

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 01 SEPTEMBER 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr T Bellamy

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs J Roberts

Councillors : Cllr L Bailey, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr G Christofi, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr T Dearnley, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr D M Firth, Cllr J M Greenwood, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs B E Smith, Cllr B A Smith

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs MA Bewick

Public Question Time

6 members of the public and one member of the press were present.

One member of the public, who had indicated her interest in being co-opted to the Council, now wished to inform the Council that, unfortunately, she now wished to withdraw from consideration for this, due to family problems. She wished to assure Members of her continuing interest in the Council's activities. Members thanked her for coming to let them know personally of her decision to withdraw from consideration. She left the meeting at the end of this session.

To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors Mrs. Osborn, Otterburn, Robinson and Mrs. Walker.

08 33 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr. T. Dixon declared a prejudicial interest in the payment of accounts to one supplier (agenda item 15).

Cllr. T. Bellamy and Mrs. B.E. Smith declared prejudicial interests in agenda item 16(2) (Post Office closures) and withdrew from the meeting during discussion of this item.

08 34 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

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

08 35 To receive Chairman's report

The Chairman reported on various events that he attended recently, including the opening ceremony for Booth House Play Area and Holmbridge Village Show. He reminded Members about a meeting to discuss the Holme Valley Band Contest on 14 September 2008 at 8pm at the Old Bridge Hotel.

08 36 Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Philip Hume, Head of Policy and Governance, Kirklees Council and Ms Penny Hudson, The Valleys Localities Co-ordinator, Kirklees Council to the meeting and invited them to address Councillors.

Mr Hume explained the aims of localities working, involving Kirklees Council and key partners (NHS, the Police, Local Councils) originating from a growing realisation that, as organisations, it was necessary to find ways to work together to improve strategic thinking and delivery of services. Seven localities had therefore been set up to cover the Kirklees area, each with a Senior Officer assigned responsibility (Dave Harris, Kirklees Director of Corporate Services, for the Valleys). It was now an opportunity for the Parish Council to be involved in the process from the outset, and he was, therefore, keen to find out to what extent the Parish Council wished to be involved in localities working and what they hoped to gain from it. Kirklees Council appreciated that Holme Valley's needs were very different from other areas within Kirklees and that needs varied within each Locality area. Sustainability was an important issue and it was generally accepted that issues such as housing provision, affordability of

Holme Valley Parish Council

housing, transport, employment had to be addressed to ensure sustainability of communities.

Members of the Parish Council were keen to support the priorities of the Localities Plan which echoed the Aims and Objectives identified by the Council, but had questions as to how such working would operate for the general public, and how the relationship between the Area Committees and localities working and Local Councils would operate as the Localities Action Plan developed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hume and Ms Hudson for attending and speaking to Members. They left the meeting, but asked to be informed of how the Council would wish to progress with this.

Given the amount of business to be transacted at the meeting, it was then

RESOLVED: That the report previously prepared about recommendations for a way forward in relation to localities management should be considered at the next meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee for recommendation to the Council.

08 37 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 July 2008 numbered 08 10 - 08 28 inclusive be confirmed.

Members also noted information from the Clerk relating to Dependants' Carers' Allowance; the issues would be considered again, if the legal situation changed (Minute number 08 26).

08 38 To confirm the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 18 August 2008 numbered 08 29 - 08 32 inclusive be received and adopted.

08 39 To confirm the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Meeting held on 28 July 2008 numbered 08 03 - 08 09 inclusive be received and adopted.

08 40 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 28 July 2008 numbered 08 16 - 08 28 inclusive be received and adopted.

Minute number 08 22(4) - Members were invited to the presentation evening for the Tidy Trader competition. The Clerk would inform Kirklees Council of numbers attending the next day.

08 41 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 4 August 2008 numbered 08 01 - 08 08 inclusive be received and adopted.

08 42 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 August 2008 numbered 08 36 - 08 46 inclusive be confirmed.

Cllr. Searby sought further information relating to the decision taken in respect of Planning Application 2008/62/91877/W3. The Clerk informed the Council that a full response would be placed before the next meeting of the Planning Committee as it raised wider issues regarding requests for applications to be considered by the Kirklees Planning Committee.

08 43 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 18 August 2008 numbered 08 18 - 08 29 inclusive be received and adopted.

Minute number 08 23 - it was further

RESOLVED: That receipt of the External Auditor's Certificate and unqualified opinion be noted, and the Clerk authorised to make the necessary arrangements for displaying the completed Annual Return and to advertise the closure of the audit, and the availability of the accounts.

Holme Valley Parish Council

08 44 To Co-opt New Members

Members were informed that five applicants interested in being co-opted on to the Council were present at the meeting. Details of all candidates who had indicated their interest had been circulated, one had subsequently withdrawn and one was not present. All persons met the necessary criteria. The candidates were then invited to give a short resume of themselves and their interest in the Council.

Following the resumes, nominations were invited from Councillors. The candidates present indicated their preference to leave the meeting at this point.

Two applicants were subsequently proposed and seconded and, following a vote it was therefore

RESOLVED: That Mr Philip S Hirst of 1 Greenhill Bank Road, New Mill, Holmfirth HD9 1LU be co-opted to serve on the Council as representative for the Holmfirth Central Ward for the remainder of the current term of office, namely until May 2011. Mr Hirst read the Code of Conduct, took his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and took up his place in the meeting.

Members valued the effort of all five candidates in attending the meeting and for making their case to the Council. Members wished to thank them for their interest and noted the high calibre of the candidates. They indicated that should it be possible, they would be pleased if the unsuccessful candidates maintained their interest in the Council. The unsuccessful applicants then left the meeting.

08 45 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for July 2008 totalling £13,352.95 and August 2008 totalling £14,546.29 be approved.

08 46 Request to consult with Parish Council

(1) Community Governance Review: The Clerk reported on the timetable for this review and Cllr. Kaye indicated that the first meeting of the Project Team was to be held on the following day. He had some concerns about the scope of the review as defined in the terms of reference and would be raising this point at the first meeting.

RESOLVED: That the timetable for this review be noted, and that consideration of the Council's submission should be undertaken by the Strategy and Policy Committee in line with the deadlines.

(2) Post Office Ltd - potential submission re Post Office proposals for closures: The Clerk reported on progress to date, with formulating the Parish Council's response to the Post Office's proposals for closure of two post offices in the Holme Valley. The deadline for submission was 22 September 2008. A public meeting had been organised for 8 September 2008 in Holmfirth Methodist Church, School Street, Holmfirth. Members were asked to arrange for posters supplied to them to be displayed in their Wards.

In order for the Council's submission to be agreed and ready in time for the deadline, it was

RESOLVED: (1) That the Working Party should meet as soon as possible, to formulate its draft submission.

(2) That a further Special Meeting of the Council be held on 15 September 2008 at 7.00 pm prior to the meeting of the General Purposes Committee, to consider and agree the Council's response.

(3) Joint Meeting of Parish and Town Councils with Kirklees Council: This would take place on Wednesday 24 September 2008, in Mirfield. The Council was normally represented by the Council Chairman and other Committee Chairmen. Cllrs. Kaye, Mrs. Roberts and the Clerk indicated that they intended to be present at the meeting, and the Clerk would liaise with other Chairmen about this meeting. Items for the agenda were listed, and it was agreed that the Clerk should request that Localities Management should be added to those items already on the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should submit this item for inclusion on the agenda and that she be authorised to make arrangements for representation at the Joint Meeting.

(4) Request from First Bus, Huddersfield (4) to update Members re bus services: Representatives of First Bus, and of Metro wished to attend a meeting of the Parish Council.

Holme Valley Parish Council

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should invite First Bus and Metro representatives to attend the General Purposes Committee Meeting on 15 September 2008.

08 47 Representation

(1) Members considered attendance at the following events:

- Pennine Prospects - Annual Conference, Saltaire - 3 October 2008

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

- Picture of Kirklees Conference, Huddersfield - 20 November 2008

RESOLVED: That Cllrs. Hirst and Kaye be authorised to attend; the Clerk to make the arrangements.

The Clerk also reported that Denby Dale Parish Council was unable to take up a place already booked for the Joint Training Conference in Scarborough at the end of September 2008. The Council was asked if it wished to take up this place, at the normal cost. No interest was expressed in further attendance.

(2) Neighbourhood Management Groups - The Clerk reported on the composition and organisational arrangements for these groups, as requested at the Annual Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the information supplied by the Clerk be noted.

08 48 Local Area Committees

Holme Valley North Area Committee: The next meeting would be held on 2 September 2008.

Holme Valley South Area Committee: Various Members had attended and reported that items discussed included policing, community safety and the Holme Valley Wellbeing Roadshow.

RESOLVED: That the meeting be noted and the reports received.

08 49 Freedom of Information Act 2000 - to agree what information will be made available to the public

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