



Holme Valley Parish Council

Constitution

Aim and key priorities

The Parish Council's aim is to improve the quality of life of the residents of the Holme Valley. We work in partnership with many organisations to promote the Valley, to make it a thriving place in which to live, work and play, as well as an attractive area to visit.

The first tier of government

Parish Councils are the first tier of government, closest to the population they represent. They are well placed to understand local issues and the needs of local residents.

About the Parish Council

Compared to many other parish councils, Holme Valley Parish Council is large. We serve a population of around 30,000 and have an annual income of about £300,000.

The Parish Council area is divided into twelve wards. These wards cover all of the Holme Valley South ward of Kirklees Council and part of Holme Valley North. The south-west part of the Parish Council area is in the Peak District National Park.

Depending on the size of the parish ward, it is represented by one, two or three councillors. Further details of councillors and wards can be found on the [Councillors](#) page of this website.

Strategic priorities

In February 2021, we adopted five Strategic Priorities. These are to:

- Value community assets and services
- Build community resistance
- Support the local economy
- Champion local democracy
- Improve our environment.

The work of the Council

Most of the work of the Council is done through its [Committees](#).

There are four main committees –

- Climate Action, Communications & Engagement
- Finance & Management
- Planning
- Service Provision.

In addition, there is a Staffing Committee.

One of the ways in which we support the local community is by giving **grants** to local organisations. There are two dates for the consideration of grants in September and February. The grants process has just been revised to make it easier for groups to make funding bids. We are keen to encourage bids from groups which have not received any money from us in the past. There is more information on the [Grants](#) page.

Working with several local organisations, the Parish Council developed a **Neighbourhood Development Plan** (NDP), which was fully “made” in December 2021. The NDP is now part of the planning framework for Kirklees and for the Peak District National Park. The provisions of the NDP are now frequently cited in applications and planning officers' reports.

The [Planning Committee](#) meets every four weeks to consider and comment on **planning applications** in the area. Our comments are submitted to Kirkees Council and to the Peak District National Park Authority alongside those of residents.

In 2019 the Parish Council declared a **Climate Emergency** and drew up an Action Plan, in which the Council works alongside existing local groups.

Individual councillors are often contacted by residents for **help with complaints or problems**. The good links that the Parish Council has with Kirklees Council officers and local Kirklees councillors help in resolving these issues.

The Parish Council **represents the views and concerns of local people**, when responding to requests for comments on consultations, policy revisions and so on.

Important governing documents

This constitution and the work of the Parish Council is supported by a whole set of key documents which govern the way in which we work. These governing documents can be found in the [Policies](#) section of the Parish Council website. The three main documents are the Scheme of Delegation, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. These three documents are supplemented by several detailed policies, all of which are reviewed regularly.

UK Government Hierarchy

