

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY AND POLICY HELD ON MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2008 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr T Bellamy

Councillors : Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr Mrs J Roberts

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs MA Bewick

To accept Apologies for absence

An apology was accepted from Cllr J Greenwood.

Cllr Mrs Roberts apologised for her late arrival.

Councillor Mrs R Bratt was present at the meeting as an observer.

08 01 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None were given.

08 02 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

RESOLVED: That item 5 (Community Governance Review) on the agenda be taken in private session owing to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, and that it be taken at the end of the meeting.

08 03 To accept notes of previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting held on 23 June 2008 (which was inquorate) be received as a true record of the meeting.

08 04 Localities Management

Following the referral from Council (minute number 08 36), Members considered a draft response to the Localities Plan and it was felt a response should be submitted to the Valleys Localities Management Team, to outline the Parish Council's views and wishes about the development of Localities Management.

Kirklees Council intends to introduce seven area localities, including the Valleys on which the Parish Council is now being consulted. The Kirklees Localities Management Team aims to establish resources and priorities more appropriate to each locality's needs, which are very different from locality to locality. The Parish Council agreed to support the need for Localities Management, but requested that Members should be consulted at each stage.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk should submit the agreed response as soon as possible and should request a copy of the timetable referred to by Mr Philip Hume at the recent Joint Liaison Meeting.

(2) That the Clerk would attend a Localities Management seminar entitled 'Help or Hindrance to diversity' in Huddersfield on 2 October 2008.

08 05 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED: That the business of this Council now to be transacted be not open to the public and press on the grounds that the matters to be discussed are of a confidential nature.

08 06 Community Governance Review

All Parish and Town Councils in Kirklees had been asked to prepare a response to the consultation on Community Governance Review being carried out by Kirklees Council. The consultation period starts on 6 October 2008 and the review body comprises Kirklees Officers, Cllr Charles Kaye (Parish Representative) and the Clerk of Denby Dale Parish Council (Clerk Representative). The review body's draft proposals would then be put forward to Kirklees Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management

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Committee for further consideration. The Council had been asked, as a matter of urgency, to supply details of Councillors, Council and Sub-committee meetings, published accounts, key stakeholders and community information. Members discussed the draft list of key stakeholders prepared by the Officers and added further details.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk would submit the basic information requested by the Community Governance Officer on 30 September 2008, as agreed by the Committee.

The next phase of the consultation process would be for the Parish Council to prepare its report and evidence on how effective it is. The scope of the review would need to be addressed and consideration given to the types of questions that might be asked with anticipated responses.

RESOLVED: (1) That a Community Governance Review Working Party be set up to include all Members of the Strategy & Policy Committee, together with other members of the Council, e.g. the Editor of the Newsletter, Public Relations Liaison Contact, as and when appropriate.

(2) That this be a fluid Working Party and the Clerk be authorised to bring Members together when required and in small groupings to assist in the preparation of the draft submission.

(3) That the Strategy & Policy Committee meets to approve this draft submission for recommendation to the Council at its meeting on 17 November 2008.

A Joint Meeting of all the Parish and Town Councils in Kirklees had been proposed for 21 October 2008, to discuss the Community Governance Review specifically. Whilst each Parish or Town Council would submit its own response, it had also been suggested that a joint parish response should be considered.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Clerk would contact other Clerks regarding this Joint Meeting.

(2) That Cllr Bellamy as Chairman, or the Vice Chairman if he could not attend, and the Clerk would attend the meeting on 21 October 2008 to represent the Council.

08 07 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 be made available for any items within the public session of the meeting, if requested, after approval of the minutes by the full Council.

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Chairman