

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY AND POLICY HELD ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2009 -

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Mrs J Roberts

Vice-Chairman : Cllr Mrs R Bratt

Councillors : Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr T W Dixon

Officers : Mrs S S Barber, Mrs MA Bewick

To accept Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs T Dearnley, D M Firth and J Greenwood.

Cllr T W Dixon was present at the meeting as a substitute for Cllr Dearnley.

Mrs Y Donkersley (Headteacher), Mrs M Barritt (Chair of FOSS PTA) and Mrs S Seymour (Deputy Headteacher) were also in attendance.

09 01 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Mrs J Roberts declared a prejudicial interest in item 6(1) of the agenda relating to Scholes J & I School, in that she is a supplier to the School.

09 02 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

It was felt that some discussions under agenda item 7 might require to be taken in private session, but it was agreed that if possible all items should be taken in open session.

09 03 To accept the Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 April 2009 - numbered 08 25 - 08 31 inclusive be received and adopted as a true record of the meeting.

09 04 Scheme of Delegation

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

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

09 05 To consider request for funding for new initiative

(1) Scholes J & I School - Multi-user Games Area (MUGA): Having declared a prejudicial interest, Cllr Mrs Roberts left the meeting during consideration of this item. The Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs Bratt, took the Chair for this item.

Following the referral from the Finance and Management Committee (minute number 09 10(3)), Members considered this application under its New Initiatives budget. Representatives from the School, Mrs Y Donkersley (Headteacher), Mrs M Barritt (Chair of FOSS PTA) and Mrs S Seymour (Deputy Headteacher), were welcomed and addressed the meeting.

Following an initial suggestion from children at the School, the School was seeking funding to provide a MUGA, which would benefit the school and help improve the range of physical educational activities it could provide. It was hoped that the MUGA could also be used to benefit other groups, organisations and individuals for community use; the School would fund the ongoing maintenance but would propose to make a small charge to groups who wish to have exclusive use of the facility. The School had been granted some funding from the Area Committee, but would be seeking additional external funding.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £3,000 be awarded, from the New Initiatives budget, to Scholes Junior & Infant School, subject to this being in addition to the amount of £23,625 that the Area Committee has already agreed to provide; if the amount from the Area Committee is reduced because of the Parish Council's funding, the matter to be considered again by the Strategy & Policy Committee.

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Representatives from Scholes J & I School then left the meeting.

(2) Provision of H8 bus service: Members considered the future provision of and possible support for this service.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Committee supports this service in principle, but more information required on costs and co-funding from other sources (e.g. doctors, dentists and other organisations on or near to the site of the hospital) before considering funding from the Council's budget.

(ii) That the operator and WYPTE be asked to consider improvements to (a) timetabling - to link in better with the other minibus rvice - and b) publicising these particular services.

(iii) That the Chairman of Council be authorised to make contact with and seek support from the other beneficiaries as mentioned above.

(iv) That the Council should consider this further, once more is known about costs and other funders.

09 06 Community Governance Review

Members considered the Kirklees Council Report to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and noted the Clerk's concerns regarding a number of general and cross cutting issues.

RESOLVED: (1) That a Working Party be appointed, to consider community engagement and other issues, to report back to Strategy & Policy Committee in due course, for approval by full Council and before further discussions with Kirklees Council.

(2) That the Working Party should comprise Cllr Kaye as Chairman, Cllr Mrs Bratt, Cllr Tom Dixon and one or two additional members (to be finalised at the next full Council meeting) (maximum five members).

(3) That the Chairman of Staffing should become involved if there are any staffing implications during discussions.

(4) That the Clerk should arrange a meeting with the Clerks and Members of the other parish/town councils in the Kirklees area, to be held at Holme Valley Parish Council offices; this should be before the next joint meeting with Kirklees (to be held in September).

09 07 Communication and Representation at Community Events

(1) Honley Show: The Clerk reported on the very positive feedback received at Honley Show which was a good PR exercise. Many lessons had been learned about the equipment required etc. for this and other events, and the dog waste bags proved a very good way of engaging with people.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk's report be received and accepted with thanks for her support before and on Showday; the costs of the events were noted and approved.

(2) Representation at other community events in the future: At least one full day is required for preparations for attendance at future events, to organise equipment, competitions, communications (leaflets etc.) and update display material. Kirkburton and Denby Dale Parish Councils would be jointly attending Emley Show on 1 August 2009 (and borrowing some of the Council's equipment as minuted previously - minute 08 29 refers), but no events were considered appropriate for representation by the Council in the short term.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

09 08 Quality Council Scheme

Members discussed the Clerk's report on the initial preparations for re-accreditation to the Quality Council Scheme, which includes new criteria. Members noted that the Council already complies with some of the new criteria, but consideration would be needed on a number of specific areas. These include a Statement of Intent on training of Members and, as part of the means to improve communications, the formulation of a community engagement strategy (also tying in with previous discussions at the last Publications & Communications Committee meeting - minute number 09 07 refers).

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council should be recommended to seek re-accreditation in January 2010.

(2) That, given the new delegation scheme, it be recommended to the Council that in future "draft" minutes of meetings be published on the Council's website, subject to the Chairman of the

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meeting having read and been satisfied with the content of such minutes.

(3) That the new Working Party be asked to include in its remit the formulation of a community engagement strategy as part of the Council's Quality Council re-accreditation process.

(4) That discussions be held at appropriate Committee meetings to progress other issues as part of the re-accreditation process:

(i) Consultation and Communications: ongoing with Publications & Communications Committee, but liaison required with new Working Party.

(ii) Promoting Local Democracy and Citizenship: discussion by both Publications & Communications and new Working Party required.

(iii) Training: Staffing Committee to look at new test to evaluate and identify the training needs of both Councillors and Officers.

(5) That the information in the Clerk's report be noted.

09 09 Allotments

Members noted the information supplied by Kirklees Council that all the sites in the Parish are non-statutory, but to be in a position to consider whether to take over the management of these, it was agreed that further details of the sizes and income potential should be requested, together with information on the process of such a potential transfer of ownership and responsibility.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to pursue the matter further with Kirklees Council.

09 10 Parish Appraisal and Forward Plan

Minute number 08 30 refers: Members considered the possibility of joint working with University of Huddersfield on a possible project to consider community engagement.

RESOLVED: That this should be considered by the Working Party, to include how the Council engages, consults and plans for the future.

09 11 To consider provision or requests for information

(1) Energy Saving Trust - Become a Green Community:

RESOLVED: That the information be passed to Cllr L Bailey for any views and comments.

(2) NALC Local Council Awards: Information provided by YLCA had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(3) BBC Village SOS Initiative: Information provided by YLCA had been circulated to Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Webmaster should include details of the initiative, which has a deadline of 14 August 2009, on the Council's website.

(2) That the Clerk should circulate the information to all Members of Council, as this might be of interest to residents and village groups.

09 12 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