

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Mrs J M Osborn

Vice-Chairman : Cllr D M Firth

Councillors : Cllr L Bailey, Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr G Christofi, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr Mrs D Hall, Cllr P S Hirst, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr R Oldfield, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs MA Bewick

### **To accept Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was accepted from Councillor Mrs D Hall.

Cllr Mrs R Bratt was present as an observer.

### **08 29 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

None were given.

### **08 30 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 31 General Purposes Committee**

RESOLVED: That Cllr Philip S Hirst, as newly co-opted Councillor, be appointed to fill the vacancy on the General Purposes Committee.

### **08 32 Transport matters**

(1) Update on Holme Valley bus services: Representatives of First Bus and WYPTE were unable to attend this meeting and would therefore be invited to a later meeting probably in January 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to First Bus and WYPTE to invite them to the meeting on 19 January 2009.

(2) H8/H9 service: Changes to this service had come into effect from 1 September 2008, the route now included Holme Valley Memorial Hospital and the service was proving to be more reliable and popular.

RESOLVED: That the above information be noted.

(3) Request to re-locate bus stop to original site - Huddersfield Road: Although a site meeting involving the relevant parties was considered, Members agreed that the bus stop should be relocated to its original site.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority and Kirklees Highways to inform them that Members agreed to support the request to relocate the bus stop back to its original site.

### **08 33 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 July 2008 numbered 08 16 - 08 28 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

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### **08 34 Correspondence arising from the Minutes**

(1) Diversion of Public Footpath, Holmfirth 34, Bank End Knoll, Brockholes - Minute No 08 07: The Clerk reported that no meeting had yet taken place and, due to the number of objections, this matter would be presented at the Kirklees Planning and Highways Committee.

(2) Damage to wall - Woodhead Road, Holmbridge - Minute No 07 101(4) and 08 07(1): Following a visit to site by a Kirklees Council Structural Engineer, Kirklees had accepted responsibility and made the wall temporarily safe, pending repair works which had now been programmed.

(3) Request for Grit Bin, Holme Village - Minute No 08 23: Kirklees had agreed to provide a grit bin on Meal Hill Road, for the beginning of winter.

(4) Adding Paths to the Definitive Map - Minute No 07 115: The Clerk had written to Kirklees as requested and the Public Rights of Way Manager would now deal with the Open Spaces Society in respect of their claims.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

### **08 35 Complaints Procedure**

(1) Various Members had received anonymous mail regarding anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the Parish Council's retention policy, the Clerk would destroy these as unsolicited and anonymous mail.

(2) Overgrowing vegetation and poor condition footpath - Victoria Park, Holmfirth: Following the complaint from a Member, the Kirklees Community Ranger had reported that shrubbery had been cut back and a step would shortly be repaired.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(3) Parking on Concord Street, Honley: Following a complaint received from a local resident, the matter had been taken up with the company concerned, and the matter had appeared to be resolved. Further correspondence, however, had been received which was circulated to Members. It was now reported that vehicles were mounting the footway to pass vehicles parked as a result of the original complaint. This was endangering other pedestrians and vehicles, and parking restrictions were being ignored.

RESOLVED: (1) That these concerns be reported to West Yorkshire Police and Kirklees Highways Services, as illegal parking on the footways and non-observance of parking restrictions do not come within the Parish Council's control.

(2) That the company be informed of the above action.

(3) That the Ward Member should raise the issue at the next meeting of the Area Committee.

(4) A complaint had been received from a local resident who had sat on a newly painted seat. The resident wished to submit a claim for replacement of two ruined items of clothing. Members agreed that, due to photographic evidence that a sign had been placed on the seat immediately after it had been painted, there were no grounds for a claim.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to inform the resident of the Members' decision and if she wished to pursue the matter further, details would be passed to the Parish Council's insurers.

### **08 36 Footpaths and Bridleways**

(1) Riverside Way Steering Group: Notes of the meeting held on 8 July 2008.

(2) Public Rights of Way Forum - Special Meeting to be held on 25 September 2008. Members to attend and report back after meeting to the General Purposes Committee.

(3) The Ramblers' Association - Affiliate Membership was considered by Members, who agreed to take no further action, as information and advice was already available to the Council.

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RESOLVED: That the above information be noted, and the actions agreed.

### **08 37 Highway matters**

Provision of two new public noticeboards for village centres: Members considered the implications of providing noticeboards as a valley-wide initiative, but noted that Holy Trinity Church, Holmfirth would be keen to maintain any noticeboard provided by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should seek quotations from various potential suppliers for comparison purposes, to supply one or five wooden/perspex noticeboards, and investigate whether or not planning permission would be required.

### **08 38 Shelters and Seats**

Members considered the suggestion of a local resident that the 'This is the property of ...' plaques affixed to seats should be larger, but agreed that the plaques should not detract from the larger memorial plaques affixed to some seats.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should respond to the resident to express the Members' wishes that the size of these plaques should not be altered.

### **08 39 Recreation Grounds**

(1) People's Park, Honley and new Skate Park, Jagger Lane - Members agreed to make a contribution of £2000 towards Kirklees Council's works to Phase 2 of the above projects in order to complete the works.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to respond to Kirklees Council and to transfer the payment when appropriate.

(2) Proposal for provision of a new play area in Upperthong - Following a request from a local resident accompanied by a petition, Members considered suggestions from the local Ward Councillors for suitable sites. Members wished to support this proposal, but felt that the Ward Councillors would have to explore further for a suitable site.

RESOLVED: (1) That Members support in principle the request for a play area in Upperthong, if a suitable site can be found.

(2) That the Clerk should write to the local resident, to thank her for her suggestion and the petition, and to inform her that the matter would be pursued further through the appropriate channels.

(3) That the Clerk should write to Kirklees Leisure Services to inform them that the Parish Council supports in principle the provision of a play area in Upperthong, and is making investigations to find a suitable site.

### **08 40 War Memorials**

The Clerk reported that refurbishment of the war memorials at Brockholes and Holme Valley Memorial Hospital had now been completed, and new gates were being made for Upperthong War Memorial. Various Members and the Parish Council's maintenance contractor would inspect the work and provide informal opinions on the quality of work, to satisfy the requirements of the War Memorials Trust etc.

RESOLVED: That, once feedback on satisfactory completion of works has been received, the Clerk should arrange payment of the contractor's accounts and inform the War Memorials Trust that the work on these two projects has now been completed, in order to claim the grants awarded.

Consideration was then given to the next phase of refurbishment, which would include the Lychgate at Hepworth, Honley War Memorial and a re-examination of the War Memorial at Holmbridge which had previously been refused a grant. The Reading Room at New Mill Working Men's Club was in excellent condition and did not need any work.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Mrs Bratt, Cropper and Roberts should visit these war memorials to assess the current state of repair, and then prepare grant applications for future submission as appropriate.

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**08 41 Arts Trail**

The Clerk reported that she had met with Neil Windett, Kirklees Countryside Manager, to discuss possible grant applications in order to maximise the funding available for progressing the Holme Valley Arts Trail. Grant funding was available for smaller amounts from Awards for All, and by working in partnership with other voluntary organisations who were eligible to apply for such funding, several applications could be submitted using the current year's budget as supporting funds without any increase in the budget set aside by the Parish Council. If successful, this would allow progress at various locations on the Arts Trail. The Committee had previously approved an application to Awards for All for a project involving Holmfirth Junior, Infant & Nursery School (Minute number 07 42) and had agreed to work in partnership with the Civic Society.

RESOLVED: (1) That this course of action be approved and the Clerk authorised to prepare and submit a grant application to Awards for All on behalf of the Parish Council.

(2) That the Clerk be authorised to liaise with other parties such as Brockholes and Honley Village Trusts, Holmfirth Arts & Music and the Holme Valley Civic Society regarding the preparation and submission of allied grant applications.

(3) That such maximisation of the Council's budget to attract extra grant funding be approved.

**08 42 Youth facilities**

Café 100: Members were concerned to learn of financial problems being experienced by this group. It was noted that an application had been made to the Area Committee which, it was hoped, would prove successful.

Members agreed that it would be useful for representatives of Café 100 to be invited to the next Committee Meeting to discuss how the Parish Council could help in any future initiatives. Representatives from the High School (e.g. Head Boy, Head Girl and a teacher) also to be invited, to get a mix of ideas.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to Café 100 and the School, to invite representatives to the next meeting.

**08 43 Freedom of Information Act 2000 - to agree what information will be made available to the public**

RESOLVED: That, under 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**