

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2007 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr D M Firth

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs J M Osborn

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

Councillor Kaye was present as Chairman of the Council ex officio.

Councillor T. Dixon was present as an observer.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bailey and Christofi.

### **07 31 Disclosure of Interests**

Councillor Mrs. Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 16 on the agenda (War Memorials). She signed the book appropriately.

### **07 32 Admission of the Public**

RESOLVED: That items 14 (Closed Churchyards), 15 (Transport Issues) and 16 (War Memorials) on the agenda be taken in private session due to the confidential nature of the items.

### **07 33 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 July 2007 numbered 07 20 - 07 30 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

### **07 34 Correspondence arising from the Minutes**

Min. No. 06 97 - Recycling Plan for Kirklees - Phase 2: Members were informed that proposals were in hand to commence the new collection regime in October/November 2007. Households would receive an information pack and drop in sessions would be held to answer questions. Members indicated their concerns. The matter was due to be discussed at the forthcoming Holme Valley South Area Committee. It was agreed that the new collection service should be trialled in the first instance.

Min. No. 07 26 - Changes to Holme Valley Bus Services - letter from First Bus: Further concerns were raised regarding the proposed changes to the bus routes in Holme Valley. Of particular issue was the lack of a service between Jackson Bridge and New Mill. It was agreed that representatives of First Bus and Metro be invited to a future meeting of the General Purposes Committee so that the changes can be discussed further.

Cllr. T. Dixon left the meeting at this point.

### **07 35 Complaints Procedure**

1) River Holme, Holmfirth - Request for tree Lopping: Following an approach to the Environment Agency for tree lopping along the banks of the River Holme in the area between the Crown Bottom car park and the Station Road car park, the Council had been informed that there was a possibility that the trees could be cut back if they were blocking the river channel. The request would be passed to the Operations Department for further consideration. This was noted.

2) Substation - A1100 Woodlands Substation: Following further complaints the Deputy Clerk had contacted YEDL and it had indicated further rubbish had been removed from the site. The Parish Council's seat had been refurbished. Repairs to the wall were not the responsibility of YEDL. It was agreed that the condition of the wall be referred to Highways and the Public Rights of Way Unit for

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repair.

3) Victoria Park Play Area - clearing of glass debris: Following a complaint in the summer months a request had been forwarded to Kirklees Council for glass debris to be removed from the play area. Kirklees Council indicated it had undertaken this work and new bark had been provided at the site.

4) Metro had informed the Parish Council that a staff member, on Metro business, had been verbally abused in the Moorbottom area of Honley. The Council were informed of this because it was felt the usual standards of information regarding public transport would not be met in that particular area. This was noted.

### **07 36 Litter**

1) Stubbing out street litter - Article from Local Council Review:

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

2) Environmental impact of smoking ban on litter issues: It was a concern to the Council that following the implementation of the smoking ban there had been a knock on effect on local streets in terms of increased litter. It was emphasised that cleaning the area outside shops or public houses was the responsibility of the retailer or tenant/landlord. Cllr. Cropper indicated he had spoken with the relevant officer at Kirklees Council, Mr. P. Swallow (telephone 01484 223465) (email peter.swallow@kirklees.gov.uk). The Officer indicated any complaints should be directed to him on the numbers indicated.

RESOLVED: That the above course of action be taken, should complaints be received.

### **07 37 Public Seats**

Seats located outside the Market Hall , Holmfirth and in Wooldale centre: The Council's contractor had indicated the seat outside the Market Hall, Holmfirth and the two in the centre of Wooldale were not secured to the ground and he sought the opinion of the Members of the General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: That the seats be fastened down at the above locations.

### **07 38 Reference from Council**

Anti-Social Behaviour: At a recent Council Meeting concern had been expressed regarding anti-social behaviour in the area. It had been agreed that the matter should be discussed at a General Purposes Committee.

Members discussed their concerns regarding Anti social behaviour orders. Many of the local villages and towns were affected by anti social behaviour. The Chairman of General Purposes Committee stressed that Members should report any concerns to Mr. Bill Swap, the ASB Co-ordinator, Kirklees Council. This could be a written request for assistance or by telephone or email (telephone 01484 414798) (email bill.swap@kirklees.gov.uk).

RESOLVED: That Members take the above course of action should this prove necessary.

### **07 39 Highway matters**

1) Netherthong - request for yellow lines outside local shop and opposite Netherthong Church: A request had been received for double yellow lines at the locations mentioned above. Although it was acknowledged there were issues with regard to parking in Netherthong, Members did not feel double yellow lines would be helpful at these sites. It had been suggested that 'waiting limit' signs be provided. However, in the first instance it was suggested that Mr. A. Sykes of Kirklees Council Highways meet with the local Councillors to discuss the best solution to the parking issues outside the Londis Shop and the Parish Church.

RESOLVED: That a meeting between the local Ward Members and Mr. Sykes of Kirklees Council be arranged.

2) Car park issues - Holmfirth Town Centre: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from Kirklees Council which indicated that to change the layout to car parks in Holmfirth would involve the Council in significant works at the entrances, including creation of kerbing for the entrances, drainage

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improvements, changes to levels and the provision of tactile paving to assist the partially sighted. The letter indicated there had been no road traffic accidents in the vicinity of car parks in Holmfirth but that further monitoring would be carried out. If the Council required further information contact should be made with the relevant officer.

Concerns were also expressed again regarding the use of 'A' Boards in the town centre and the responsibility for such boards.

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Mrs. Roberts contacts the officer concerned with a view to holding further discussions and that she reports back to the Committee in due course.

3) Quad motor bikes: Members were informed that this matter had been discussed at YLCA South Pennine Branch Meeting but the discussions had covered the licensing issues involved. The Deputy Clerk informed Members she had written to the West Yorkshire Police and Leisure Services, as Quad bikes, in this area, were using Kirkroyds play area and surrounding land. Issues regarding licensing and insurance were raised; where quad bikes could be used and the lower age limits placed on them. Of concern also was the use of invalid scooters. It was found more and more people were using such scooters on the road when such vehicles were intended for use on the pavements.

RESOLVED: That the advice and clarification on the use of quad bikes and invalid scooters with regard to licensing etc. be sought from West Yorkshire Police.

### **07 40 Footpaths and Bridleways**

1) Kirklees Public Rights of Way Forum - 13 September 2007: Members had been circulated with the agenda and notes in respect of the above meeting. These were noted.

Overhanging vegetation outside Clonlea was raised. The Deputy Clerk was asked to write again regarding this matter; if the trees are not lopped the matter should be passed to Kirklees Council with a request that steps be taken to remedy the obstruction to the street light. The local Ward Member to advise the Deputy Clerk if and when the trees are cut back.

2) Minutes of the Public Rights of Way Forum - 14 June 2007: Members had been circulated with a copy of the Minutes. These were noted.

3) West Yorkshire Pennine Local Access Forum - Application for Membership - letter from Calderdale Council: It was agreed that no further action be taken with regard to membership of the above Forum.

4) Underbank, Holmfirth - details of local footpaths in the area - process to claim as Definitive Footpaths: Members were informed that ex councillor Mrs. Court had walked four footpaths in the Underbank area with one of the Footpaths Officer. She had requested that the footpaths should be defined as 'Definitive Footpaths'. Further work would be required with applications to the Land Registry for Searches. She had indicated she was willing to carry out the work but asked if the Parish Council would fund the cost of the Searches. Before taking any decision it was necessary to be assured that no further costs would fall to the Parish Council in respect of the footpaths and that Kirklees Council would take on responsibility for them in the future.

RESOLVED: (1) That, subject to the Council being assured that there will be no costs to it other than the costs of the Searches at Land Registry, it has no objection to the investigations continuing to include the footpaths in the Definitive Map.

(2) That the costs of such Searches be met from the Environmental Projects budget in the General Purposes budget.

### **07 41 Representation**

Hull Play Seminar (Komplan) - 2 October 2007:

RESOLVED: That no representative be appointed to attend the above Play Seminar.

### **07 42 Arts Trail**

Holme Valley Riverside Way Arts Trail; Members had been circulated with a copy of a report from the Clerk with regard to progress with art provision on the Riverside Way. As Members were aware the application to the Arts Council had proved unsuccessful. Further discussions with the Grant Assessor at

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the Arts Council indicated the application did not 'fail' in any sense but there were questions which still required an answer. Members were asked if they wished the Clerk to pursue the application at this stage. No clear indication was given.

The Deputy Clerk sought Members' opinion on whether the Committee wished to apply to Awards for All run by the National Lottery. This would be to fund a particular element of the Trail with a maximum grant of £10,000 on an application with only one application allowed in any two year period. Any grant awarded must be spent within one year. A commitment had been previously given to artists that further art work would be provided.

Members discussed their concerns regarding the Riverside Way and whether or not it was a viable footpath. It was not possible to walk the entire length without deviation due to problems with landslip and ownership issues. Only three areas were affected.

A motion was put 'that consideration of provision of further artworks on the Arts Trail be left until considering the budget for the next financial year'. This was seconded.

A further motion was put 'that an application for grant be made to Awards for All for a specific project involving Holmfirth J I & N School; this would be limited to a contribution of £5000 from the Parish Council and that the future longer term provision be discussed at the appropriate budget meeting for the next financial year'. This was seconded.

A further proposal that the Council should continue with the Arts Trail was put but was incorporated into the second motion above.

The second motion on being put to the vote was carried 7 - 5.

RESOLVED: (1) That an application to Awards for All for a specific project involving Holmfirth J I & N School be prepared; this provision only to proceed if it receives match funding from the grant making body  
(2) That the chosen project be the River Bank area outside the Co-operative Supermarket, Holmfirth  
(3) That the maximum cost to the Council be £5000  
(4) That future longer term provision on this project be discussed at the appropriate budget meeting when considering the budget for the next financial year.

Details of the last agenda for the Riverside Way Working Group were available. This was noted.

### **07 43 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 items 14 closed churchyard, 15 transport issues and 16 war memorials).

### **07 44 Closed Churchyards**

New Mill Closed Churchyard: The Council's contractor had indicated that it may be necessary to give the closed churchyard at New Mill a further cut. The current budget had been spent. Members agreed that a further cut could be carried out, should this be necessary.

RESOLVED: That the contractor be requested to carry out a further cut of the closed churchyard, should this be necessary.

### **07 45 Transport issues**

The Holme Valley Transport Scheme: Members had been circulated with information from the organiser of the Holme Valley Transport Scheme. All Members felt this scheme was one which was vital to the area and was well used by patients at all the surgeries in Holmfirth and Honley. It has been a very successful scheme but was now experiencing funding difficulties. Members commented on the lack of public transport in some parts of the district and in order to give this matter full consideration it was

RESOLVED: That the organiser of the Holme Valley Transport Scheme be invited to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee to discuss this further.

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**07 46 War Memorials**

1) War Memorials: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the Working Party had met; Councillors had visited all the War Memorials in the area; a priority order for work had been agreed and one of the Members of the Working Party had met a number of contractors on site to discuss quotations. These had been invited and were in accordance with the Condition Surveys previously obtained. Currently the Council was looking at applying for grant aid in respect of three Memorials - Brockholes, Holme Valley Memorial Hospital and Holmbridge with a possibility that the gates at Upperthong be refurbished, this being dependent on grant funding. Currently quotations were awaited.

RESOLVED: That the Working Party dealing with War Memorials be thanked for its work in this respect.

2) The Deputy Clerk informed Members that in order to apply for grant aid completed applications forms had to be submitted by 31 October 2007. It was hoped to complete the necessary work in time to submit applications within the time limits. This would involve the Council in obtaining information to include in the grant application forms and in doing some preparatory work.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Working Party Members, together with the Deputy Clerk, work on the grant applications to ensure they are submitted to the appropriate body before 31 October 2007 and that a report be made to the next General Purposes Committee as to the progress made at that time  
(2) That the actions taken to date be approved.

**07 47 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**