

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 28 JULY 2008 -

Those present :

Vice-Chairman : Cllr T W Dixon

Councillors : Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr B A Smith

Officers : Mrs MA Bewick

To accept Apologies for Absence

An apology was accepted from Councillor Greenwood. Cllr. B A Smith apologised for his late arrival at the meeting due to other personal commitments.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the Chair for the meeting.

08 03 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 04 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None were given.

08 05 To accept the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 14 April 2008 numbered 07 46 - 07 53 inclusive, and on 19 May 2008 numbered 08 01 - 08 02 inclusive be received and adopted as true records of the meeting.

In connection with Minute number 07 51, the Clerk reported that Yorkshire Water had offered the Council a contribution towards the costs of the last newsletter, in recognition of the inclusion of information on its behalf. Members were pleased to accept the amount of contribution offered.

08 06 Parish Website

(1) Online Polling results - Members discussed the level of response there had been to various on-line polls and the need to consider how such consultation was then dealt with by the Council. Results of previous polls were available on the website, and it was agreed that ideas for future polls should emanate from the Council's Committees in order to ensure that there is some involvement in the proposal from the Council. The consultation would then be fed back to the Committee to assist it in discussions about the future development of an idea.

RESOLVED: (1) That Committees be requested to supply the Publications and Communications Committee with suitable questions for the on-line poll which would have relevance for their future programme planning, etc

(2) That it be noted that a new question is required for the on-line poll in October 2008.

(2) Online polling software - Cllr. Mrs. Bartt wished to alert the Committee to the fact that changes had been made to this software which might in future mean that advertisements would appear with the on-line poll which would not be within the Council's policy for the website. The software was now free, but she felt that if a charge, or advertising were to be introduced automatically, the Council should disconnect the software and investigate other options.

RESOLVED: That should either of those scenarios arise, use of this software should be discontinued immediately.

(3) Discussion forum on website - Minute number 07 50(3) refers: Members discussed this option and various implications of such a group. Careful monitoring would be necessary which would have a time commitment. A trial site had been created, but this did include some advertising; there would have to be some process for choice of topic to ensure items had relevance for the Council, and came within the

Holme Valley Parish Council

Council's remit. Although the Vice Chairman was prepared to monitor such a forum, it was felt that at the moment more thought needed to be given to the idea and to the implications and involvement that would be required by Members. As the Chairman had suggested the idea, it was felt that this should be discussed at another meeting, when he was present.

RESOLVED: That further discussion of this idea be deferred until the Chairman of the Committee was present.

As agreed at the full Council meeting, the Clerk had prepared an article for the website and for press release regarding the Casual Vacancy. Members approved the content, and its release.

08 07 Quarterly Newsletter

Members considered the content for the next edition of newsletter, Autumn 2008, which had a deadline for articles to the Editor of 20 August 2008.

RESOLVED: That the possible content for the Autumn 2008 edition be as follows, and that the final version be approved by electronic circulation as previously:

Booth House Play Area - Improvements (?progress) - Clerk/Cllr. Mrs. Bratt

A week in the life of ... - Cllr. Mrs. Roberts

Public Clocks - the Parish Council's role, allied to a competition to identify public clocks - Cllr. Mrs. Bratt

Committee to award prize for local winner, and one for entry from furthest away from the Holme Valley

Grant reports - Kirkroyds Pre-School, Holmfirth Festival of Folk

New H8/H9 service changes - Cllr. T. Dixon

Chairman's Charity - Cllr. T. Bellamy

? Co-option, if information available in time

Update on War Memorials works - Clerk.

It was, therefore, further resolved that the payment of two prizes for the above competition be approved.

In discussing possible content for this newsletter, the possibility of including information about community events, or general information which might be useful to residents, was again raised. It was further resolved that guidelines for inclusion of information in the newsletter should be discussed at the next meeting.

08 08 Publications and Communications

Members considered an approach from the Holme Valley Community Times, a new publication to be launched in October 2008 in the Holme Valley. Although Members had visited the website, it was difficult to learn much about the proposed publication, and there were concerns about the size of its proposed distribution in comparison to the Parish Council's area.

RESOLVED: That the Committee would prefer to see several published editions and some more information about its coverage before coming to any decision about submitting an article.

08 09 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