

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 30 JULY 2007 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Mrs J M Osborn

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

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Bailey and Searby.

In the absence of Cllr. Firth, the Chairman of the Committee, the Vice Chairman, Cllr. Mrs. Osborn, took the Chair for the meeting. Cllr. Tom Dixon was present as an observer.

Mr. C. Platts and Mr. T. Jepson, Kirklees MC Highway were in attendance to address the meeting.

One member of the public was present.

07 20 Disclosure of Interests

None were declared.

07 21 Admission of the Public

In view of the confidential nature of the information to be given by the Kirklees MC officers, and to allow full informal discussion, prior to formal consultation, it was agreed that item 5 (2) of the agenda be taken in private session.

07 22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2007 numbered 07 03 - 07 19 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

07 23 Speakers at meetings

It was agreed that agenda item 5 (2) be taken first and as indicated previously, it was

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 considered are of a confidential nature (agenda item 5(2)).

The member of the public was asked to leave the meeting temporarily at this point.

Mr. C. N. Platts, Highways Safety Manager, Kirklees Council addressed Members about some emerging ideas for tackling parking problems in Holmfirth. He emphasised to Members that these were early working thoughts, not for publication as yet, and were open to discussion and amendment. There were significant cost implications in such ideas, which might involve joint funding between the Council and Kirklees MC.

Members responded with views on issues and concerns which would need addressing if there was an intention to change the way parking was managed in Holmfirth. It was felt that there was some merit in the ideas outlined but that in view of concerns and uncertainty about the implications of the Mottram bypass, this might not be the right time for these proposals. It was generally agreed that problems caused by parked cars and deliveries on Victoria Street needed to be addressed, regardless of any other considerations about on-street parking management.

RESOLVED: (1) That the information from the Highways Safety Manager, Kirklees MC be noted and that he be asked to take back the views expressed at the meeting, and thanked for coming to discuss them with the Committee at this early stage

Holme Valley Parish Council

(2) That Holme Valley Parish Council would be happy to facilitate a meeting between all interested parties to look at current issues with parking, deliveries, etc on Victoria Street, Holmfirth

(3) That the Council be advised to await further information about any future proposals before discussing further.

RESOLVED: That the public and press be re-admitted to the meeting.

(3) Satellite navigation systems - Minute No. 06 96 - Mr. Platts explained to Members that as a Council, Kirklees MC could do little directly to tackle the problems caused by vehicles using routes suggested by such systems. He had contacted Regional Government Offices regarding any national moves to tackle such problems, but had been advised merely to contact all the companies producing these products to seek the removal of certain routes from their systems. Clearly, as Kirklees MC is one of many Highway Authorities in the country this approach was unlikely to bear much fruit; a position confirmed in discussion with some of the satellite navigation system providers. He was, therefore, seeking ways of putting more pressure on Central Government, for action to tackle the issue before it became a serious problem.

RESOLVED: (1) That the information given by Mr. Platts be noted

(2) That the Parish Council should request NALC, via YLCA, to take the issue up with Central Government, both in terms of warnings on satellite navigation systems about inadvisable routes, and in allowing pictorial signs to indicate routes not suitable for large wagons.

(1) CCTV issues - Mr. T. Jepson, CCTV Co-ordinator, Kirklees MC, then addressed Members about the forthcoming upgrade to the current systems and about mobile camera units. The upgrade, towards which the Parish Council had already contributed financially, was scheduled to commence in January 2008. Some technical problems had taken time to resolve; any Member new to the Council was invited to visit the CCTV Control Room in Huddersfield, by contacting Mr. Jepson.

He explained more about the deployable camera units, in that these were used primarily to tackle serious crime problems, rather than lower level nuisance problems which can be monitored by the units operated by the Kirklees MC Community Safety Unit. Members raised issues where it was felt that use of one of these units would be helpful and were advised to contact the Local Police Neighbourhood Team, which worked with the Community Safety Unit and which could request the deployment of one of the mobile units to monitor any problem. Under legislation and without authority, covert surveillance could not be carried out.

It was also explained that Kirklees public spaces CCTV could not operate in private property (ie in relation to problems within licensed premises) but it was suggested that the installation of an effective "private" CCTV system could be requested as a condition of licensing.

Members thanked Mr. Platts and Mr. Jepson for the information shared with them at the meeting and thanked them for giving up their time to attend. They then left the meeting.

07 24 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

Members noted information relating to the Tidy Trader Competition and the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme. Cllr. Mrs. Roberts raised an issue in respect of the Patient Transport Scheme and it was agreed that she requests further information from the Oaklands Practice and that an appropriate item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

07 25 Complaints Procedure

Action taken in response to complaints received was noted:

1) Holmfirth centre - It was noted that a complaint from a visitor had been received regarding noise levels emanating from town centre premises. This had been passed to the Ward Councillors and further information was awaited. It was agreed that a response should be awaited, but that the owner should be informed.

2) Tree debris - Woodhead Road, Holmfirth - reported to Kirklees MC with a request for removal.

3) Flooding issue - Hepworth - Cllr. Dixon was asked by the Chairman to inform the meeting of the background to this problem caused, it was thought, by some works carried out by a local householder. The Clerk reported that Kirklees MC Highway Services had been asked to visit the site to investigate the problem. Further information was awaited.

4) Provision of dog poo bins - a further request had been received for the provision of dog poo bins - Clerk to reply regarding position as stated by Kirklees MC previously.

Holme Valley Parish Council

5) Sands - River Holme - repairs had been carried out to this bridge following reports of damage. Over the weekend, however, a large tree had fallen on to the bridge and the adjoining footpath. Kirklees MC was aware of the damage and the area had been taped off for safety. It was felt that extra signage might be needed to warn people of the danger.

RESOLVED: That the above actions be approved.

Two further complaints were notified to the Clerk for action:

- Branches of tree obstructing street light - Field End Lane, Holmbridge - Clerk to contact householder
- large puddle on footpath to Crown Bottom, Holmfirth - Clerk to report to Kirklees MC.

07 26 Transport issues

- 1) Holme Valley bus services 309 - 316 - All Members had been invited by Metro to attend a Consultation Meeting with Metro and representatives of First Bus regarding proposals for these services. The details were noted.
- 2) Information about the new National Free Travel passes for the over 60's was noted.
- 3) Fares on the Holme Valley Minibus Services were to increase with effect from 30 July 2007. This was noted; details were available in the office.
- 4) West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership - June Update - this information was noted.

07 27 Bus Shelters and Seats

1) Future responsibility for bus shelters in the Holme Valley area - Minute No. 07 13 - Since this item had been referred back from the full Council for further consideration, the Clerk had inquired for further clarification of the condition proposed by Metro that it would only provide black and cream shelters within the immediate Holmfirth area. Further information had been received that day, that another report would be submitted to Metro's Board of Directors recommending that the use of non-corporate colours, ie black and cream, be used in Holmfirth, Holmbridge, Parkhead, Thongsbridge, Cinderhills and Wooldale. In this case, 11 out of the 27 shelters would be painted in this colour scheme.

In view of this, it was proposed and seconded that the offer from Metro should be accepted with this further clarification. Given the feelings expressed by some of the Members at the Council meeting, an amendment was proposed and seconded that whilst the offer of Metro might be better, efforts should still be made to push for all 27 shelters to be painted in black and cream. The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was defeated.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council should accept the offer, as originally made, but amended in light of the above further clarification.

2) Huddersfield Road, Honley (Alpine Corner) - replacement bus shelter - Information had been received from the Insurers acting on behalf of the owners of the vehicle which damaged the shelter, indicating that reimbursement would be made once a replacement shelter had been erected.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted and the situation in this respect accepted; the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements to hand over the correspondence once the transfer of shelters to Metro had been completed.

3) Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth - request for relocation of bus stop (outside The Postcard Public House) - Information had been received from Metro of this request, but it was felt that a bus stop was required at this site, and further details should be requested.

RESOLVED: That further details be sought about this request.

4) No Smoking in Bus Shelters - the Clerk reported that the Contractor had been instructed to place No Smoking signs in all the Council's bus shelters in accordance with the new No Smoking legislation. This work would be completed shortly.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's actions in this matter be approved.

5) Seats in the Holme Valley - Members noted that all Councillors had been circulated with a list of the seats owned and maintained by the Council in the Holme Valley.

07 28 War Memorials

Holme Valley Parish Council

- War Memorials - Cllr. Mrs. Bratt reported that Members of the Working Party, and the Deputy Clerk, were undertaking site visits to all the War memorials to clarify queries raised by invited conservators regarding the condition statements. A report would be given at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted and the site visits approved.

07 29 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Members authorised the purchase of seven wreaths, as in previous years, and asked the Clerk to arrange for the floodlighting of the War Memorial at Holme Valley Memorial Hospital. The date of the Remembrance Service was also noted.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be asked to order the wreaths as specified and to make all the necessary arrangements for floodlighting at the War Memorial, and any other necessary arrangements for Remembrance Day and associated services.

07 30 Freedom of Information Act 2000

RESOLVED: That, under 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