that a copy of a letter from Metro to a local resident of Scholes had been received. This letter requested a new shelter at Scholes Moor Road, on the Moorlands side. Previous discussions about this site had resulted in Kirklees Council Highways indicating it was not a suitable site for a shelter.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted and the request be held on file pending the outcome of the transfer of responsibility for shelters in the Holme Valley.

**07 92 War Memorials**

Members had been circulated with a report. This indicated Memorials at Brockholes and Holme Valley Memorial Hospital had qualified from grant funding from the War Memorials Trust. A grant offer would also be made in respect of Upperrthong (St. Johns) but confirmation of this award was awaited. It would now be necessary to enter into a grant contract with the War Memorials Trust. The contract indicated how the work should be carried out and the Method Statement supersedes the original Method Statement submitted with the applications; any additional works or variations to such Method Statement should not be carried out without the approval of the War Memorials Trust. Work must not start on the projects until the contracts have been signed and returned to the Trust. Payment of grants would be made on receipt of paid invoices and subject to the work being carried out to the satisfaction of the Trust.

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RESOLVED: (1) That the Parish Council should arrange to enter into Contracts with the War Memorial Trust for work at Brockholes and the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.

(2) That authority be given to the Clerk to liaise with the Members of the War Memorials Working Party to proceed with the selection of a contractor to carry out the appropriate work

(3) That the Council accepts the conditions as detailed above and that the chosen Contractor be made fully aware of the importance of carrying out the work strictly to the War Memorial Trust's specification.

(4) That the award of grant and contract in respect of Upperthong (St. Johns) be awaited but that authority be given to enter into the necessary contract.

(5) That a meeting of the War Memorials Working Party be arranged in the near future to discuss the content of the Method Statement in each case and to ensure strict compliance; copies of the relevant communications to be supplied for the Members consideration.

(6) That the members of the Working Party be thanked for their hard work in this matter.

### **07 93 Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED: That the business of this Committee to be now transacted be not open to the public and press on the grounds that the matters to be disclosed are of a confidential nature (agenda item 17 - Renewal of Contract).

### **07 94 Renewal of Contract**

Contract - Maintenance of bus shelters, seats and New Mill closed churchyard: Members were informed the current contractor was prepared to continue for a further year, if this was the wish of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the current contractor's contract be renewed for a twelve month period from April 2008 and that the contractor be awarded an inflation linked increase to his hourly rate; the mileage rate to remain as now.

### **07 95 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**