

HOLME VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

*A look at the past year
in the Holme Valley*



Tributes pour in for respected former councillor Rita Briggs

RITA Briggs, who passed away recently, served Holme Valley Parish Council for a number of years as a Councillor and was the Chairman of the Council in 1985-86. Rita was at the forefront of championing the construction of Holmfirth's swimming pool and leisure centre, and successfully fought the case for the Co-op Supermarket in the town. She also campaigned to keep New Mill Library open and secured a court for public use at Thongsbridge Tennis Club. The current Chairman and a number of Councillors paid their respects to Rita at her funeral procession through the Holme Valley.

Elections for new council officials will be in September

NORMALLY, in May of each year, the Council would elect a new Chairman and Committee Chairs as well as electing Members to the various Standing Committees.

However, due to COVID-19, this process has been delayed. Last year's office holders and membership arrangements have remained in place in the interim.

The Parish Council is, though, pleased to announce that we will be electing a new Chairman, Committee Chairs and Committee Membership at our September 21st meeting which will constitute the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Lockdown has not stopped council making decisions

FOLLOWING advice from our national association, for the time being the Parish Council continues to hold all its meetings virtually using the Zoom platform.

All Councillors have been able to attend our online meetings and, despite some misgivings, have coped well with the arrangements.

The Council has accordingly been able to make a number of important decisions virtually. Local residents are invited to join our virtual meetings should they wish to do so. Contact the Clerk at clerk@holmevalley-parishcouncil.gov.uk for how to join.

Over the next month, the recordings of meetings will be made available on YouTube, so residents will be able to follow the Council decision-making processes by video.

Of course, the Council has had

to catch up on a huge backlog of business that built up during lockdown but is now pressing forward with our customary work.

Holmfirth Public Toilets have been re-opened to a limited fashion. The toilet building is open 9-5, seven days a week, but for health and safety reasons only a single toilet has been made available.

Visitors are required to use sanitiser on entering and leaving the toilet, and the toilets are cleaned three times a day.

Follow the guidelines at the toilet with regard to best hygiene practice, health and safety, and social distancing.

Over the last few weeks, the Parish Council has successfully let out the shop space adjoining the toilets to a local clothing business, Monty's Loft, and we want to wish them every success.

Parish council hands out £25k in grants in July

LOCKDOWN caused a substantial backlog of grant applications submitted to Holme Valley Parish Council.

In July alone, £25,000 was given out to worthy, local groups that contribute so much to Valley life in July alone.

The Parish Council had earlier voted to release money from reserves to support our community groups.

Grants awarded:

- £5000 to Holmfirth Bowling Club towards a disabled access to toilet.
- £5000 to Upperthong Village Hall for improvements to the hall.

- £5000 to Holmbridge Cricket Club for a pathway to the pavilion.

- £4994 to River Holme Connections towards the Thongsbridge Riverside Project.
- £2000 to Brockholes Village Trust for fencing to the boules court.

- £2000 to Wooldale Community Association for resurfacing of a children's play area.

- £1,000 to Holmfirth Civic Hall Community for deep cleaning of the Civic Hall.

A spokesman said: "The Parish Council is conscious that times may well be hard for our communities and the Council wants to do what it can to help.

"With that in mind, the Council wants to find out more about the anticipated future funding needs of Holme Valley assets and services.

"We have developed an Expressions of Interest in Future Funding Opportunities form for local groups that manage assets or services to keep us informed about their future financial needs."

The form is available from the Clerk to the Council or via the Parish Council website.