

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr T Bellamy

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs J Roberts

Councillors : Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr T Dearnley, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr J M Greenwood, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr P S Hirst, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr Mrs B E Smith, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Public Question Time

The member of the public present had no questions to put to the Council.

To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Bailey, Christofi, Cropper, Firth, Oldfield and Robinson.

08 86 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 11).

Cllr. Mrs. J. Roberts declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 17(2) - Wolfstones Quarry.

08 87 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 88 To receive Chairman's report

The Chairman reported on events which he had attended recently on behalf of the Council including the dedication ceremony for the new lychgates at St John's Church, Uppershong, the switching on of the Christmas lights in Holmfirth, and the Civic Carol service held jointly with Holmfirth High School, which he hoped would become an annual event. He also thanked members who had supported the Community Carol Service held at St David's Church, Holmbridge.

Members observed a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Hilda Smith, a Past Chairman of the Council. Members paid tribute to her life and her commitment to service to the public and to the Holme Valley.

Members were also circulated with an invitation to attend a reception hosted by the Mayor of Kirklees Council at Dewsbury Town Hall. Unfortunately, it was to be held the same evening as the next meeting of the Planning Committee. The Clerk had indicated this to the Mayor's office, but Members were asked to reply individually if they wished to attend.

08 89 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 November 2008 numbered 08 70 - 08 85 inclusive be confirmed.

08 90 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

In connection with Minute number 08 68 Budget Provision, some Members did not feel that the minute as recorded reflected their view of what had been decided, in particular in relation to the budget figures for next year being in addition to the amounts being carried forward under the Play Areas and Arts Trail budgets.

The Clerk pointed out that detailed budget figures could be discussed at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee, as the budget would not be finalised until the next Council meeting.

Holme Valley Parish Council

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 24 November 2008 numbered 08 58 - 08 69 inclusive be received and adopted, noting the concern expressed about the above two budget figures.

08 91 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

Cllr. Mrs. Hall queried the procedure for checking for receipt of apologies, as her apologies were not noted in the Minutes for 17 November 2008 as circulated. The Clerk apologised for the omission, as Mrs. Hall's apologies had been noted for the Council meeting held the same evening.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17 November 2008 numbered 08 87 - 08 95 inclusive, and on 1 December 2008 numbered 08 96 - 08 109 inclusive be confirmed with the addition of Cllr. Mrs. Hall's apologies which had been omitted.

08 92 To receive the Minutes of the Staffing Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 1 December 2008 numbered 08 09 - 08 16 inclusive be received and adopted.

Members were reminded of the need to return the feedback forms in relation to the Staff Development Review to Cllr. Kaye direct as soon as possible.

08 93 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

In connection with Minute number 08 60 Members noted the current interest rates applying to the Council's accounts. Given the rates quoted, the Clerk was asked to review interest rates as part of the budget process.

In connection with Minute number 08 64, Cllr. Kaye sought confirmation of the figures discussed; this information was supplied by the Clerk and it was agreed that these figures should be added to the minute.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 8 December 2008 numbered 08 55 - 08 67 inclusive be received and adopted with the addition of the budget figures as requested above.

08 94 Accounts for Payment

Members were circulated with an amended schedule for November 2008 and the schedule for December 2008.

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for November 2008, totalling £12,327.87 and December 2008 totalling £13,923.09 be approved.

The Clerk reported that HM Revenue and Customs wished to review the dispensation held by the Council; this covered both Members and Officers. The Clerk explained the background to this dispensation and the information which was required for the review. The Council authorised the Clerk to reply within the timescale arranged.

08 95 Request to consult with Parish Council

(1) Members considered how to respond to a consultation regarding lowering the Voting Age; any response should be submitted by the deadline of 20 January 2009. The Chairman conducted a straw poll of Members present; the result of which was roughly in line with figures logged via the online poll conducted on the Council's website, in that approximately 75% of votes cast were not in favour of reducing the voting age. Members felt that this information should be submitted in response to the consultation, in that there did not appear to be a significant response in favour of reducing the voting age.

RESOLVED: That the above comments be submitted by the deadline, in response to this consultation.

(2) Members considered the submission of online poll statistics relating to this consultation to the Youth Citizenship Commission.

RESOLVED: That the online poll should remain open until the day before the closure of the

Holme Valley Parish Council

consultation, and that the resulting statistics then be submitted to the Youth Citizenship Commission.

(3) The Council considered its response to a consultation regarding the publication of Candidates' Addresses at UK Parliamentary Elections with a deadline of 28 January 2009. After discussion, it was agreed that the Council would wish to indicate that the same rules regarding publication of information should apply to every election, at whatever level of authority, or national or european level, ie that there should be consistency in terms of disclosure.

RESOLVED: That such a response be submitted within the deadline.

08 96 Charitable Scheme

Holme Valley Parish Council (Graveship of Holme) Land Charity -

(1) Members considered the appointment of a Committee to manage the day to day administration of the Holme Valley Parish Council (Graveship of Holme) Land Charity (to be known as the Charity Committee). As requested by the Finance and Management Committee, advice had been sought from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations regarding appointments to this Committee and the Chairman of the Finance and Management Committee had been advised about his position, given his other interests. Several Members had expressed interest in serving on this Committee.

RESOLVED: (1) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Charity Committee until the next Annual Meeting of the Council: Councillors Bellamy, Mrs. Bratt, Cropper, Kaye, Robinson and B.A. Smith

(2) That the Charity Committee be asked to take cognisance of the Council's view that Cllr. R.P. Dixon be asked to act as a co-opted adviser to the Committee at appropriate stages of its discussions about the future of these sites.

(2) RESOLVED: That the newly appointed Charity Committee should prepare proposed terms of reference for the Committee for approval at the next Council meeting dealing with the Charity.

(3) As requested by the Finance and Management Committee, advice had been sought from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations relating to the administration of the above Charity and consequential implications for meetings of the Charity. The Clerk pointed out that this would mean the calling of extra meetings, both for the Committee and of the Council; it was also pointed out by Members that this would have workload implications for the Officers which should be considered by the Staffing Committee in due course.

RESOLVED: That the advice from YLCA and the related comments be noted.

08 97 Local Area Committees

Members reported on the recent meeting of the Holme Valley South Area Committee Meeting which had not been as well attended as other meetings. Reports had been received at the meeting regarding the Holme Valley Wellbeing Roadshow and a Neighbourhood Policing and Community Safety Update.

There had been no meeting of the Holme Valley North Area Committee since the last report to Council.

RESOLVED: That the above report be received.

08 98 Representation

(1) Members considered attendance at the following events:
- NALC Northern Regional Conference - 21 February 2009 - York
- NALC - Green Matters - 27 March 2009 - Aylesbury.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted, but that no bookings be made for these events.

(2) Members received reports of attendance at the following events:
- Valleys Locality Health Priorities event - 27 November 2008 -
Cllr. Mrs. M. Walker indicated that it had been an interesting session, although not quite as expected. The event looked at ways of providing health care in different ways and at arriving at a balance in terms of tackling issues.
- NALC Leading Members' Lunch - 19 December 2008 - Lincoln - the Chairman felt that this had been a worthwhile event, providing valuable information and knowledge about how other Councils operated,

Holme Valley Parish Council

and what common issues and problems were encountered by Local Councils.

RESOLVED: That the above reports be received and the Councillors thanked for their attendance at these events.

08 99 Administrative matters

(1) Model Publication Scheme

RESOLVED: That Holme Valley Parish Council approves the adoption of the above Model Publication Scheme with effect from 1 January 2009.

(2) Guide for pro-actively published information in relation to above scheme

RESOLVED: That the Guide for information available from Holme Valley Parish Council as attached be approved and be published on the Council's website.

(3) Public Participation Sessions at full Council meetings and meetings of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: (1) That the new procedure and guidelines as attached be approved

(2) That the Clerk be asked to make any necessary changes to the Council's Standing Orders in line with this new procedure

(3) That it be agreed that these changes should be implemented from the beginning of the new Civic year.

08 100 Awarded Quarries

- Wolfstones Quarry

(1) The Chairman of the Finance and Management Committee reported on action taken in respect of access to this site and to the clearing, by a benefactor, of rubbish left on the site.

RESOLVED: That the action taken by Cllr. Cropper be accepted and approved, and that it be noted that this had been resolved at no cost to the Council.

(2) An approach had been received from a local resident seeking a possible tenancy of this site.

RESOLVED: That this letter be considered by the newly appointed Charity Committee as it involves an Awarded Quarry site.

Having declared a prejudicial interest in this item, Cllr. Mrs. Roberts left the meeting during the discussion.

08 101 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.

.....
Chairman