

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 15 OCTOBER 2007 -

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 J G Cropper, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Cllr. Kaye was present in his ex-officio role as Chairman of the Council. Cllr. R. P. Dixon was present as an observer.

2 members of the public were present

Mr. C. Platts, Highways Safety Manager, Kirklees MC was in attendance

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Christofi and Mrs. Hall.

07 48 Disclosure of Interests

Cllr. Mrs. J. Roberts declared a possible prejudicial interest in item 15 if quotations for one of the War Memorial projects were under consideration.

07 49 Admission of the Public

RESOLVED: That item 15 (War Memorials) on the agenda be taken in private session due to the confidential nature of the item to be discussed.

07 50 Highway matters

(1) As Mr. Chris Platts, Kirklees Highways Safety Manager, was in attendance to inform Members of amended proposals for parking management in Holmfirth, it was RESOLVED that this item be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

This amended proposal had now been discussed in public at the recent Area Committee meeting; Mr. Platts circulated details of the amended plans and locations for such disc parking. He explained further the "categories" of disc holders, and the conditions under which such discs would be operated. By running this as an experimental scheme, it allowed time for the scheme to be introduced and initial problems ironed out before deciding whether it should be introduced on a permanent basis. No funding would now be requested from the Parish Council towards this scheme, but he hoped that the Parish Council would feel able to agree to such an experimental scheme and would support the idea and assist with the implementation and consultations in connection with the scheme.

A timetable was available of the proposed consultation plan, and a dedicated telephone number and email address would be available that could be supplied to all residents making inquiries. (These details will be circulated to all Members when received.) Discussions were about to be held with Holme Valley Business Association to be followed by a series of meetings with local residents directly affected. In this way it was hoped that the majority of potential problems or issues would be identified and solutions found, if at all possible, although there could be minor adjustments made after the introduction of the scheme, once operational issues might emerge. This scheme was designed to manage the situation whereby there were almost inevitably more cars than parking spaces, without taking the decision to provide more car parks.

Holmfirth town centre had been eliminated from such a scheme at the moment as it was felt that parking management of this area had to be tackled differently. He promised to come back to the Parish Council in the future with ideas relating to Victoria Street, Holmfirth.

Questions relating to number of discs available to a household, direct communications with affected

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residents, signage, impact on footways, impact on other residents of the Valley, and on visitors were answered. Mr. Platts was also asked what would happen if local residents were not happy with the proposals, and it was indicated that the final decision whether or not to proceed with the experimental scheme lay with the Area Committee and the local Kirklees Ward Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the Council should support these amended proposals for parking management in Holmfirth on the proviso that, if the public does not support the idea following the planned consultation, the project should not proceed.

(2) Parking issues

(a) Moorlands, Scholes - A request had been received from a local resident asking that an area of derelict land behind Moorlands be converted for parking to remove cars from the road, and to increase safety for local residents. Mr. Platts advised that this land was likely to be owned by Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing and that any decision as to its future would have to be taken by that Authority. The local Ward Councillors also indicated that there might be issues about such a change of use, and that this was an area of housing, only some of which was Council-owned.

RESOLVED: That the local resident be advised to approach Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing with this request.

(b) Brockholes Recreation Ground - Cllr. Bailey supplied Members with photographs of the problems whereby the current pedestrian access and egress to the recreation ground led directly on to highways which were increasingly being used for parking, and, therefore, could lead to dangers for children coming out of the recreation ground. Mr. Platts indicated that his service had a current joint programme with Leisure Services to deal with safety issues of children and young people getting to and from recreations grounds. He would be happy to feed this site into the programme for investigation, and would be happy to report back to the Parish Council in due course.

RESOLVED: That the Council writes formally to Kirklees MC Highway Safety to request that the problems of safety for users accessing Brockholes Recreation Ground be investigated and addressed within this programme of work.

(3) Parking Restrictions - Robert Lane, Wooldale, opposite Community Centre - A local resident had asked whether it would be possible to provide parking restrictions at this site, to prevent problems of the road being blocked with traffic being unable to pass parked cars. Mr. Platts indicated that he would undertake to arrange for this problem to be investigated.

RESOLVED: That the Kirklees MC Highways Safety Manager be asked to investigate this issue and report back with possible solutions.

07 51 Footpaths and Bridleways

It was further RESOLVED that as a courtesy to the two members of the public present, and Mr. Platts, item 11 of the agenda (Footpaths and Bridleways) should be taken at this point on the agenda.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a local resident regarding the condition of the track near Ramsden reservoir. This was believed to be a public highway the full length to the A6024. This was later identified as Kiln Bent Road, Holme Woods Lane and Rake Head Road, after the Chairman invited one of the members of the public present to supply detailed knowledge. Mr. Platts indicated that if these roads were classed as Byeways open to all traffic (BOATs), then they fell within the remit of the Highway Authority. It was believed that these roads had been the subject of previous discussions at Kirklees MC.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be asked to forward a copy of this email to the Kirklees MC Highways Safety Manager who undertook to take this issue up with the Public Rights of Way Unit.

Cllr. Bailey also undertook to take details of any vehicles observed damaging the track or banks by improper use.

Mr. Platts was then thanked for attending the meeting and for staying on for the further items; his assistance was greatly appreciated. He then left the meeting, as did the two members of the public present.

07 52 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2007 numbered 07 31 - 07 47 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

07 53 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

In connection with Minute number 07 27(3) the Clerk reported that a request by the developer of the site on Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth for the bus stop to be moved from this location, had been refused by Metro. This information was welcomed by the Committee.

The Clerk also reported that emergency action was required to undertake repairs to the bus shelter at Hade Edge. This was a double sided shelter, with access on one side to the recreation ground. It had been badly damaged, and the roof was in a dangerous condition. Emergency work had to be authorised to make the shelter safe from both sides.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk arranges for such repairs to be carried out as a matter of urgency, and that appropriate costs be charged to Kirklees MC as it faces and serves the Kirklees recreation ground.

In connection with Minute number 07 34, the Clerk reported that Metro had requested a further meeting with the Council to consider further information to address concerns expressed about the forthcoming changes to FirstBus services in the Holme Valley. Introduction of these changes had been delayed until early December 2007, but it would be necessary to call a Special meeting of the full Council to consider any information from Metro. This was noted and agreed.

07 54 Complaints Procedure

Cllr. Bailey reported that there was an increasing problem at Brockholes Recreation Ground of dog fouling; as advised by the Clerk he had contacted the Senior Animal Welfare Officer at Kirklees MC who had visited the site, but evidence was required before any action could be taken. Advice was given as to possible ways of seeking evidence.

RESOLVED: That this problem be noted and the situation continues to be monitored.

The Clerk reported that several other complaints about lack of litter bins, and loss of footpath signs, etc had been received during the recent WI Information Day. All the complaints received were the responsibility of other authorities, and would be forwarded by the office to the appropriate officer. This action was noted and approved.

07 55 Public Seats

The Clerk asked for approval of the purchase of a supply of new plastic recycled seats, as the Contractor had none left in stock.

RESOLVED: That authority be given for the purchase of as many plastic recycled seats as the budget provides.

07 56 Provision of Christmas Trees

RESOLVED: (1) That approval be given to the usual arrangements for the purchase of four Christmas trees via Kirklees MC at a cost of £550 each, to be placed at Brockholes, New Mill, Netherthong and Honley, with the appropriate acknowledgement to the Parish Council

(2) That inquiries be made with Holme Valley Business Association as to any agreed colour scheme for Holmfirth Town Centre, and that attempts be made to arrange for the lighting on the Christmas tree to echo this colour scheme

(3) That Kirklees MC be thanked for supplying the Christmas tree for Holmfirth Town Centre.

07 57 Rural Transport Partnership

Cllr. B. A. Smith reported on the recent meeting of the Rural Transport Partnership held on 4 October 2007, the minutes of which were also available. There was some concern about continued funding for the Valleys Community Transport Ring and Ride scheme, but it was indicated that the Group Hire scheme was still operating and available.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. B. A. Smith be thanked for his report.

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07 58 Consultations

Members considered the Kirklees Draft Licensing Policy 2008-2011, consultation for which closes on 5 November 2007.

RESOLVED: That Kirklees MC be commended for its statement that it is proposing only one key policy change which reflects the change in emphasis in Government guidance regarding licensing hours. There will no longer be a general presumption in favour of lengthening licensing hours and achievement of the four licensing objections should be paramount.

07 59 Closed Churchyards

- New Mill - The Chairman of the Church Building Committee, Christ Church New Mill had contacted the Council in respect of a problem with a wall at the site. The Council's Contractor had been asked to inspect the site and his report indicated that, whilst he did not feel that the wall was dangerous or loose, in the longer term, he advised that the wall should be rebuilt which would require removal of the tree.

The Clerk indicated some doubt that responsibility for such work to the boundary walls lay with the Parish Council and that she would wish to investigate this further before advising any action. Members felt from past experience that responsibility did not lie with the Parish Council, and it was, therefore,

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council does not accept that responsibility for the repair and rebuilding of this boundary wall lies with the Parish Council.

Members also noted that the Parochial Church Council was investigating with the Wakefield Diocese about the recent survey carried out into the safety of grave memorials reported to the Church.

07 60 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 15 War Memorials).

07 61 War Memorials

War Memorials Working Party - Cllr. Mrs. Bratt reported that the necessary three quotations had now been obtained for works to four war memorials and that the Working Party proposed to prepare and submit, if at all possible, grant applications within the deadlines. There was money within the budget to meet half the costs of the quotations received, if grant applications were successful. It was suggested that initially applications should be submitted for the war memorials at Brockholes and Holme Valley Memorial Hospital.

RESOLVED: That the above report be accepted, the actions proposed approved, and the Clerk authorised to make the necessary arrangements for submission of the grant applications.

07 62 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.

Cllr. Mrs. Osborn reminded Members that at the Area Committee meeting an offer had been made to Members to visit the Kirklees MC Recycling Plant in Huddersfield. Dates were available in November 2007 and Members were asked to notify Cllr. Mrs. Osborn or the Clerk if they wished to participate in this visit.

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Chairman