

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2009 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr J M Greenwood

Vice-Chairman : Cllr T W Dixon

Councillors : Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr B A Smith

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs MA Bewick

To accept Apologies for Absence

In the absence of Cllr Greenwood, Cllr T Dixon took the Chair for the first part of the meeting.

An apology was accepted from Cllr T Bellamy.

Mrs Sandie Marshall, Editor of the Holme Valley Echo, was in attendance at the meeting.

08 17 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 18 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None were given.

08 19 To accept the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2008 numbered 08 10 - 08 16 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

08 20 Parish Website

(1) Online Polling: Members noted that the current online polling question was related to the Youth Citizenship Commission's consultation on whether the voting age should be lowered to 16.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk would submit the statistics generated to the Youth Citizenship Commission by the deadline of 20 January 2009.

(ii) That it be noted that the next online poll question should be on whether residents would be happy for the Parish Council to make a major contribution to funding for the Christmas lights.

(iii) That a future question for the online poll question could be whether a large superstore would be an asset to the Holme Valley.

(2) Discussion forum on website - Minute number 08 13 refers: Members agreed that, due to the amount of effort and technical knowledge required, for minimum benefit, this was not worth pursuing any further for the moment.

Cllr Greenwood entered the meeting, gave his apologies for being late and took the Chair.

(3) Visitor statistics: As requested at the last meeting, password protected access was now available to the website statistics via <http://webstats.phonecoop.coop>. Members should apply to the Clerk for further details.

(4) Webmaster: Members considered the various options for succession planning, including other Councillors or sub-contracted services willing to take on this role if and when Cllr Mrs Bratt is unavailable to update the website. The Officers now had access to all areas of the website and could potentially offer emergency cover.

RESOLVED: (i) That Cllr Mrs Bratt be thanked for all the work done on the website to keep it up-to-date.

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(ii) That the Clerk would raise the issue of succession planning as part of the Development Review.

(iii) That the Clerk would add an item to the agenda for the next Council meeting, to seek volunteers to provide possible cover for the Webmaster.

08 21 Quarterly Newsletter

(1) Content for next edition of newsletter - Spring 09: Members considered the content for the next edition of the newsletter, Spring 09, which had a deadline for articles to the Editor of mid to end of February 2009.

RESOLVED: That the possible content for the Spring 09 edition be as follows, and that the final version be approved by electronic circulation as previously:

Grant reports - Clerk/ASO
Community Governance Review (due out at the end of January 2009) - Clerk
Bus timetable changes - ASO
Budget - Chairman of Council
Transfer of bus shelters - Clerk
Proposed Tesco development (? dependent on timing of planning application)
Profile of sub-contractor - Contractor
Charitable Scheme - ASO
Yorkshire Water progress update on works at Ramsden Reservoir - Clerk to pursue
Civic Events - Chairman

(2) Information from Kirklees Council re Community Grants Scheme: Members noted the information provided on funding available for smaller local voluntary and community groups, and agreed to support the scheme by providing a link from the Parish Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted, that a link be set up on the website, and details of the scheme included in the next newsletter.

(3) The Clerk reported on the amalgamation of the Council's current printer with another company with a consequent change of address.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

08 22 Publications and Communications

Consultation on recommended practice on local authority publicity: Members noted the letter from Communities and Local Government (also available at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/publicitycodeconsultation>)

RESOLVED: (i) That Cllr Mrs Bratt would circulate her comments on the consultation paper to Members of the Publications and Communications Committee by email, with a request for comments within 7 days.

(ii) That the Clerk should submit the Committee's comments to the next full Council Meeting, for approval and submission to Communities and Local Government by the deadline of 12 March 2009.

08 23 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.

Mrs. Marshall explained to Members that although production of the Holme Valley Echo was going very well, she would be taking maternity leave in the Spring. She was invited to a future meeting of the Committee once she had returned to work. Members wished her well over the coming months.

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Chairman