

Holme Valley Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING STANDING COMMITTEE HELD IN HADE EDGE BAND ROOM MONDAY 23 AUGUST 2021

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M Blacka

Councillors: P Colling, T Dixon, R Hogley, A Wilson

Officer: Mr R McGill (Deputy Clerk)

Also present: Jen McIntosh (Clerk)

Welcome

Cllr Blacka welcomed Councillors and seven members of the public to this meeting of the Planning Standing Committee. Six members of the public were in attendance with regard to Item 2122 94 - Concerns of local residents regarding speeding and noise pollution, Woodhead Road Holmbridge to Holme.

The Chair asked that Members approve that standing orders be suspended when that agenda item was to be considered so that members of the public could speak directly ahead of the item.

RESOLVED: The Committee resolved that members of the public could speak directly ahead of item 2122 94.

The Chair asked that Members allow the agenda order to be changed so that Item 2122 94 could be heard at its earliest possible time, - that is, after Item 2122 87.

RESOLVED: Members voted to allow a change to the running order so that 2122 94 is considered out of sequence.

Open Session at Planning

The Chair introduced the Open Session.

One member of the public was in attendance to discuss the revised submission of a planning application for a 5G mast on New Mill Road, Wooldale. The respondent reported that the application involved reducing the height of the mast from 18m to 15m. In all other specifications the application was identical to the one opposed by the Parish Council and refused by Kirklees. The petitioner proposed that the amendment to the plan still did not meliorate the incongruous and intrusive aspect of the mast at the location proposed. Moreover, in the earlier application for the 18m mast, the developer had stated that, at 18m, the height of the pole had been kept to the absolute minimum capable of providing the required essential 5G coverage. Yet the applicant had now submitted a plan for a smaller mast. He asked that the Parish Council oppose the application when it comes before the Committee.

Cllr Hogley felt that the reduction in height was inadequate given the obtrusive character of the proposed mast. The Councillor recognised that there is a challenge to communities in that offering better web coverage to rural areas involves an infrastructure of overly conspicuous structures. She felt that developers should be working with rural groups to design, deliver and locate masts which are less prominent and more sensitive to surroundings.

The member of the public responded that he hoped that developers would plan to locate masts away from existing homes and camouflaged by trees.

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2122 81 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 on 6 August 2014

Council meetings can now be recorded.

RESOLVED: The Officer was recording the meeting in audio format for upload to the Parish Council's YouTube channel. No one else asked to record the meeting.

2122 82 To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Gould and Cllr RP Dixon had tendered apologies.

RESOLVED: Apologies were approved by the Committee.

2122 83 To receive Members' and Officers' disclosable personal and pecuniary interests in items on the agenda

Cllr Hogley communicated that she had a personal interest in planning application 2122-05-13 under agenda Item 2122 89.

2122 84 To consider written requests for new DPI dispensations

No written requests for new DPI dispensations had been received.

2122 85 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

RESOLVED: Members decided that no items on the agenda should be discussed in private.

2122 86 To confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7 June 2021, numbered 2122 36 – 2122 51 inclusive were confirmed

2122 87 Election of a Vice Chairman

Members considered election of a Vice Chairman of the Planning Standing Committee.

RESOLVED: Councillor T Dixon was elected as Vice Chairman of the Committee.

At this point, Members approved changing the agenda running order to allow testimony and discussion on Item 2122 94.

2122 94 Concerns of local residents regarding speeding and noise pollution Woodhead Road Holmbridge to Holme

Four members of the public, one of whom is a Parish Councillor, spoke with regard to vehicular nuisances on a section of Woodhead Road from Hinchliffe Mill to Holme village which were impacting on residents' quality of life.

A first member of the public, who is conducting a public petition about the current situation, emphasised that she was concerned about vehicle noise, fumes, vehicle speeding and pedestrian safety. She asked for support for a 20mph zones in the villages from Hinchliffe Mill to Holme, additional traffic calming measures and a removal of the 60mph limit for the carriageway up to Holme. She asked that the Parish Council Climate Emergency Committee be involved regarding pollution issues.

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A second member of the public reported that due to the pandemic large gangs of motorcyclists were habitually using local routes for recreational purposes. She was concerned that roads were unsafe noting that there are no pavements between Holmbridge and Holme. She pointed out that users of a nursery and playschool on the route are at risk, as are children walking to school, other pedestrians and dogwalkers on the main road. She asked for planners to consider road calming measures so that everyone has to slow, and for a survey to be undertaken of the issues.

A third resident commented on his experiences in other parts of Kirklees where extended 20mph zones were effective. He asked for the village centres, - Hinchliffe Mill, Holmbridge and Holme, - to be 20mph zones. He asked that the Committee reinforce the undertakings of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan to promote safer, slower zones. He hoped that the Parish Council would communicate with Kirklees on behalf of the petitioners to get something done.

As an aside, this person also took the opportunity to comment that he hoped that Holmfirth Market Hall would be retained rather than demolished, and asserted that demolition of functional buildings is detrimental to the environment.

A Councillor, present as a member of the public, said that he was enthused by the numbers of people who had come to discuss issues. He reported that the fashion for sports cars with mufflers featuring intentional exhaust backfires was a nuisance for people living close to main roads like Woodhead Road. He spoke that evenings from 2230-2300 seem to encourage racing by road racers revving their engines excessively. He was concerned that children walking to school were at risk. Cyclists were also noisy from 5am onwards shouting out to each other. As a former, ambulance driver this respondent spoke against traffic calming measures that involved having to slow over a hump in the road. The Councillor also spoke about the need for better wheelchair access between Hinchliffe Mill and Holmbridge and better solutions for household waste disposal measures.

A Councillor responded to the testimony of members of the public. She hoped that the Neighbourhood Development Plan would assist in the creation of safer zones with lower speeds in the residential areas of the Holme Valley. She felt this would not apply to the non-residential section of the carriageway between Holmbridge and Holme. But she responded that Honley has a successful 20mph zone. She also reported on the use of white-painted pedestrian walkways on rural roads like New Road in Holmfirth as another option.

A member of the campaign reported that a meeting had been arranged with Kirklees Highways on 8th September. The petitioner asked for the support of the Parish Council with the ongoing campaign.

The Councillor for Hepworth reported that he hoped that Kirklees would support the creation of more, safer 20mph zones.

A member of the public stated that traffic calming through using pinch-points should be considered as should installation of a speed camera.

A Councillor for Upperthong commented on problems with echoing noise pollution across the Valley.

Members considered any further actions at this stage.

RESOLVED: Members resolved that the Committee Chair would meet with campaigners to gather a comprehensive list of issues. The Chair and Deputy Clerk would thereafter draft a letter of response to Kirklees Highways.

2122 88 Completed Planning Applications Lists

NOTED: The Planning Committee noted List 2122-04 updated with the views of the Committee.

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2122 89 New Planning Applications – Kirklees Council

Members considered new or amended applications received by Kirklees Council from 20 July 2021 to 17 August 2021 inclusive – List 2122-05.

RESOLVED: That the Standing Committee’s comments on the above applications be forwarded to Kirklees Council by the Deputy Clerk.

2122 90 Kirklees Council – Planning Officers’ Decisions

NOTED: The Planning Standing Committee noted the list of Decision Notices issued by Kirklees Council for the period 20 July 2021 to 17 August 2021 inclusive.

2122 91 Neighbourhood Planning

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group reported that the Neighbourhood Plan with its required modifications following the inspector’s report was being recommended to Kirklees Council Cabinet by Kirklees Officers on the 31st August. Kirklees Council will be asked to approve 1) the fact that the plan with its modifications should progress to referendum 2) that the date for referendum would be Thursday 4th November, and 3) that the question of the referendum will be “Do you want Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Area to help it to decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?” The Plan, once through Cabinet, will be published on the Parish Council website and on the Kirklees Council and Peak District National Park Authority websites.

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group suggested that the Parish Council should consider a process whereby the referendum was publicised to all the people of the Holme Valley via a mailshot. This would say what the Neighbourhood Development Plan is, that it had taken 5 years to develop, and state that it is a good idea for people to take the time to vote.

RESOLVED: The Committee Chair, the RFO and the Steering Group Chair would work to develop this proposal as a motion for a subsequent Committee meeting.

2122 92 Peak District National Park Authority

NOTED: Members noted the list of Decision Notices issued by the Peak District National Park Authority for the period 21 June 2021 to 17 August 2021 inclusive.

2122 93 Further pre-planning consultations for a 15m tall 5G mast on New Mill Road

The Parish Council had recently objected to plans for a development of an 18m mast at this site. Kirklees Planning had refused it. This pre-planning consultation was an amended application with the height of the mast reduced by 3m to 15m.

NOTED: The Parish Council noted the pre-planning consultations.

RESOLVED: The Deputy Clerk would write to the developers to express continuing concerns with regard to the location and height of the mast especially given that, in the previous application, developers had said the 18m height was the optimum height for functionality. The developer needed to give consideration to more creative solutions and more sympathetic designs, - like those developed for areas like national parks and heritage areas.

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2122 95 Hade Edge Road Intersection

NOTED: Members noted the letter from the Parish Council to Mark Scarr, the Kirklees Head of Highways regarding the road intersection at Hade Edge opposite the Boshaw Trout pub. Mr Scarr had arranged for a Kirklees Highways officer, Liz Twitchett, - the Operational Manager for Road Safety, - to attend an informal meeting with Councillors immediately prior to this meeting. Unfortunately, she had suffered bereavement and so had not been able to attend. The Deputy Clerk will rearrange for a future meeting. Members resolved that a Zoom meeting with the Officer might be suggested to Highways if it would facilitate the process.

2122 96 Proposed diversion to Footpath 135

Members considered how the Parish Council would respond to a consultation on a proposed diversion of Footpath 135 at Far Mount, Intake Lane, Fulstone.

RESOLVED: The Committee resolved that the Deputy Clerk should communicate that the Parish Council was in support of the diversion.

2122 97 Planning Committee Members to review applications for wards without representation

The Committee considered which of them would specifically review planning applications in wards without Member representation on the Committee for Council year 2021-22.

RESOLVED: Arrangements were approved as below.

Ward	Ward Councillor/s	Committee Member 20-21	Committee Member 21-22
Brockholes	Cllr Pogson	Cllr Pogson	Cllr T Dixon
Fulstone	Cllrs Firth, Hall	Cllr T Dixon	Cllr T Dixon
Hepworth	Cllr T Dixon	Cllr T Dixon	Cllr T Dixon
Holmfirth Central	Cllrs Bustard, Hogley	Cllr Hogley	Cllr Hogley
Honley Central & East	Cllrs Colling, Lockley, Sheard	Cllr Colling	Cllr Colling
Honley South	Cllr Sweeney	Cllrs Colling, Pogson	Cllr Colling
Honley West	Cllr East, Greaves	Cllrs Colling, Pogson	Cllr Colling
Netherthong	Cllrs Dalton, Roberts	Cllr Gould	Cllr Gould (Cllr Blacka)
Scholes	Cllrs Blacka, RP Dixon	Cllrs Blacka, RP Dixon	Cllrs Blacka, RP Dixon
Upper Holme Valley	Cllrs K and T Bellamy	Cllr Hogley	Cllr Wilson
Upperthong	Cllrs Carré, Wilson	Cllr Hogley	Cllr Wilson
Wooldale	Cllrs Brook, Davies, Gould	Cllr Gould	Cllr Gould (Cllr Blacka)

2122 98 Death of Rob Dalby, Kirklees Parks and Green Spaces Manager

NOTED: Following the death of Kirklees Parks and Green Spaces Manager, Rob Dalby, who we regularly consulted on the green lanes and byways of the Holme Valley, the Committee noted the email from Colin Parr in response to the Parish Council's message of sympathy, and thanked the Deputy Clerk for sending the note of condolence to Colin Parr.

The meeting closed at 8.55PM

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Chairman