

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY AND POLICY HELD ON MONDAY 28 JANUARY 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr C M Kaye

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Apologies for absence

Councillors Mrs. Bratt and Mrs. B. E. Smith were present at the meeting as observers.

An apology was accepted from Cllr. R.P. Dixon.

07 20 Disclosure of Interests

None were given.

07 21 Admission of Public

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

07 22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2007 numbered 07 15 - 07 19 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

07 23 Precept and Budget

The draft budget as prepared following Committee proposals, and accompanying reports prepared by the Clerk, were discussed and some amendments agreed. The Council needed to think beyond the immediate financial year and begin to formulate longer-term plans and, hence, longer-term budgeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should incorporate these changes into the budget and into the accompanying reports which should be circulated to all Members for the full Council meeting to assist newer Councillors with understanding the process.

RESOLVED: (1) That the amendments as discussed be incorporated into the draft budget and reports and that these be circulated to all Councillors

(2) That the Strategy and Policy Committee recommends this amended draft budget for consideration by the Council before final determination as to the budget for 2008-09 and the precept to be issued on Kirklees Council for that period.

07 24 To review Standing Orders

Discussions had taken place at earlier meetings about possible further changes to the Council's Standing Orders. If such amendments were to be placed before the Annual Council, it was necessary to agree a process for such a review, in particular the following aspects:

- Committee Structure and composition
- Use of substitutes
- Role of Vice-Chairmen deputising for Chairman on, for example, Strategy and Policy Committee.

The Committee discussed these aspects and agreed that the Clerk should incorporate suitable amendments as listed:

- Committee Structure to be left as at present for time being, but Strategy and Policy Committee to examine alternative options in due course
- Option of a cut-off time for meetings to be considered
- All agenda items to be allocated a set period of time for discussion which would be agreed between Chairman of Committee, or Council, and the Clerk
- Use of substitutes to be restored to the Standing Orders, but without the need to find a substitute

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from the Member's own political grouping

- Quorum to remain at one half of Committees, but the number to be rounded down - to be stated specifically; no change to quorum for Council

- Role of ex-officio Members present at meetings to remain unchanged.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk be asked to incorporate these changes into the Standing Orders and the amended Standing Orders to be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee for review

(2) That the Clerk be asked to compile an attendance record for all Members at the end of the current civic year, for consideration by Council.

07 25 Parish Appraisal and Forward Plan

(1) The Clerk reported that a response had been received from the University of Huddersfield Market Research and Consultancy School, about the possibility of a joint project. Given the scope of the course in question, there had been some doubt about the "fit" of the Council's requirements and area of interest with the requirements of the course assignments. It was felt that there might be more suitable projects in the future, either with this department or with other sections of the University.

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(2) Parish Plan - The Council had received an offer from Yorkshire Rural Community Council to attend a Council meeting to talk about Parish Plans. The Clerk also reported that Yorkshire Rural Community Council had been in discussion with Hepworth about the creation of a Parish Plan for Hepworth, but as yet the Council had not been approached in this respect.

The Committee agreed that the Council was more interested principally in producing a Forward Strategy Plan. Given other matters before the Council, and the current workload for Officers with the forthcoming changes, it was agreed to defer this matter to a later date.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk thanks Yorkshire Rural Community Council for its offer but declines it at the moment

(2) That the Council will consider the possibility of a joint project with the University of Huddersfield or other alternative partners at a later date

(3) That the Committee will look at the development of a Forward Strategy Plan later.

07 26 Freedom of Information Act 2000

RESOLVED: That, under the Council's Publication Scheme, supporting papers be made available for any item within the public session of the meeting, if requested, after approval of the minutes by the full Council.

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Chairman