

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21 JULY 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 J G Cropper, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr Mrs B E Smith, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

Public Question Time

One member of the public was present and wished to comment to the Council.

She wished to praise Kirklees Council for the work which had been undertaken to improve Victoria Park, but also to inquire whether further litter bins could be provided in the park.

Members thanked her for these comments which would be forwarded to Kirklees Council.

To accept apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Christofi, Dearnley, Firth, Greenwood, Kaye, and Searby.

08 10 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr. T. Dixon declared a prejudicial interest in the payment of one account (agenda item 16).

08 11 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 12 To receive Chairman's report

In opening the meeting, the Chairman expressed the Council's sympathy to Cllr. Mrs. Bower on the death of her husband, Michael Bower, a past Chairman of the Council. Tribute was paid to his work and service on the Council. He had served 25 years on the Council, and had always been totally committed to the Council and its work.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman commented briefly on events attended on behalf of the Council. The Chairman particularly thanked those Members who had supported him at his recent Civic Service which had been both enjoyable and successful.

The Chairman also congratulated Cllr. R. Paul Dixon on his completion of 25 years' service on the Council.

08 13 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 May 2008 numbered 07 127 - 07 140 inclusive be confirmed.

08 14 To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 19 May 2008 numbered 08 01 - 08 09 inclusive be confirmed.

In connection with Minute number 08 07, the Clerk reported that it was necessary to change one date for a future surgery for the Brockholes Ward. This change was noted and amended details would be placed on the Council's website.

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08 15 To confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 May 2008 numbered 07 196 - 07 201 inclusive, on 19 May 2008 numbered 08 01 - 08 02 inclusive, on 2 June 2008 numbered 08 03 - 08 14 inclusive, on 23 June 2008 numbered 08 15 - 08 24 inclusive and on 14 July numbered 08 25 - 08 35 inclusive (with the correction to Planning Minutes numbers for this meeting) be confirmed.

08 16 To confirm the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Publications and Communications Committee held on 19 May 2008 numbered 08 01 - 08 02 inclusive be confirmed.

08 17 To receive the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on 19 May 2008 numbered 08 01 - 08 02 inclusive and on 30 June 2008 numbered 08 03 - 08 15 inclusive be received and adopted.

08 18 To receive the notes of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee

RESOLVED: That the notes of the inquorate meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held on 23 June 2008 be received.

Some suggestions as to future action relating to Localities Management working had been drawn up and circulated to Members. It was regrettable that the meeting had been inquorate, but it was felt, given the importance of these new arrangements, that it would be helpful if Kirklees Officers could be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council to address all Members.

RESOLVED: That the Council wishes to invite Mr. Philip Hume, Head of Policy and Governance Service, and Ms Penny Hudson, Valleys Locality Co-ordinator, to address the next meeting of the Council regarding Localities Management and how it will work with the Parish Council.

08 19 To receive the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 19 May 2008 numbered 08 01 - 08 02 inclusive and on 7 July 2008 numbered 08 03 - 08 17 inclusive be received and adopted.

In connection with Minute number 08 11(4) Cllr. Otterburn reported that a special meeting of the Holme Valley Band Contest Committee would be held on 14 September 2008 to ensure continued support for this local Contest.

In connection with Minute number 08 13, Holme Allotments, Cllr. Mrs. Osborn reported on the condition of the walls, as requested. It was agreed that the Clerk should proceed to obtain costings for necessary repairs.

08 20 To receive the Minutes of the Special Committee

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Committee held on 7 July 2008 numbered 08 01 - 08 05 inclusive be confirmed.

The Council also asked that a letter of thanks be sent to YLCA in recognition of the advice and expertise that had been offered to Council in this matter.

08 21 To Co-opt New Members

Members considered various options for dealing with co-option of a new Member to fill the vacancy in Holmfirth Central Ward. It was proposed and seconded that Andrea Gosslin be co-opted to the Council to serve Holmfirth Central Ward. It was further proposed and seconded that any co-option be deferred until the next meeting of the Council as another nomination was forthcoming, but her permission had yet to be sought.

The first motion was, therefore, put to the vote, but was defeated. It was then

RESOLVED: (1) That any co-option be deferred until the next meeting of the Council to allow interested residents to apply

(2) That the Council should invite applications from interested electors to fill this Casual

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Vacancy

- (3) That the Clerk be authorised to place an advertisement for this vacancy
- (4) That a press release be prepared and issued inviting such applications
- (5) That the Clerk be authorised to make all necessary arrangements for this Vacancy to be filled at the next meeting of the Council.

08 22 Audit of Accounts

RESOLVED: (1) That the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2008 for Holme Valley Parish Council be approved for signature and submission to the External Auditors
(2) That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, once completed as recommended by the Finance and Management Committee.

08 23 Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the payment of accounts for May 2008 totalling £9,020.72 and June 2008 totalling £8,375.59 be approved.

08 24 Local Area Committees

Reports were received for Holme Valley North and South Area Committee Meetings from the Council's representatives. These were received and noted.

08 25 Representation

(1) Members considered attendance at the following events:

- YLCA - Councillor Training Programme 2008 and Chairmanship courses:

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Mrs. Roberts be authorised to attend a full day event on Chairmanship, fees and associated expenses to be paid by the Council.

- Y&HRTP, YLCA and ERNLLCA Annual Joint Training Conference - 26 - 28 September 2008 - Scarborough:

RESOLVED: That Cllr. Mrs. Roberts be authorised to attend this Conference, fees and associated expenses to be paid by the Council.

- Action for Market Towns Convention - 1 - 2 October 2008 - Skipton: Cllr. Cropper indicated an interest in attending.

RESOLVED: That if so desired, attendance at the above Conference be authorised for Cllr. Cropper.

(2) RESOLVED: That reports of attendance at training events and the Regional Conference be noted and the Members thanked for their attendance.

08 26 Administrative matters

(1) RESOLVED: That the Council approves the adoption of amended Standing Orders as agreed at the Annual Council, and as now before the Council, with immediate effect.

(2) RESOLVED: That the Council approves the adoption of amended Financial Regulations, as now before the Council and as recommended by the Clerk, with immediate effect, together with the consequent amendment to the Council's Bank Mandate.

(3) RESOLVED: That the request of the Chairman of the Staffing Committee for changes to the dates of two meetings of the Staffing Committee be approved.

(4) Members considered a request from Denby Dale PC to discuss the payment of Childcare/Carer Allowances for Parish Councillors. It was indicated that it was now not unusual for community organisations to offer such an allowance so as to encourage people to participate. It was recognised that there would be budget implications for the Council if such a dependants' carer's allowance were taken up by Councillors.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council should offer its Members, if required, a Dependants' Carer's Allowance, with immediate effect

(2) That the Clerk be asked to investigate suggested levels of payment for such an allowance and that she reports back to the next meeting of the Council, regarding necessary arrangements

(3) That Denby Dale Parish Council be informed of the Council's decision.

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08 27 Appointment of Office Holders of Standing Committees

(1) RESOLVED: (1) That, on the recommendation of the Chairman and the Staffing Committee, Cllr. C. M. Kaye, as Past Chairman and Chairman of the Staffing Committee, be appointed Staff Development Review Co-ordinator for the civic year, 2008-09

(2) That the Staffing Committee be asked to discuss whether this should be an annual appointment or a for a longer term to ensure continuity.

(2) RESOLVED: That, on the suggestion of the Special Committee, Cllr. T. Dixon be appointed as Public Relations Liaison Contact for the civic year, 2008-09, to improve publicity for the Council.

08 28 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