

# Holme Valley Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Mrs J M Osborn

Vice-Chairman : Cllr D M Firth

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

Officers : Mrs S S Barber

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

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs A Otterburn and P D Searby, and the Clerk.

Cllr Mrs R Bratt was in attendance as a substitute for Cllr Otterburn, and Cllr R P Dixon was in attendance as a substitute for Cllr Searby.

Cllr K D Sims (Kirklees Council), Mr N Holt and Mr A Bishop (WYPTE), Mr Matt Davies, Mr Mark Fenwick and Mr Adam Hawksworth (First Group) were in attendance to address the meeting.

### **08 58 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

None were given.

### **08 59 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 60 Markets**

Cllr K D Sims, Kirklees Council, addressed the meeting to highlight concerns about the current usage and viability of the full range of markets offered in Holmfirth. Attendance at markets in general, nationwide, is declining, and although the Holmfirth Farmers Market is currently viable, all the other markets are making a loss. Members were interested to hear Kirklees Council's plans to address this issue, through diversification and plans to offer different types of International markets, e.g. French and Italian products, and 'niche' markets e.g. antiques or books. Kirklees Council hopes to operate these throughout the summer tourist season, particularly on Sundays and it is hoped that the footfall will increase, whether or not local shops decide to open and promote their own businesses. Kirklees Council is currently running a shop front improvement scheme and there are plans for a street market on Hollowgate.

Members were in full support of Kirklees Council's efforts to increase footfall and interest in the markets, and thanked Cllr Sims for his attendance at the meeting.

### **08 61 Transport matters**

Mr Neil Holt and Mr Alan Bishop of West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, and Mr Matt Davies, Mark Fenwick and Adam Hawksworth of First Group were welcomed to the meeting.

(1) Holme Valley bus services: Mr Davies explained the improvements to the First Bus services in general, particularly to punctuality at the start and along routes. Although passenger numbers had declined before free concessionary travel was introduced, passenger numbers were now growing in the Holme Valley, despite being static elsewhere in the West Yorkshire area.

Although services in the Holme Valley were making a loss of £100,000 per year, First Group considered this as part of the service provision across the whole of West Yorkshire. Although fuel prices in general had reduced, First Bus 'hedged' (purchased a year in advance) its fuel for the entire group and was considering other forms of fuel for the longer term. Minor changes were therefore proposed to the existing services in the Holme Valley, involving the withdrawal of two buses from the timetable from April 2009. A consultation on the possible changes from April 2009 had therefore started. Fares had

## Holme Valley Parish Council

increased in January and July 2008, but no further increase was proposed for January 2009.

(2) Changes to H8/H9 minibus service: Mr Holt explained that the H8 and H9 services had been combined from 1 September 2008, due to the previous timetable being unreliable. Members were concerned to note that usage of the H8 service was still very low and, although jointly funded by Conroy & Booth, Kirklees Council and WYPTE, if passenger numbers did not increase WYPTE's criteria for support would not be met. This would mean that WYPTE funding would not be available from January 2009. However, Members were pleased to note that Kirklees Council would be considering a proposal in December to continue funding of the service from January to April 2009, to offer a further opportunity for growth in passenger usage, and Mr Holt hoped that funds from Kirklees Council would be available in the next financial year to continue to fund the service after April 2009.

(3) Age of buses used for peak services: A local resident had expressed concerns that many F or G registration buses were still being used, particularly at peak services. Although First Bus was aware of the problem and older buses would be withdrawn as soon as possible, no new buses were planned in the next five years.

RESOLVED: That the information given by WYPTE and First Bus be noted.

Mr Davies and his colleagues from First Bus, and Mr Holt and his colleague from WYPTE were thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

(4) West Yorkshire Rural Transport Partnership (Kirklees): Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2008 were noted.

### **08 62 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 September 2008 numbered 08 44 - 08 57 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

### **08 63 Correspondence arising from the Minutes**

(1) Parking on Concord Street, Honley - Minute no 08 35 (3) refers: On behalf of the Clerk, the Administrative Support Officer reported that correspondence had been received from Kirklees Council, confirming that the land in question belonged to the haulage company, who were therefore within their rights to continue to park there.

(2) Request for Grit Bin, Holme Village - Minute no 08 23 and 08 34(3) refer: The Administrative Support Officer reported that the grit bin had now been provided and an email of thanks had been received from the local resident who had requested it. Cllr Firth confirmed that the grit bin had been funded by the Area Committee.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(3) Proposed Improvements to People's Park, Honley - Phase 2 - Minute no 08 39(1) refers: Correspondence had now been received from Kirklees Council requesting payment for the Parish Council's contribution.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to transfer the payment immediately.

### **08 64 Complaints Procedure**

(1) Litter in Holmfirth: The ASO reported that an email received from a local resident had been forwarded to Kirklees Cleansing Services. The Community Ranger had now arranged the appropriate action to remove weeds, clear litter and cleanse the cobbled areas.

RESOLVED: That the above actions be approved.

(2) Painted seat - track above Wood Lane, Holmfirth - Minute no. 08 35 (4) refers: The ASO reported that further correspondence had been received from the resident.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write to the resident, to reiterate the Members' decision made at the last General Purposes Committee Meeting that if she wished to pursue the matter further, details would be passed to the Parish Council's insurers.

## Holme Valley Parish Council

(3) Two requests for provision of dog litter bins: The ASO reported that both residents had been advised to contact Kirklees Council Cleansing Officer.

RESOLVED: That the above actions be approved.

(4) Bus shelter - New Mill Road: The ASO reported that PCSO patrols had been requested and the resident advised to contact Kirklees Highways and Transportation.

RESOLVED: That the above actions be approved.

### **08 65 Shelters and Seats**

(1) Graffiti on bus shelters: The ASO reported that graffiti at two locations had been reported by the Clerk to the Council's contractor and cleared the same day. In anticipation of the transfer of shelters to WYPTE (as below), the contractor had been asked not to clean any further graffiti, but to continue to report it to the Parish Council. The Clerk could then consider whether any further cleaning should be actioned. In the meantime, more frequent PCSO patrols had been requested.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's action in this matter be approved.

(2) Transfer of shelters to WYPTE: The ASO reported that the Clerk had to check the location of one bus shelter to confirm the definitive list to WYPTE, who were proposing to replace many of the transferred shelters before the end of this financial year.

RESOLVED: (1) That Councillor T W Dixon would visit site as soon as possible and confirm to the Clerk the existence of the bus shelter in question.

(2) That the Clerk should then submit the definitive list to WYPTE, for the transfer to take place on 1st January 2009.

### **08 66 War Memorials**

(1) War Memorials Trust - Small Grants Scheme - Brockholes and Holme Valley Memorial Hospital: Correspondence from the War Memorials Trust had been received, confirming authorisation of payment for repair to these two war memorials.

The ASO also reported that the Clerk was in the process of submitting a completion report to English Heritage to claim grant funding for the new lychgate at St John's, Uppertong.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(2) Further grant applications for next phase of refurbishment to war memorials: Cllr Bratt reported that Members of the Working Party would visit the remaining war memorials to assess any refurbishment requirements.

RESOLVED: That the Working Party would put forward its proposals to the next General Purposes Committee Meeting.

### **08 67 Future Initiatives**

Proposed Establishment of an Uppertong Residents' Association: Cllr Cropper reported on the proposal to set up this Association to promote community cohesion, and to seek financial support from the Parish Council. Members agreed to support the establishment of the Residents' Association in principle, but following advice provided by the ASO from the Clerk on this type of pump priming funding, Members agreed that it was more appropriate for a grant application to be submitted through the Finance and Management Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should supply an application form and copy of the Council's grant criteria to Cllr Cropper, for completion and submission to the next Finance and Management Committee Meeting.

### **08 68 Budget Provision**

(1) Budget Provision 2008-09: Members considered the current budget position and the allocation of budget funding.

## Holme Valley Parish Council

(a) Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme - Minute no. 07 98(2) refers: Members approved the contribution of £2,500 to this Scheme for 2008-09.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to arrange the payment immediately.

(b) It was also resolved that the following actions be authorised for expenditure likely to be incurred before the end of March 2009:

Metro - if transfer date of 1 January 2009 agreed with WYPTE, a pro rata payment to Metro will be required.

War Memorials - expended in conjunction with successful grant applications - £1,860 (Lychgate, Upperthong) and Clerk authorised to reclaim grant funding from English Heritage.

Play Areas - Booth House and the Honley Skate Park - total £17,000

(c) That the following amounts be held over to 2009-10 earmarked for the following schemes:

War Memorials - £3,000

Tidy Trader Scheme - £350

Play Areas - £8,000

RESOLVED: That the above specified actions be approved.

(d) Closed Churchyard, New Mill:

RESOLVED: That it be noted that expenditure on repairs to the closed churchyard wall would exceed the budget provision in 2008-09.

(2) Budget Provision 2009-10: Members considered the budget for 2009-10 in the light of the Council resolution on budget policy.

RESOLVED: That the following budget provision be suggested for 2009-10

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Minibus                                     | £20,000 |
| New shelters and seats                      | £1,000  |
| Maintenance of shelters and seats           | £16,500 |
| War Memorials                               | £10,000 |
| Dog Waste Bags                              | £250    |
| Holme Valley Patient Transport              | £2,500  |
| Tidy Trader Scheme                          | £100    |
| Closed Churchyard - Christ Church, New Mill | £1,000  |
| Provision of Christmas Trees and Lights     | £3,000  |
| Play Areas                                  | £15,000 |
| Arts Trail                                  | £10,000 |

Plus earmarked budget brought forward from 2008-09 (as above at 1(c)).

(a) That it be agreed that the following actions be taken with regard to the following budget provision:

(i) Maintenance of shelters and seats - The budget amount to remain the same as last year, with consideration to be given at a later meeting to the frequency of cleaning by the Council's contractor.

(ii) Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme - Members were concerned at the level of usage compared to costs indicated. Members agreed to continue supporting this scheme in 2009-10, but required more detailed costings, including mileages, to justify continuing to provide financial support. Funding of £2,500 to be included in the budget, to be provided to the Scheme on the proviso that satisfactory detailed costings are provided.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk should write to the Scheme administrators to request the appropriate information.

(2) That the Chairman of Council be asked to produce a 'cost per passenger' from the detailed costings provided, for submission to a future General Purposes Committee Meeting.

(iii) Tidy Trader Scheme: Members agreed that, although the existing scheme needed to be better organised, the possibility of extending the scheme to other areas should be investigated.

## Holme Valley Parish Council

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk should write to the Kirklees Holme Valley North Area Committee to express Members' interest in extending the scheme and to arrange discussions with them about a joint partnership and organisation of the scheme.

(2) That the budget provision for a further permanent trophy and one additional personalised annual trophy be carried forward as indicated earlier.

(iv) Provision of Christmas Trees: Members agreed that the General Purposes Committee budget provision should be expanded to cover Christmas provision in general (i.e. trees and lights). They also supported the proposal to extend the provision to Honley.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to make the appropriate adjustments in the budgets of the General Purposes Committee and Finance & Management.

(v) Play Areas: Members supported the desire to create a play area in Uppershong and discussed the earmarking of the remaining £8,000 from the 2008-09 budget for that area. However, as efforts to find an appropriate site were ongoing, a total of £23,000 for 2009-10 to be earmarked for Play Areas in general, with priority given to Uppershong if a site could be found.

RESOLVED: That the above specified actions be approved.

(vi) Arts Trail: The Clerk had been asked to provide, on behalf of the Council, a letter of support to the Holme Valley Civic Society in support of an application to the Heritage Lottery fund, in connection with completion of the Riverside Way.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to provide this letter of support.

(3) Uppershong Conservation Area Enhancement Scheme: Cllr G Cropper reported on the plans to regenerate the centre of Uppershong, with the co-operation of Kirklees Council. Members would like to support this scheme financially, to the tune of £5,000, out of the New Initiatives Budget. The Parish Council should fund specific elements of the regeneration scheme such as the Village Pump, bollards and flagging, rather than a non-specific contribution to the total scheme.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk should write to Kirklees Holme Valley South Area Committee to request detailed costings for the specific areas proposed to sponsor.

(2) That this proposal and appropriate costings be considered by the Strategy & Policy Committee at its next meeting.

### **08 69 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**