

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 29 JUNE 2009 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr D M Firth

Councillors : Cllr L Bailey, Cllr M Bower, Cllr Mrs R Bratt, Cllr J G Cropper, Cllr T W Dixon, Cllr P S Hirst, Cllr A R Otterburn, Cllr P D Searby, Cllr B A Smith

Officers : Mrs S S Barber

To accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs G Christofi, R P Dixon, Mrs D Hall and Mrs J Osborn.

Cllr Mrs R Bratt was in attendance in her ex-officio capacity and Cllr T W Dixon attended as a substitute for Cllr R P Dixon.

Cllr G Cropper apologised for his late arrival.

09 03 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None were given.

09 04 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.

09 05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2009 numbered 08 102 - 08 113 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

09 06 Correspondence arising from the Minutes

(1) Minute number 08 109 - Telephone box in Upperrhong: The Secretary of State, after consulting English Heritage, has refused to list the type K6 phone box, because it is not of special architectural or historic interest.

(2) Minute number 08 105(10) - Upperrhong CA improvements: Streetscape works were due to commence on 22 June 2009 but have been delayed due to the local Gala.

(3) Minute number 08 84(2) - Community noticeboard, Holmfirth Church: The Church has gained significant funding from English Heritage towards major works, which it hopes to start next year and asks that the provision of a community noticeboard be postponed until after such major works have been undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

09 07 Administrative Matters

Scheme of Delegation: The Clerk's report relating to the minuting of decisions taken using Delegated Powers had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be received and approved.

09 08 Transport matters

Holme Valley bus services:- Representatives of WYPTE were unable to attend the meeting, so it was agreed to invite them to the next full Council meeting. As the H8 service is to be discontinued from 19 July 2009, Members agreed that every attempt should be made to save the service. A meeting had already been held between Kirklees Council and Metro, and further meetings were planned. In the meantime, Members considered that it would be useful to gather data on passenger numbers and types

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of passes used; concern was expressed that the number of people actually using the service was believed to be quite different to the user figures quoted by WYPTE, which did not include numbers of free bus pass users, particularly the elderly who would be most affected by the discontinuation of this service.

RESOLVED: That WYPTE representatives should be invited to the next full Council meeting on 17 August 2009, to address Members' concerns.

09 09 Complaints and Requests for Information

- (1) Junction of Oakes Lane/Oakes Avenue - white lining missing and pot holes - referred to Kirklees Highway Services who are to carry out major roadworks in the area in July 2009.
- (2) Damaged bridge - Water Street, Holmbridge - referred to Kirklees Structures Section who will carry out remedial works in due course. Officer to request date of planned works from Kirklees.
- (3) Japanese Knotweed infestation - Sands playing fields, Holmfirth - reported to Kirklees Leisure Services. Members are concerned that this is a noxious weed and must be dealt with immediately. Officer to pursue with Kirklees Leisure Services to establish what action has been taken.
- (4) Trees outside property on Cinderhills Road, Holmfirth - reported to Kirklees Highway Services - Community Ranger to carry out remedial trimming to improve sight lines.
- (5) Vandalism - Cliffe recreation ground - reported to Kirklees Leisure Services who are meeting with the Police and residents in an attempt to reduce the gathering of youths, vandalism and litter problems.
- (6) Damaged wall - A6024 Woodhead Road, Holmbridge (Minute number 07 101(4) and 08 07(1) refer) - second phase of works was to commence 27 April 2009 for approximately 3 weeks, and further work scheduled to commence in September 2009. Kirklees Highway Services are keeping local residents informed on proposed works.

RESOLVED: That the above complaints and actions be noted and authorised.

09 10 Shelters and Seats

- (1) Transfer of shelters to WYPTE: The Clerk's email to the Solicitor acting on behalf of WYPTE had been circulated, but no further information had been received from WYPTE.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should continue to pursue the outstanding issues relating to the agreement, prior to signing.

- (2) Demolition of shelter - A635 New Mill Road, Wooldale - Minute number 08 111(2) refers: Following a number of complaints about the use and inside condition of this stone shelter, it had again been suggested that the shelter should be sealed or removed. The Officer reminded Members that they had previously resolved that no further action should be taken to demolish the shelter, until the legal issues relating to the adjacent puffin crossing had been resolved by Kirklees Council. Under the Council's Standing Order 27.3, a resolution (affirmative or negative) shall not be rescinded within 6 months save by special motion given under written notice and signed by at least 7 members of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted and no further action to be taken.

09 11 War Memorials

War Memorials Working Party: Cllr Mrs Bratt reported that no progress had been made on the assessment of any refurbishment requirements, but Members of the Working Party would be meeting this week and proposals would be put forward to the next meeting.

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

09 12 Community facilities

Members' Surgery, New Mill Grouping: Cllr Mrs Bratt reported that a Hepworth resident had expressed concerns about a reduction in the number of services to rural communities, particularly the closure of New Mill Library, recent post office closures and discontinuation of the H8 bus service. Although the Parish Council had no control over many of these services, Members would strive to ensure services could continue wherever possible. The Kirklees Council Cabinet decision on the proposed closure of New Mill Library had been 'called in' and comments/opinions were invited by the Scrutiny Panel meeting on Thursday 2 July at Huddersfield Town Hall. The Cabinet would then reassess its decision.

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RESOLVED: That the above be noted and the Officer be authorised to contact the resident concerned, if possible, to provide him with details of the Scrutiny Panel meeting.

09 13 Footpaths and Bridleways

(1) Kirklees Public Rights of Way Forum held on 21 May 2009: Due to an Area Committee meeting being held the same day, Cllr Bailey was unable to attend this meeting and therefore had nothing to report.

(2) Request for additional waymarking information on signposts - Minute number 08 107(2): Members noted the response from Kirklees Highways and Transportation, who were considering this and other requests for additional information on signposts as part of the development of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

09 14 Highway matters

(1) Parking near Penistone Line railway stations:

(a) Members noted correspondence from Northern Rail Ltd who were interested in working with funding partners, provided such schemes could be paid for through third parties, as no budget allowance had been made in their 5 year plan 2009-14.

(b) Contact with owner of land near to Honley Railway Station - As the area of land suggested was considered to have valuable housing/development potential, it was agreed that no further action should be taken to contact the owner.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(2) Feasibility study - Sovereign crossroads - Council minute number 08 133 refers: Members were concerned that, following the results of the study no changes had been made to the road system to improve the conditions at this dangerous crossroads.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should invite an officer from Kirklees Highway Services to attend a future General Purposes Committee meeting, to discuss the results of this study.

(3) CPRE request for information on litter and fly-tipping issues: Members suggested a number of litter and fly-tipping occurrences and remedial actions taken, as well as projects such as the Tidy Trader Scheme, to keep the Valley clean and tidy.

RESOLVED: That the Officer be authorised to respond to CPRE to provide the details suggested.

09 15 CCTV Cameras

CCTV equipment at Holmfirth Library: Members noted information provided by Kirklees Highway Services regarding improved digital recordings and better quality pictures.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

09 16 Allotments

Request from Incredible Edible to meet with Members to discuss community benefits of this project: Cllr Firth had already met with the local organiser and vegetables were now being planted in flower beds at the Memorial Park.

RESOLVED: That the Officer should contact the local organiser to invite her to a future meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

09 17 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