

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 09 FEBRUARY 2009 -

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 T W Dixon, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr J M Greenwood, Cllr P S Hirst, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr B A Smith

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs MA Bewick

Public Question Time

One member of the public and one member of the press were present, but had no questions to put to the Council.

08 102 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mrs Hall, Oldfield, Mrs Osborn, Robinson, Mrs B E Smith and Mrs Walker.

08 103 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None were given.

08 104 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.

08 105 To receive Chairman's report

The Chairman reported on events which he had attended recently on behalf of the Council, including a multi-cultural evening at Dewsbury Town Hall which was very interesting, and Saddleworth Civic Dinner which had been an enjoyable, traditional civic event.

08 106 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22 December 2008 numbered 08 86 - 08 101 inclusive be confirmed.

08 107 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 22 December 2008 numbered 08 110 - 08 115 inclusive, and on 12 January 2009 numbered 08 116 - 08 228 inclusive be confirmed.

In connection with Minute number 08 224, a Member queried the proposed arrangements for the training to be provided by Kirklees Planning Services. He felt that topics should not be pre-arranged, but questions should be raised as appropriate in the discussions. His comments were noted.

08 108 To confirm the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee held on 12 January 2009 numbered 08 17 - 08 23 inclusive be received and adopted.

Cllr J Greenwood entered the meeting at this point.

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Royal Mail announcing a price increase for its Door to Door services with effect from 6 April 2009. If bookings were confirmed before 23 February 2009, Royal Mail current prices would apply for up to two years in advance. Members considered the potential savings worthwhile, but questioned whether further savings could be made if alternative distribution methods were considered.

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RESOLVED: (1) That the matter should be referred back to the Publications and Communications Committee to consider further, widening the discussion to possible alternative methods of distribution

(2) That the Clerk should arrange an additional meeting of the Publications and Communications Committee as soon as possible, to enable Royal Mail bookings to be made by the deadline of 23 February 2009 if the Committee feels that no further savings can be made through alternative distribution methods.

08 109 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 19 January 2009 numbered 08 17 - 08 27 inclusive be received and adopted.

08 110 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 19 January 2009 numbered 08 70 - 08 86 inclusive be received and adopted, subject to Cllr Bailey's name being added to the attendance list.

In connection with Minute number 08 84, a Member queried the inclusion of budget provision for certain headings but it was agreed that this could be discussed under the agenda item to discuss the precept and budget.

08 111 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 26 January 2009 numbered 08 68 - 08 79 inclusive be received and adopted.

08 112 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for January 2009 totalling £27,755.77 be approved.

08 113 Precept and Budget

The draft budget as prepared following Committee proposals, and accompanying reports prepared by the Clerk, were discussed. Due to the cancellation of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting, due to snowy weather, Members were asked to consider allocation of budget provision from the new initiatives heading towards projects which the General Purposes Committee wished to support. The Clerk had prepared the outturn figures for this heading based on approval of such allocation. She outlined the projects which were under consideration, and the amounts which had been suggested.

RESOLVED: That the Council approves allocation of monies from the New Initiatives budget for the current year for expenditure on improvements within the Upperthong Conservation Area, the provision of a community noticeboard and the provision of equipment for community events; these items would all be considered at future committee meetings following receipt of detailed quotations.

In respect of budget provision for new initiatives for the financial year 2009-10, it was proposed and seconded that the budget amounts, as proposed by the General Purposes Committee, for play areas and the arts trail should be removed from that Committee budget and re-allocated to the New Initiatives budget. The General Purposes Committee budget for play areas for the current year which had been earmarked for the provision of a play area at Upperthong would remain so allocated and carried forward to the next financial year.

This re-allocation of budget would not affect the total proposed expenditure for the Council and its Committees for the financial year 2009-10.

It was, therefore, RESOLVED the budget amounts as shown in the General Purposes budget for play areas and for the Arts Trail (amounting to £25,000) be re-allocated to the Council's budget under the heading, New Initiatives.

It was then proposed and seconded that the Council should adopt the option as presented in the draft budget, with the above amendment, for a 10% reduction in the precept for 2009-10 which followed agreed Council policy. After some discussion about the implications of such a reduction, it was

RESOLVED: (1) That the budget for 2009-10, as amended above, be approved and adopted

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- (2) That a copy of the budget, as amended above, be circulated to all Councillors
- (3) That the Council issues a precept on Kirklees Council of £133,650 and that the Clerk takes the necessary action to issue such a precept by the due date
- (4) That the Clerk checks with Kirklees Council and, if necessary, prepares the appropriate information for inclusion in the Council Tax leaflet as required by legislation, and that she be delegated to agree this information before it is submitted to Kirklees Council
- (5) That the further information contained in the Clerk's report be approved and noted.

08 114 Request to consult with Parish Council

(1) Proposals relating to Kirklees Community Governance Review: Members noted that a copy of the publication was available in the Council Offices, but details could also be found at <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/secure/meetings/pdfs/0109/CGAC29010934262D.pdf> The Clerk reported that the second phase of consultation was due to commence on 16 February 2009. Cllr. Kaye gave a brief update on the current position in relation to the review.

RESOLVED: That the matter should be deferred to the Strategy & Policy Committee, to allow all Councillors time to read the report.

(2) Consultation on Communities in Control - code of recommended practice on local authority publicity - Publications and Communications Minute number 08 22 refers: The Clerk reported that comments had only been received from one member of the Committee.

RESOLVED: (1) That Members of the Committee should submit comments on this consultation to the Clerk for incorporation into the response already received

(2) That authority be delegated to the Publications and Communications Committee to agree and submit a response on behalf of the Council by the deadline of 12 March 2009.

08 115 Local Area Committees

Holme Valley North Area Committee: Members indicated the issues discussed at the last meeting, including the increase in crime/theft, neighbourhood policing and the recommendation to paint milestones.

Holme Valley South Area Committee: Scheduled to take place on 9 February 2009.

RESOLVED: That the above report be received.

08 116 Representation

Possible cover for the Webmaster: At the last Publications and Communications Committee meeting (Minute number 08 20(4) refers) it was agreed to seek volunteer(s) to provide possible cover for the Webmaster. As no volunteers had come forward, it was agreed to defer this item for consideration at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That this matter be considered again at the next Council meeting.

08 117 To appoint Chairman and Vice-Chairman Elect

Civic Year 2009-10: Nominations were invited for the appointment of the Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2009-10. It was proposed, seconded and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Judith Roberts be nominated Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2009-10.

Nominations were then invited for the appointment of Vice Chairman Elect for the Civic Year 2009-10. It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Mrs Bratt be nominated. A further nomination for Councillor Greg Christofi was also proposed and seconded. A question then arose on the accuracy of the dates for commencement of service. Members agreed that, as laid down in the Standing Orders, seniority rules should apply and the Clerk should therefore seek clarification on election seniority before the Council could proceed with any such nomination.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk should seek clarification on election seniority of the two nominees and report back to the next Council meeting

(2) That the appointment of Vice Chairman Elect be deferred until the next full Council

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meeting.

08 118 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.

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Chairman