

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 26 APRIL 2010 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Mrs J Roberts

Vice-Chairman : Cllr R Bratt

Councillors : Cllr L Bailey, Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr M Bower, Cllr G Christofi, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr T Dearnley, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr R P Dixon, Cllr C R Greaves, Cllr C M Kaye, Cllr Mrs J M Osborn, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr P Robinson, Cllr B A Smith, Cllr Mrs B E Smith, Cllr M A Walker

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs M A Bewick

09 86 Public Question Time

Two members of the public were present, and addressed Members on their concerns regarding the lack of bus service between New Mill and Jackson Bridge. Such concerns about the lack of service were known to the General Purposes Committee and had been passed to Metro.

The members of the public were also interested in hearing about improvements being proposed for Holmfirth Town Centre.

Mr David Wyles, Kirklees Council Regeneration and Economic Development Service, was in attendance to address Members on item 5 on the agenda (Regeneration of the Holme Valley).

09 87 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Firth, Mrs Hall, Hirst and Searby.

09 88 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr T W Dixon declared a prejudicial interest in the payment of one account (Agenda item 9).

09 89 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

RESOLVED: That item 12(4) (Council Minute number 09 85 refers) on the agenda should be taken in private session.

09 90 Regeneration of the Holme Valley

Mr David Wyles of Kirklees Council Regeneration and Economic Development Service, was welcomed to the meeting in place of Mr Carl Tinson, who was unable to attend due to another commitment.

Mr Wyles explained details of the proposed Holmfirth Improvement Scheme, to include specific major projects at the Heritage Garden and the Market, and three other projects (at Daisy Lane, the corner of Victoria Street/Huddersfield Road, and the corner of Hollowgate/Victoria Street). The improvements would be funded by Kirklees Council and the Holme Valley South Area Committee, with further contributions and the necessary approvals from local businesses, BT and the Post Office.

Kirklees Council was seeking a contribution from the Parish Council towards the placement of 7 seats around the town centre, many of which were made of recycled materials as was normally provided by the Parish Council; replacements in hardwood were proposed by Kirklees Council, to be more in keeping with the Conservation Area, but Members indicated their preference for the metal type of seat, similar to those recently installed at Jagger Lane, Honley, as less likely to be vandalised. If the Parish Council was in support of replacing its recycled seats and contributing an amount commensurate with the cost normally paid by the Parish Council, Kirklees Council would fund the difference.

Kirklees Council was considering improvements to the well at the bottom of Dunford Road, pedestrianisation of some areas around the town centre, and other suggestions put forward (e.g. a bandstand in Holmeside Gardens). It was hoped that all the improvements would help to regenerate

the area, encourage businesses to continue trading in the area and encourage more tourism.

Members welcomed the proposed improvements and were pleased to note that Kirklees Council had served a Section 215 notice on a local business owner, to make cosmetic improvements to a shop on Victoria Street.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Parish Council would contribute towards the cost of 7 replacement seats, in metal or hardwood, to a value commensurate with the cost of 7 recycled seats, and the Parish Council would undertake to provide future maintenance of those seats.

(2) That the recycled seats to be replaced should be removed and installed elsewhere in the Valley, and stored, if at all possible with the Council's contractor, until required.

(3) That the condition and refurbishment of the roof of the shelter at Hollowgate be considered at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

(4) That the Clerk should liaise with John Fletcher, Kirklees Council, re the possibility of providing a bandstand in Holmeside Gardens in the future.

Before he left, Mr Wyles was thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

09 91 To receive Chairman's report

The Chairman reported on a number of events attended on behalf of the Council, including the Annual General Meeting of the Macmillan Cancer Support Group, Mossley Town Council Civic Dinner, Ripponden Parish Council Civic Dinner, Thongsbridge Village Awareness Day, Mirfield Town Council Civic Reception, Holmfirth Choral Society event, the Guides Day, Hepworth Band Musical Evening, the St George's Day Parade, and an auction in aid of the Arts Festival. She had attended the Holme Valley Brass Band Contest and delighted in hearing the children playing in the new section for young people. The Chairman thanked Members who had acted as stewards during the Contest Parade.

The Chairman had held the Civic Luncheon on 25 April 2010 and thanked her fellow Members for all their support at this fundraising event.

Both members of the public left the meeting at the end of this item.

09 92 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting

In connection with Minute number 09 81(2), Cllr Cropper requested the deletion of a number of words in the minutes, as he did not believe that the minute as before the Council reflected what was said at the meeting.

In connection with Minute number 09 82, it was agreed to delete the words 'Riverside Way'.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 February 2010 numbered 09 71 - 09 85 inclusive be confirmed, subject to the amendments as agreed above.

09 93 To confirm the Committee Minutes under delegated powers

Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, as adopted by Council on 18 May 2009, it was

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Committees as listed below be confirmed:

(1) Planning Committee - 22 February 2010 numbered 09 167 - 09 179 inclusive

(2) Planning Committee - 15 March 2010 numbered 09 180 - 09 192 inclusive

(3) Planning Committee - 12 April 2010 numbered 09 193 - 09 207 inclusive

(4) General Purposes Committee - 22 March 2010 numbered 09 72 - 09 91 inclusive

(5) Finance and Management Committee - 29 March 2010 numbered 09 58 - 09 74 inclusive

In connection with the General Purposes Meeting, 22 March 2010 (Minute no. 09 75 refers), it was agreed that further consideration of Christmas Provision, particularly for the Thongsbridge area, should be made at a future meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

09 94 Annual Accounts

Having declared a prejudicial interest, Cllr T W Dixon left the meeting during consideration of this item.

RESOLVED: That the accounts for payment for February 2010 totalling £8,586.53 and March 2010 totalling £15,928.76 be approved.

09 95 Audit of Accounts

RESOLVED: That the Interim Statement of Receipts and Payments to 31 March 2010, as amended, be received and adopted.

09 96 Reference from a Committee

Finance and Management Committee Minute number 09 71(2) refers: Members approved the disposal of a number of items of surplus furniture. Any funds generated from such a sale would be used towards the cost of re-upholstering the remaining seat covers.

RESOLVED: That the above be approved and the Clerk to seek comparative re-upholstery costs.

09 97 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(1) General Purposes Committee: Members considered the purchase of a further supply of biodegradable, over-printed dog waste bags and how they should be distributed in future.

RESOLVED: (a) That the entire budget provision for this heading be used to purchase as many bags as possible.

(b) That an item be included on the next agenda of the General Purposes Committee, to consider sponsorship of dog waste bags by local pet shops.

(2) Staffing Committee Minute numbers 09 05 and 09 19 refer: Members noted an anomaly regarding the proposed award of an increment to the Administrative Support Officer. It was agreed that this should be referred back to the Staffing Committee, to meet and resolve the situation as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That the matter be referred back to the Staffing Committee for further consideration, and that the Staffing Committee be delegated to resolve the situation.

(3) Publications and Communications Committee Minute number 09 29 refers: Members considered representation and the detailed arrangements for the Parish Council's attendance at Honley Show on Saturday, 12 June 2010, at the joint stand with Kirkburton Parish Council. The Clerk reported that the stand had been booked, but promotional material to be displayed on the panels purchased last year would need to be updated. Members noted that Kirkburton Parish Council would be providing the marquee again this year and it was agreed that Holme Valley Parish Council should make a contribution of 50% of its cost.

It was agreed that dog waste bags would be handed out again, and a competition would be organised, to encourage people to visit the stand.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements, including booking of passes etc.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

(4) Council Minute number 09 85 refers: Members noted the receipt of a further letter to the Council from a local resident but agreed that this was a matter for the Trustee of the Charity, via its Management Committee, to consider. The Clerk reported on a session attended at a recent Conference, given by a senior lawyer with the Standards Board, where clarification was provided on the role and responsibilities of a Council (as a corporate body) as a Trustee.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to respond to the resident, to inform him that the Trustee of the Land Charity would be considering his correspondence and responding in due course.

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: That the public and press be re-admitted to the meeting.

(5) Planning Committee Minute number 09 202 refers: Members considered all the suggestions for the naming of the new development off Scotgate Road, Honley and agreed that either Scotgate Close or Scotgate Fold was preferable.

RESOLVED: That the Officer should forward both suggestions to Kirklees Council.

(6) Finance and Management Committee Minute number 09 69 refers: Members noted that a current tenant had agreed to the splitting of her plot.

RESOLVED: That the split plot should be offered to the next person on the Waiting List.

(7) Land Charity: Members approved the request made by the Land Charity for a new temporary contract for the Officer to the Charity, to include an increase in hours worked for the Land Charity, on a rolling three month review, with recharging on a quarterly basis for those hours worked.

RESOLVED: That the issue of a new temporary contract to the Administrative Support Officer in relation to work to be carried out for the Land Charity, as detailed above, be approved.

09 98 Local Area Committees

Members reported on a number of Holme Valley North Area Committee Meetings attended recently; the first included discussions on policing issues, lighting at the Jagger Lane Skate Park, a presentation on 'Eurolocks' and burglary prevention, the 'Heads Together' internet program, Highways and traffic calming measures, parking issues in the centre of Honley, dog fouling concerns at Honley Recreation Ground, and wheelie bins obstructing the footway at Lower Reins.

However, a number of local residents in attendance had been quite disruptive and the Ward Councillors expressed concern about the lack of democracy at such meetings, and the unacceptable level of abuse aimed at the Police and Ward Councillors. It was suggested that a code of behaviour, such as covered Councillors, should be agreed for members of the public attending such meetings.

As the meeting had been held in the period immediately before the elections, discussions at the Holme Valley South Area Committee Meeting had been brief, with a discussion on the use of CCTV equipment.

RESOLVED: (1) That the above reports be received.

(2) That the Ward Councillors' concerns from the Holme Valley North Area Committee Meeting be forwarded to the Head of Policy and Governance, Kirklees Council.

09 99 Representation

(1) Members considered attendance at the following events:

- LCAS Seminars - Various venues and dates in 2010 - one free place available
- NABMA NALC Local Council Seminar 2010 - Shrewsbury - 4 June 2010
- University of Gloucestershire in partnership with ILCM - Summer Seminars - 8th and 9th July 2010

RESOLVED: That the information be noted, but that no bookings be made for these events.

(2) Reports were received of attendance at the following events:

- YLCA South Pennine Branch Meeting - 10 March 2010 - Cllr Kaye informed the Council that a motion regarding the use of SAT systems by HGVs was to be forwarded to YLCA and hopefully, to NALC, following Holme Valley Parish Council's request for such consideration
- Lupton Fawcett - ACAS Code and Changes - 11 March 2010 - Chairman
- Joint meeting of Parish/Town Councils and Kirklees Council - 31 March 2010 - Cllrs Mrs Bratt and Mrs Roberts and the Clerk

RESOLVED: That the above reports be received and noted, and the Members and Clerk thanked for their attendance.

09 100 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 confirmation of the minutes.

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Chairman