



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



On behalf of Holme Valley Parish Council, Cllr Trevor Bellamy would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## Climate Emergency

FOLLOWING the Parish Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency on 25th March, councillors have been working hard with the local community to develop an Action Plan.

The Parish Council was delighted to formally adopt the Climate Emergency Action Plan on 18th November and we agreed to set up a new sub-committee of Full Council, The Climate Emergency Committee.

This Committee will lead the implementation of the Action Plan, working in partnership with the community to make progress in making the Parish

carbon neutral by 2030.

To achieve this, the Action Plan has identified eight key elements:

- 1) Climate Emergency Mobilisation
- 2) Energy
- 3) Transport & Travel
- 4) Agriculture & Food production
- 5) Housing & infrastructure
- 6) Economy & business
- 7) Waste & resources
- 8) Environment & land use

More details are available on our website and we look forward to working with the community on this essential work for all our futures.

## Celebrating the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the peace that followed

THE 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe will be celebrated nationally by a Bank Holiday on 8th May 2020.

There are a number of ceremonial events being organised nationally as outlined on [www.veday75.org](http://www.veday75.org) including the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' in local pubs at 3pm and bells which will 'Ring Out for Peace' from churches across the country at 7pm.

The Parish Council is keen to support local events, projects and parties to mark this key moment in our history.

We have therefore set up a specific small grant scheme with a simple application form allowing local groups to apply for up to £100 to support the implementation of their idea.

More details will be available on our website shortly and it is intended that any party or project is focused on the 3-day commemorative weekend in May 2020.

Applications are invited by 3rd February 2020 for review by the Publications and Communications Committee on 10th February.



Parish councillors lay eight wreaths across the Valley on Remembrance Sunday, as we took the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice of those who lost their lives fighting for our country.

## Independent audit of our financial governance completed

FOLLOWING the conviction of our previous clerk in June 2019 for VAT fraud associated with private business, the Parish Council was concerned to establish if there had been any fraudulent activity undertaken within the Council.

We therefore appointed Calderdale Council's Internal

Audit department to undertake an external review of the financial governance of both the Holme Valley Parish Council (HVPC) and the Holme Valley Land Charity (HVLC) over the last two financial years.

The Calderdale review concluded that the majority of financial transactions for both HVPC and

HVLC were backed up by evidence of legitimate business activity and any potential discrepancies identified were of low value.

We accepted all its findings and agreed to implement all its recommendations at our Full Council meeting on 18th November.

The review,

redacted to remove any individual names, is published on our website.

We are now working with our new Clerk and Deputy Clerk to review all our procedures with a particular focus on our financial checks and processes.

Further information is available on our website.