

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 06 APRIL 2009 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Mrs J M Osborn

Vice-Chairman : Cllr D M Firth

Councillors : Cllr L Bailey, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr P S Hirst, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P D Searby

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs MA Bewick

To accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs T Bellamy, Mrs D Hall and Mrs M Walker.

Cllrs Mrs Roberts was in attendance in her ex-officio capacity and Cllr Mrs Bratt was in attendance as an observer.

08 102 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.

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

None were given.

08 104 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2009 numbered 08 87 - 08 101 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

08 105 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

(1) Minute number 08 81(1) - Metro will investigate options for parking near Penistone Line railway stations, Brockholes and Honley. Members were requested to pass details of potential parking areas to the Clerk, for subsequent forwarding to Metro.

(2) Minute number 08 92(2) - Real time displays are now installed and working on three of the four stands at Holmfirth Bus Station.

(3) Minute number 08 77 - Former allotments, Brockholes - The landowner had responded and was not willing to consider re-allocation of the previous allotment site for future allotment use.

(4) Minute number 08 91 - Condition of roads in Scholes - As a result of recent weather conditions, Kirklees Council were checking all roads in Kirklees for defects and a major programme of work to repair potholes had started.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted, and the actions specified approved.

(5) The Clerk reported on a letter from a resident of Hepworth, about the increased level of HGV traffic on the A616.

RESOLVED: That the letter be forwarded to Kirklees Council Highways Officers for action and reply.

(6) Minute number 08 78 - Former Lane United Reformed Church, Uppertong Lane - Graveyard: An acknowledgement had been received from The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Ltd, thanking the Council for the information provided which would be now be pursued.

(7) Minute number 08 91 - Tannoy system at Brockholes Railway Station: Northern Rail are aware of the ongoing problem with the tannoy system and are working to resolve the problem.

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RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(8) Minute number 08 81(2) - Parking issues - Elmwood/Oaklands Health Centres, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth: Members noted the response from Kirklees Highways and an explanation of parking restrictions already put in place. Although Kirklees Highways would continue to monitor the site and consider further actions if the situation deteriorated, Members felt strongly that other actions should be taken immediately before a serious accident takes place.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk should

a) write to Kirklees Highways to remind them of a previous offer by a local builder to locate a crossing at this site, at his cost, and
b) invite Kirklees Highways Officers to a future meeting to discuss further options for improved parking at the site.

(ii) That the Clerk should ask the Publications & Communications Committee to consider the inclusion of an article in a future newsletter to petition Kirklees to provide a crossing.

(9) Following a complaint from a number of residents about the Holmfirth Market, now incorporating a children's play area and cafe, the Clerk had referred the matter to Kirklees Markets. Information had now been provided regarding the current and future use.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(10) Upperthong Conservation Area Enhancement Scheme: As money had been allocated in the budget, it was agreed that the matter should be considered at the next General Purposes Meeting in June or full Council Meeting in May.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should include the matter as an item on the Agenda for full Council to authorise funding for this project.

(11) Damaged wall - New Mill Churchyard: Members noted that the contractor had confirmed acceptance of the contract to carry out the work, which would be commenced following his liaison with the Church and their nominated tree surgeon.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

08 106 Complaints and Requests for Information

The Clerk reported on action taken in response to complaints:

(1) Damaged wall - Holmbridge (Minute number 07 101(4) and 08 07(1) refer): Kirklees Highway Services have made the wall safe until remedial works can commence (due in early June). Further reconstruction works to a retaining wall adjacent to the Holme Silver Band Room will commence in August 2009.

(2) Water collecting in uneven footway - Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth: Dips in the footway, possibly caused by vehicles parking outside Holmfirth Mills on the footway, have been investigated by Kirklees Highway Services. Kirklees Highway Services intend to remedy the situation within the next 6 weeks, by reshaping and strengthening the footway to ensure no reoccurrence of the problem.

(3) Manhole covers (Minute number 08 91): Kirklees Highway Services reported the sunken cover to BT, who has subsequently undertaken a permanent repair.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

08 107 Footpaths and Bridleways

(1) Meeting of Holme Valley Riverside Way Steering Group held on 10 March 2009 - Nothing to report as meeting had been abandoned.

(2) Request for waymarking number and route details to be included on signposts: Members agreed that, whilst numbering was of assistance to some users, more helpful to casual users would be an indication of the distance to, and destination of the footpath.

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RESOLVED: That the Clerk should forward the request to Kirklees Highway Services for consideration, with a copy to the Yorkshire Tourism Officer.

08 108 Tidy Trader Award

The Clerk reported on the meeting held on 4 March 2009 to discuss the setting up of a Tidy Trader Initiative in the Holme Valley North area, to complement the existing scheme in Holme Valley South. Although a decision to support was still awaited from the Kirklees Council Holme Valley North Area Committee, Members of the Parish Council agreed that the scheme should be extended to Honley this year and the wider Holme Valley North area in the future and judges had been appointed at the last full Council meeting, on the assumption that the scheme would be extended.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be accepted and further information awaited.

08 109 Highway matters

(1) Request for support to purchase/maintain phone box in Uppershong: Cllr Cropper reported that English Heritage had turned down a request to 'list' a phone box in Uppershong, but were BT to decide to discontinue use of this kiosk it might be possible for the Parish Council to buy the phone box for £1 and take on responsibility for its future maintenance.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Cropper be authorised to investigate the reasons English Heritage gave for turning down the request to 'list' and whether this decision might be reviewed, in the context of the new Conservation Scheme for Uppershong.

(2) Visit by CE Electrics representatives to meeting of Planning Committee on 20 April 2009: Although the matter was primarily a General Purposes Committee matter, due to the timescales involved CE Electrics representatives had been invited to the next Planning Committee meeting. They would outline the major repair works scheduled for the Netherthong/Honley area, the timescales involved and the impact on residents.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

08 110 Transport matters

(1) Holme Valley bus services: Members noted details of the changes, particularly to the X10 service which would cease, and the X11, 314 and 316 services which would be changing. The Clerk had already expressed concern that the changes had not been brought to the Parish Council's notice earlier and that no consultation had therefore taken place on the changes which had not been proposed in earlier meetings and correspondence.

RESOLVED: (i) that First Bus be invited to the next General Purposes Committee meeting (June 2009) to address Members on their concerns and an explanation of the lack of service through Hagg Wood.

(ii) That, although the stone shelter at the top of Smithy Place, Hagg Wood was no longer required, it should be retained in case of future bus changes.

(2) Kirklees Passenger Consultative Committee - 1 April 2009: Members noted availability of the agenda and associated papers.

08 111 Shelters and Seats

(1) Transfer of shelters to WYPTE: The Clerk reported that the Solicitor acting on behalf of WYPTE was now considering the formal agreement.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk continues to check on progress of this matter.

(2) Demolition of shelter - A535 New Mill Road, Wooldale: Members RESOLVED that no further action should be taken to demolish the shelter until the legal issues relating to the adjacent puffin crossing have been resolved by Kirklees Council; in the meantime, the Parish Council's contractor would be asked to check the shelter regularly as part of his normal duties.

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08 112 Arts Trail

Members considered the future development of the Arts Trail (Minute number 08 98 refers) and the suitability of the three projects previously suggested. Members agreed that a sculpture for the Riverside Gardens, Holmfirth would be most appropriate.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk should contact the sculptor to request an up-to-date quotation and to establish whether he is still interested in producing the work.

(2) That the item should be included on the agenda for a future meeting, once a re-quote had been provided.

08 113 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