



No 21 Summer 2009

Holme Valley Parish Council
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Forthcoming meetings

The public are welcome to attend our meetings. These are held in the Council Offices, normally at 7.30 pm.

- July
 - 06 Publications & Communications
 - 13 Planning
 - 20 Finance & Management (tbc)
 - 27 Strategy & Policy
- August
 - 03 Planning
 - 17 COUNCIL
 - 24 Staffing (6.30pm)
 - 24 Planning (8.00 pm)
- September
 - 07 General Purposes
 - 14 Planning
 - 21 Finance & Management (tbc)

Surgeries

Councillors attend surgeries at which individual residents may voice concerns or discuss ideas for future projects in the valley. Residents may attend any surgery that is convenient for them. The next surgeries will be 11 July, 11am-12 noon at

Honley Library
Methodist Parlour, Brockholes
Holmfirth Library

Other locations are being considered. Further information will be placed on the notice board and the web site.

Future Meeting Cycles

Over the past few years, the number of Parish Council meetings has increased considerably, which in turn has put pressure on Councillors who give up their time voluntarily.

Following an initial request from the Staffing Committee to look at this issue, the Parish Council has agreed to trial a change to the meeting cycle from six weekly to bi-monthly, for the Civic Year 2009-10. This will reduce meeting cycles in a year from eight to six and, therefore, help to reduce workloads for both Councillors and Officers.

The Council has also agreed to the main Standing Committees having delegated powers, to reduce any possible delays in responding to initiatives or in progressing projects.

Area Committee meetings

The Parish Council has representatives on the Holme Valley Area Committees. The meetings are open to the public .
Holme Valley North Area Committee
01 September
Holme Valley South Area Committee
30 June and 25 August
For up-to-date information contact
01484 414783.

Judith Roberts, Chairman 2009/2010



I would like to thank my fellow councillors for allowing me the great responsibility of representing them as Chairman for the coming year.

During this time I intend to be involved with the schools in the valley. I hope to encourage the children's sense of responsibility - caring for what we have and enjoy. To promote this, it is my intention to provide each school with bulbs to plant this autumn which, by flowering every spring, will symbolize continuity and growth.

The children, with their diverse skills, creativity and talents are the future of the community in this beautiful Holme Valley. We must encourage new business ventures, affordable housing, and an atmosphere of wellbeing, as befits this inheritance. I know that the

current economic situation makes this a difficult time for all of us, however we must continue to do our best in every way we can to make this a successful year.

Those with wider experience and richness of knowledge can pass that on to others. By caring and sharing we will enhance our lives and our community.

Judith Roberts, Chairman 2009/2010



Installation of the new Chairman

(l to r) retiring Chairman Trevor Bellamy, Mrs Kath Bellamy, Chairman Judith Roberts 2009/2010 and Mr Stewart Roberts

First Meeting of the Civic Year



(Simon Morley Photography)
Front Row, (l to r): Vice Chairman Rhona Bratt, Chairman Judith Roberts, retiring Chairman Trevor Bellamy. Middle row: Cllrs Donald Firth, Paul Dixon, Marie Bower, Tim Dearnley, Joan Osborn, Tom Dixon. Back Row: Cllrs Philip Robinson, Les Bailey, Greg Cropper, Charles Kaye, Peter Searby, Mandy Walker, Officers Marjory Bewick and Sally Barber, Cllrs Di Hall and James Greenwood.

Rhona Bratt, Vice-Chairman

I have been a parish councillor in the Home Valley since 2005, serving as one of three members for the Wooldale Ward.

I am particularly interested in communication and improving the means of communication between the residents of the valley and the Parish Council. As part of this interest I am one of the team involved in keeping the web site up-to-date and in the production of the quarterly newsletters.

As well as continuing in these communication roles I will be supporting the Chairman in what looks to be a very busy year, both in civic and administrative duties and in the local and national consultations which are forming an increasing part of the work of the Parish Council.

Rhona Bratt, Vice-Chairman 2009/2010



Cllr Raymond Oldfield



The Parish Council reluctantly accepted Raymond Oldfield's resignation as Councillor for the Honley West Ward recently.

In his resignation letter he said that he had made many friends on the Council and many friends in the Community.

He had very little interest in the politics; he was more interested in doing something for the benefit of the people in the Holme Valley and that is the way he went about his business. He was very

proud of the fact that he put his name forward for election to the Council successfully on three separate occasions. The people in his 'patch' (Honley Central initially and subsequently Honley West) elected him, and those people were very important to him. The politics didn't interest him, but representing the residents, who had elected him, did.

Through his membership of the Liberal Party Group, he had built up a wide network of people and contacts, not just within the Liberal

Party itself but at Kirklees Council; he was therefore able to use these contacts to their best advantage, to help resolve issues or problems - and that gave him great pleasure and satisfaction.

He has always been a good friend to his fellow Councillors; he never took the hard route but did everything to the benefit of the people, in a very quiet and professional manner. His motives were always honourable and he didn't want anything out of it, only to contribute, in a non-political way, to the benefit of residents of the community he served. He was particularly proud of the fact that he could bridge the gap between the ordinary man on the street and Kirklees Council.

Over the past months, Raymond hasn't been in the greatest of health physically; his caring personality has come through once again, to the point that, in his resignation letter, he indicated that he felt he had to resign because he was not physically capable of representing the people within the Community any longer. As always, he has gone about everything he has done as a Councillor in a totally honourable way and, as fellow Members, we are eternally grateful to him.

Cllr Philip Robinson and Cllr Marie Bower

Grant Reports and Grant News



Holmfirth Methodist Church Flower Festival

The first weekend in May saw Holmfirth Methodist Church transformed by magnificent displays of flowers celebrating a range of hymns and songs. The arrangements were mainly created by members of the congregation and each of the eleven displays was sponsored by organisations and individuals connected with the Church.

Fairtrade refreshments were sponsored by the Co-operative Group. The Fairtrade table flowers were supplied by the Holme Valley Fairtrade Support Group.

In the refreshment area and in other Church rooms there was a display of all the entries in the Children's Painting Competition, all inspired by the hymn "All things bright and beautiful". Local schools, Brownies, Rainbows and Ducklings have enthusiastically supported the competition. The very difficult task of judging the winners in three age groups was undertaken by Ashley Jackson, who also donated an Art book to each of the winners and their school.

The winners were Under Fives: Isobel Simpson (Scholes J&I School), Five to Seven year olds: Maria Haigh (Upperthong J&I School), Eight to Eleven year olds: Adam Brodie (Wooldale Junior School). The individual and school winners received book tokens donated by Holme Valley Parish Council.



Editor: The Parish Council welcomes grant applications from community organisations, particularly where there is funding and sponsorship from a variety of sources. See article below.

SEEKING FUNDING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL?

Applications for grant funding from the Parish Council are considered at every meeting of the Finance and Management Committee. During 2009-10 the Committee will meet on the following dates—but do check the dates nearer the time.

Meeting Dates	Applications to Clerk No later than	Completed forms must be submitted to the Clerk to the Council, at least 10 days before the meeting so that any further information that may be required, can be requested in time for Committee consideration.
20 July	10 July	
21 September	11 September	
23 November	13 November	
25 January	15 January	
29 March	19 March	

Criteria for applying for a grant have changed slightly, and there are now two categories of application: applications for assistance with resources, eg purchase of equipment, improvements to buildings or premises and applications for assistance with events, eg a concert, festival or competition. Please read the list of criteria before completing a form and remember to include a set of accounts or other information to support the application.

The new criteria and form/s will appear on the Council's website during July 2009. Forms for completion can be downloaded from the website, collected from the Council's office, or requested via a Parish Councillor.

A weekend of brass bands in the valley



In May the 84th Holme Valley Brass Band Contest took place. For the first time this year the contest was expanded into a weekend-long extravaganza of music kicking off on the Saturday with a concert featuring the famous Hepworth band and on the Sunday culminating with a march through the centre of Holmfirth. The Parish Council is proud to have given a grant to the event in the past as well as this year, in addition to a grant towards the Saturday concert, and hopes the contest continues to build upon the major success that this year's weekend has been. Many councillors also helped steward the march through Holmfirth's streets. Major congratulations go to the Skelmanthorpe and Uppermill bands that won the contest's two sections and a big well done goes out to the new committee which organised such a magnificent weekend.

The winners of the prizes sponsored by the Holme Valley Parish Council were Hade Edge band (3 prizes totalling £375) and Holme Silver band (2 prizes totalling £130).

Thank you to Les Heywood for supplying the photographs from the Brass Band Weekend.

Report from the Chairman of the Land Charity Committee - Cllr Charles Kaye Vice Chairman - Cllr Philip Robinson

The Land Charity Committee has visited all the land charity sites, and an initial plan is now close to completion. The first step has been to evaluate the potential for each site to be developed for charity purposes, sale or development. To help in this evaluation, the committee has taken professional advice, and communicated with people who are currently renting sites from the Council. Consultations are also taking place with interested parties.

In the initial plan will be a list of sites which the Land Charity will offer for sale at auction. Details of this sale will be advertised widely in the local press and community. Some of the specific sites are also the subject of legal review due to complications on land boundaries, including encroachments by some third parties. Consultations are also taking place with Kirklees Council and Yorkshire Water, who are involved with land adjacent to many of the sites, and with regard to possible development of the sites. Consideration is also being given to potential use of the sites for leisure activities, allotments or uses by the Community. One site has already been let at reasonable rate on a long lease for use by the local community. Once a plan has been agreed, a meeting will be called at which an open session will take place.

When the Land Charity has been able to generate money from sale of the sites, any funds left after costs have been met, will be used as required in the terms of reference, 'to promote such charitable purposes for the general inhabitants of the parish of Holme Valley.' The Committee will again seek input from the electors, through a meeting with an open session, as to the future use of funds, once there is a better idea of how much funding is likely to be available.

The dates of these meetings will be advertised in the usual way: on the website, notice board and in the newsletters.

Participating in Community Events

One of the Council's aims and objectives is to represent and consult the residents of the Holme Valley to the best of its ability and knowledge. During the year, the Council prepared its submission to the Kirklees Community Governance Review and then reviewed all the submissions from other people who also responded to Kirklees Council.

Partly as a result of discussions within the Council about this review, it was felt that one way to consult residents and to make others aware of the Council, how it works, what it does, was to participate in community events which happen during the year.

For the first time ever, Holme Valley Parish Council and Kirkburton Parish Council will join forces and share a stand at Honley Show. At the time of writing this article, preparations are well in hand for the show which takes place on Saturday 13 June 2009. More information will appear in the next newsletter.



The Council decided that it should be represented at four community events in the year; so far no decision has been made about the other three events for this civic year, so if you would like the Council to participate in your community event, then please do contact the Parish Council's office.

News in Brief

Vacancy on the Council

At the time of going to press, the Council had a vacancy for the Honley West Ward. No election has been requested and the Council will be considering a co-option at its meeting on 15 June 2009, having invited applications from people interested in serving on the Council. Details of the new councillor will appear in the next newsletter.

Work at Riding Wood Reservoir

Unfortunately, there have been delays on site at Ramsden Reservoir and the footpath closures will now remain in place until July.

Kiln Bent Road at Riding Wood Reservoir has not been closed even though the Road Traffic Order is now operational. The road closure will not be activated until the footpath across Ramsden Reservoir is re-opened.

Parking Problems at the Health Centres

Members have become increasingly concerned about problems caused by parked cars and vans outside Oaklands and Elmwood Health Centres and the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital. These concerns have been discussed by the General Purposes Committee several times and requests made to Kirklees Council to consider parking restrictions in the area.

Such parking reduces the width of the highway for passing traffic, causes problems for drivers trying to exit from the Health Centres, not to mention any pedestrians trying to cross the road to access any of the services on the Hospital site.

What do you think could be a solution to these problems?

Do you think a pedestrian crossing would be helpful? What about a petition to ask Kirklees Council to provide such a crossing?

Do write into the Council and let the Members know what you think. What action do you think the Council should be campaigning for?

Perhaps, on the other hand, you do not agree that there is a potential hazard here, and that people just need to be careful when exiting junctions or crossing the road.

Let the Council know your views either way.