

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 18 JUNE 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 Mrs D Hall, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr K L Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs E Hirst

1 member of the public was present.
Cllr. Kath Smith was present as an observer.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bailey and Christofi.

07 03 Disclosure of Interests

None were declared.

07 04 Admission of the Public

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

07 05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meetings held on 26 March 2007 numbered 06 106 - 06 118 inclusive and dated 17 May 2007, numbered 07 01 and 07 02 be received and adopted as correct records of the meetings.

It was agreed that items 7(3) and 8 be taken at this point on the agenda.

Councillor Kath Smith was present for these two items and wished to leave the meeting following their discussion. Cllr. Smith was invited to speak on the following two items.

07 06 Future Initiatives

Members discussed item 7(3) on the agenda. This was an offer by the University of Huddersfield to carry out a survey of Holmfirth involving three students and a lecturer. The survey would cover a wide range of subjects and would be aimed at both local residents and visitors to the area. This study would complement dissertation studies to be carried out between the months of September 2007 and April 2008 with a formal report and presentation to the Council at the end. The only cost to the Parish Council could be printing costs and travel expenses which would be minimal.

Members were very interested in this proposal and indicated the survey would be helpful to use with other aspects of the Council's work and that the Council should accept this offer. The expenses of the survey would be met by the Council.

Cllr. Kath Smith was asked to provide a contact name at the University for liaison purposes and she indicated this would be provided.

RESOLVED: That the offer of the University of Huddersfield to carry out a survey of Holmfirth be accepted; the costs involved being met by the Council, following further discussion and agreement.

07 07 CCTV Cameras

Expansion of the CCTV scheme in Holmfirth and Honley: Concerns regarding anti-social behaviour had resulted in discussions about CCTV provision in the centres of Holmfirth and Honley. On behalf of the Business Association, Councillor Smith had surveyed the local businesses and had obtained pledges for

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improvements to the CCTV cameras in Holmfirth. The Deputy Clerk reminded Members that the Council had already contributed funds, which it had held, to improvements to the transmission lines to the control room at Kirklees and currently the Officers at Kirklees were going out to tender for this work to be carried out.

However, Members wished to explore the possibility of better cameras and also for individual cameras at 'Hot spots' in the centre of Holmfirth. It was felt that mobile facilities could be deployed at these sites utilising existing lamp-posts in the centre which had facilities for connecting cameras.

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that Mr. T. Jepson would be willing to attend a future meeting to discuss the current situation and how improvements could be made and for this reason it was agreed that the matter should be discussed again at that time. However, it was agreed that Kirklees MC should be asked to deploy a camera/cameras at certain points in Holmfirth.

RESOLVED: (1) That Mr. Jepson of Kirklees MC be invited to the next General Purposes Committee.
(2) That 'hot spots' in the centre of Holmfirth, as identified, be passed to Kirklees MC with a request that a mobile facility be provided at such sites and that the van provided for observation purposes be sited on one of the recreation sites in the area.

Councillor Smith was thanked for her report and she left the meeting at this point.

07 08 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

(1) Netherthong War Memorial: The Deputy Clerk indicated the War Memorial at Netherthong, which had been cleaned, had suffered some graffiti damage. It was agreed that she arrange for the contractor to look at the problem, obtain appropriate advice and to clean the memorial.

(2) Min. No. 06 110 - Quarry site at Knoll Lane, Honley: Concerns regarding fly tipping at this site had been discussed by the Parish Council. With regard to the gate to adjacent land and the possible fencing of the site, it was agreed this was a Finance and Management Committee issue, as it was part of the Awarded Quarries held in trust by the Council, and therefore, the matter would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. The incidence of fly tipping would be reported to the appropriate Officer at Kirklees MC.

(3) Min. No. 06 97 - Kirklees Recycling Plan: Following recent press publicity regarding this matter, a local resident had raised concerns and a letter had been sent to Kirklees MC. A response had been received which indicated alternating weekly collections of refuse and recyclables had been approved by Kirklees Cabinet on 24 January 2007. The procedure was still to be finalised and Kirklees MC would take the topography of the Holme Valley into account when making the changes. This was noted.

(4) Contractor: The Council's contractor had accepted a contract for a further 12 month period. This was noted.

07 09 Complaints Procedure

The Deputy Clerk reported action taken in response to complaints -

(1) Acre Lane, Digley - stones: Cllr. Mrs. Osborn reported that the grass verges in Acre Lane (above Digley Reservoir) were being damaged by the parking of vehicles. Stones had been placed on the verge to prevent this damage but it had been indicated that these should be moved, unless they were painted white. This action had, therefore, been taken. Currently the situation was satisfactory.

(2) Kirkroyds play area - use of grassed area by quad bikes: A local resident had raised the issue of quad bikes and motor bikes using the grassed area adjacent to the above play area. This was dangerous when young children wished to use the play area. It was agreed that the matter should be reported to the West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees MC Leisure Services to find a solution to the problem.

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to both the West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees Council for their consideration and for appropriate action to be taken.

(3) Public Footpath 33 - Duckholes, Brockholes: The poor condition of this footpath and overhanging vegetation had been reported to Kirklees Council. This footpath is a safe route to school and needed urgent attention. Kirklees Council had responded indicating that steps had been taken to improve the surface and negotiations would be entered into with adjacent landowners to cut back overhanging vegetation. This was noted.

In discussing this item it was reported that a mirror to assist with sight lines in Oakes Lane had been damaged. This would be reported to Kirklees MC.

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(4) Tree lopping - request from a local resident for trees to be reduced between Crown Bottom car park and Station Road car park: The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the above request had been received and concerned the land between the River Holme and the car park in Station Road, Holmfirth. In the complainant's opinion, the trees had become over large and were blocking views up the valley. They also caused the footpath at the side of the River Holme to be very dark at this point. Members discussed the likely ownership of the land.

RESOLVED: That an approach be made to the Environment Agency to ascertain the ownership of the land and that, when known, it be requested that trees be surveyed and possibly lopped and pruned.

07 10 Future Initiatives

Litter Bin Provision in Holmfirth: Concerns had been expressed by a local resident that there were insufficient litter bins in the centre of Holmfirth. The complainant felt that some novelty type bins may encourage people to use the bins provided. Members felt a standard colour for bins should be adopted as there were black and gold and blue bins in the town. It was not felt appropriate to use 'novelty' bins.

RESOLVED: That this provision be held in abeyance; should the Council look at providing litter bins in the future, these should be in keeping with those already in place rather than introducing another type of bin.

In discussing litter bins it was reported that following recent highway improvements at Royds Avenue, New Mill, bins had not been replaced. The Chairman indicated he would investigate the matter.

Provision of Notice Board - New Mill: Members considered this matter and felt it would not be appropriate for the Council to provide a notice board for siting outside New Mill WMC but that the group could apply to the Council for grant aid and should be also advised to apply to the Holme Valley Area South Committee.

RESOLVED: That the person making the request be informed of this decision and be advised to apply for grant aid to both the Parish Council and the Holme Valley Area South Committee.

07 11 Highway matters

Dunford Road, Holmfirth - congestion caused by car parking: Members had been circulated with a copy letter from a local resident. The Chairman indicated to Members that since the letter had been received the problems had been resolved, as far as was possible in the area concerned and that the matter should be noted.

RESOLVED: That the matter be noted and no further action taken at the present time.

Similarly, there were issues of congestion caused by parking etc at Church Street, Honley and it was agreed that the matter should be placed on the next General Purposes Committee agenda.

RESOLVED: That this matter be discussed at the next meeting.

07 12 Transport issues

(1) Request for improved transport links with wheelchair accessibility - White Rose Care Centre, Holmfirth: A copy letter received from a relative of a resident at the above Care Centre had been circulated to all Members. Concerns had always been expressed by the Parish Council regarding the lack of public transport to the area where the home was sited. The Members felt it should be possible for members of the public to book the Access Bus and that a Ring-a-Ride system did operate. The Deputy Clerk was asked to get details of the schemes and to supply these to the person concerned.

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Clerk supplies as much as information as possible to help in this matter.

(2) Valleys Community Transport Update: Members had been circulated with the update of the information regarding the Valleys Community Transport.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

(3) Holme Valley bus services - letter from First - Calderdale and Huddersfield: Following a recent

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complaint a letter had now been received from the relevant bus company. The letter indicated passengers must indicate to bus drivers if they wish to use a bus. In this instance it may not have been made clear to the driver. The information in the letter was noted and would be passed to the complainant.

07 13 Bus Shelters and Seats

(1) Future responsibility for bus shelters in the Holme Valley area: Members had been circulated with a copy letter from Metro. The Board of Directors at Metro had considered the conditions with regard to the transfer of responsibility for bus shelters in the Holme Valley and were happy to agree to them with the exception of one. This concerned the use of non-corporate colours of black and cream and it was indicated that the use of such colours throughout the district would jeopardise Metro's overall corporate identity. It was, therefore, indicated that black and cream shelters could only be used for shelters in the immediate Holmfirth area.

A motion that the Council should accept the offer, as made, was proposed and seconded.

An amendment that the Council should accept the offer but requests black and cream for all cantilever shelters was proposed and seconded but on being put to the meeting was not carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council agrees that a formal agreement based on the terms and conditions previously made be entered into with Metro, accepting Metro's condition that black and cream shelters will be provided in Holmfirth centre only.

(2) Scholes bus shelter: Members considered the possibility of providing lighting in stone shelters in the area. This matter was something the Parish Council would consider at some time in the future.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made regarding the lighting of stone bus shelters.

(3) Bus shelters - insurance claims: The Clerk had asked for clarification with regard to the ownership of funds successfully gained from pursuing insurance claims. Members indicated the Council should retain any funds for use within its bus shelters budget; the Parish Council agreeing to pay to Metro the yearly contributions in respect of all cantilever sites in the Parish Council's area.

RESOLVED: That funds gained from pursuing insurance claims be allocated towards maintenance costs for bus shelters retained by the Parish Council.

07 14 Footpaths

Kirklees Public Rights of Way Forum: Members had been circulated with a copy of Minutes dated 15 March 2007 and an Information Sheet dated 14 June 2007. Cllr. B.A. Smith had attended the meeting on 14 June 2007 and gave a comprehensive report on the meeting. Members welcomed the information and it was indicated the report would be held on file for the information of any interested party. Special mention was made of Ramsden Road and the damage being caused to the banking by vehicles.

RESOLVED: That Councillor B.A. Smith be thanked for his report and attendance at the meeting.

07 15 Tidy Trader Award

(1) Tidy Trader competition 2007: Members were informed of the current situation and were handed a copy of a letter from Kirklees Council. This indicated it would continue to arrange the competition in Holmfirth. The Parish Council was invited to appoint a representative to help with judging and could provide the Tidy Trader trophy, as usual.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Parish Council's representatives be selected from - Councillors Kaye, Bellamy and Mrs. Osborn. In the interests of continuity it was hoped the one person would be able to fulfill this function.

(ii) That the usual arrangements be made to obtain a trophy.

(2) Extension of scheme to cover the Holme Valley area: Members considered the extension of the scheme to cover other areas in the Holme Valley for future years. It was felt there was insufficient time to organise this for the current year but that the matter should be discussed again in the latter part of the year so that information can be gathered and invitations to participate sent out.

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RESOLVED: That the matter be discussed again later in the year.

07 16 Arts Trail

(1) Development of Holme Valley Arts Trail: Members were informed that the application to the Arts Council for funding the development of art works on the Riverside Way had not been successful. The Clerk would contact the Arts Council for some feedback on this matter and, if appropriate, the application would be re-submitted.

RESOLVED: That the above course of action be taken.

At this point it was reported that a small amount of graffiti was visible on the art work at Magdale. Authorisation was given to get this removed as promptly as possible.

(2) Holme Valley Riverside Way and Arts Trail: Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from Kirklees Council Highways Services intimating that it would be happy to work with the Parish Council on any future aspect of the Arts Trail.

RESOLVED: That this information be received and noted and thanks expressed to Kirklees Council.

(3) Holme Valley Riverside Way Steering Group - Minutes of Meeting held on 15 May 2007: Members had been circulated with a copy of Minutes of this Group. Cllr. Bellamy indicated litter blackspots had been identified along the Riverside Way and litter bins could be requested at accessible points. Area Committee funding may be available and the Parish Council held funds under provisions made in the Environmental Budget. Kirklees Officers had indicated help was required with investigating funding possibilities and asked if the Parish Council could help in this respect.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15 May 2007 be received and noted.

(2) That further discussions be held with the Kirklees Officer concerned in respect of help with applications for possible funding.

(3) That the Parish Council gives further consideration to the provision of litter bins at indicated blackspots when more information is available.

07 17 War Memorials

War Memorials - to appoint Working Party: It was necessary to appoint a Working Group in this connection.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Mrs. Bratt, Cropper and Mrs. Roberts be appointed to serve on the War Memorials Working Group.

07 18 Royal Mail

(1) Netherthong Post Office - temporary closure: Members noted correspondence from the Post Office in which it was indicated that, for operational reasons, the above branch closed temporarily on 23 April 2007. The Deputy Clerk informed Members that Netherthong Post Office had re-opened on 30 May 2007.

RESOLVED: That the above information be received, noted and welcomed.

(2) Post Offices - details of opening: Members had been circulated with information regarding other Post Offices in the area.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

07 19 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