

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2009 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr T Bellamy

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

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs MA Bewick

To accept Apologies for Absence

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee due to other commitments, Cllr T Bellamy was elected Chairman for the meeting and took the Chair.

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs D M Firth, Mrs D Hall, Mrs J M Osborn, A R Otterburn and B A Smith.

Cllr Mrs R Bratt was in attendance as a substitute for Cllr Otterburn.

08 70 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None were given.

08 71 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 72 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2008 numbered 08 58 - 08 69 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

08 73 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

Memorial Seat and Plaque - minute no. 08 53 (1) refers: The Clerk reported that a thank you card had been received from the resident.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

08 74 Complaints and Requests for Information

The Clerk reported on action taken in response to complaints:

(a) Holmfirth Memorial Park: Members approved the referral to Kirklees and Holme Valley Civic Society of the inquiry relating to gravestones.

(b) Street lights not working at various locations: Members approved the referral to Kirklees ROSS of various street lights not working.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

08 75 Shelters and Seats

(1) Transfer of shelters to WYPTE: As reported previously, the transfer will take place but WYPTE has requested that a formal agreement be put in place before the transfer takes effect.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk would write to WYPTE to confirm Members' authorisation for an agreement to be drawn up, and for the payment as previously agreed.

(2) Shelters due to road traffic accidents: Members considered email correspondence and the position regarding shelter sites where shelters are currently missing. The Clerk indicated where insurance claims had been feasible, but in two cases, no evidence of the accident had been available. A replacement shelter had been provided at another site using insurance monies received.

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RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk should forward the relevant insurance documents to WYPTE to pursue regarding the shelter site at Alpine Corner
(ii) That Metro be informed of the position regarding the other missing shelters
(iii) That Metro be asked to replace shelters at these sites as a matter of priority.

(3) Frequency of cleaning following transfer of shelters to WYPTE: Members considered the options and cost implications for cleaning shelters once or twice a month, bearing in mind that Metro clean the cantilever shelters once a fortnight.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk should be authorised to request the contractor to clean the stone shelters once every fortnight, once the transfer of cantilever shelters has taken place
(ii) That no cleaning of the cantilever shelters should be undertaken following the transfer of shelters to WYPTE
(iii) That monies be allocated in the budget for cleaning of cantilever shelters until the transfer has taken place, or for extra cleaning/maintenance of the stone shelters
(iv) That if a Councillor sees any shelter in particular need of extra cleaning he or she should request this via the Council's office.

(4) Seats in Holmeside Gardens: Following an enquiry from Cllr K N Patrick, the Clerk had responded to the effect that the seats in this area were not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

08 76 War Memorials

(1) Further grant applications for next phase of refurbishment to war memorials: Members of the War Memorials Working Party reported on their findings following a tour of the war memorials in the Valley. Cllr Mrs Bratt was thanked for producing the report, indicating the Working Party's recommendations.

RESOLVED: (i) That the recommendations of the Working Party be accepted
(ii) That budget provision be made to provide funds to take the recommendations forward
(iii) That external grant funding should only be sought for significant work.

2) War Memorials Trust suggestion that freestanding war memorials be listed: Members noted the leaflet provided for information, but accepted the Working Party's recommendation not to pursue this route for the moment.

08 77 Allotments

Approach from Brockholes Village Trust regarding land previously leased for use as allotments: Cllr Bailey reported on the history of the previous allotment site and that the Allotment Society hoped that a new approach to the owner of the site might prove successful given changed circumstances.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to the landowner on behalf of the Allotment Society, to request that the land be re-allocated for allotments on a long term lease if possible.

08 78 Graveyards

Graveyard, Upperthong - The United Reformed Church (Yorkshire Province) Trust Ltd: Members considered correspondence but agreed that, as the Parish Council was not a burial authority and the graveyard was not full, the Parish Council could offer no support for the Trust's proposals.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to the Trust to that effect, adding that the Parish Council has no intention of taking on any more closed graveyards but offering the names of St John's and Kirklees Council as alternative contacts for the Trust to pursue.

08 79 Closed Churchyards

(1) Repair of wall, Christ Church, New Mill: Members noted that the contractor to whom a contract for this repair work had been awarded, had informed the Clerk that he would now be unable to undertake the work.

(2) Further quotations were being sought for the above repair work, from three different contractors.

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08 80 Signs

Village signs for Hepworth and Jackson Bridge: Cllr T Dixon reported on the request from a resident for signs in these villages. Although standard village signs would be provided free of charge by Kirklees Council, from past experience if non-standard signs were requested, these would have to be provided and paid for by the Parish Council, at considerable cost.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Dixon should pursue the matter with the Hepworth Village Association and should report back to a future meeting.

08 81 Parking

(1) Parking near to Penistone Line railway stations: Members agreed that parking was a problem in various locations and, as this Line was expanding at a rate of 12% per year, the parking problem would get worse. Various locations were suggested as being suitable for additional parking near to stations, but Members agreed that some research was required to find out about parking expectations. It was believed that a site identified at Brockholes, owned by Railtrack, could provide 16 to 18 parking spaces and a further site was suggested near Gynn Lane, Honley.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to WYPTE, as they have responsibility for this Line, to propose that they should conduct a feasibility survey and suggest ways to move forward on this matter.

(2) Parking on Huddersfield Road - location of Elmwood Health Centre and approach to Holme Valley Memorial Hospital: The Clerk reported on a number of complaints received regarding parking in this area, where bad sight lines due to parked vehicles were causing a danger to vehicles exiting the site, a danger to pedestrians crossing the main road, and mini-buses were having difficulty driving through the Hospital grounds due to parked cars on the driveway. Members agreed that additional parking spaces should be sought, possibly at Oaklands, and the matter referred to Kirklees Highways to consider parking restrictions (e.g. double yellow lines).

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk should write to both doctors' surgeries and the pharmacy with a copy to Holme Valley Memorial Hospital, to request their support and suggestions for alternative parking.

(ii) That the Clerk should refer the matter to Highways, copying the above doctors/pharmacy practices/hospital into all correspondence, as a matter of courtesy.

08 82 Highway matters

Honley Village Road Safety and Streetscape Scheme: The Clerk reported on a request from a resident for improvements to the roundabout at Moorbottom, Honley.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to forward the resident's suggestions to Kirklees Council.

08 83 Transport matters

Vegetation clearance works - Honley Cutting: Correspondence had been received from Network Rail giving details of essential vegetation clearance works to be carried out in January 2009.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

08 84 Budget Provision

Members considered information relating to its previous recommendations for budget provision 2009-10; Members were also reminded of concerns mentioned at the Council meeting regarding the amounts recommended for inclusion for a new play area at Upperthong and the development of the Arts Trail. After discussion, and further information contained in the Clerk's report, the following budget allocations for 2009-10 were agreed, with the addition of provision for projects initiated during the current financial year:

	£
Minibus (increased for inflation)	20,500
New shelters and seats (unchanged)	1,000
Maintenance of Shelters and Seats (unchanged)	12,000
Contribution to WYPTE (reduced)	3,165
War Memorials (reduced)	2,000
Dog Waste Bags (unchanged)	250
HV Patient Transport Scheme (unchanged)	2,500

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Tidy Trader Scheme (increased)	200
Closed Churchyard – New Mill (3 cuts allowed for)	1,050
Provision for Christmas trees and lights (increased to allow for provision in Honley)	4,000
Play Areas (unchanged)	15,000
Arts Trail (budget already held)	10,000
Cafe 100 (new project during 2008-09)	1,500
Community Noticeboards (new project during 2008-09)	1,500

RESOLVED: That the above recommendations be included as the budget provision for the General Purposes Committee and presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee to assess the impact on the precept.

It was also

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk be asked to apply to the Strategy and Policy Committee for funding from the Council's New Initiatives Budget for 2008-09 for improvements works to be carried out in Upperthong Conservation Area, and for the purchase of a new community noticeboard in Holmfirth, as discussed at previous meetings

(2) That the play areas budget being carried over from this next and the provision included in the budget for next year be allocated to the provision of a new play area in Upperthong.

08 85 Renewal of Contract

Contract - Maintenance of bus shelters, seats and New Mill closed churchyard: Members were informed that the current contractor was prepared to continue for a further year, if this was the wish of the Council. Members asked the Clerk to compliment the contractor on his work which was excellent in all aspects.

RESOLVED: That the current contractor's contract be renewed for a 12 month period from April 2009 and that the contractor be awarded an inflation linked increase to his hourly rate; the mileage rate to remain as now.

08 86 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