

Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on MONDAY, 26 JULY 2021 at Hade Edge Band Room

Present: Cllr Michael Pogson, Chairman

Members: Cllrs M Blacka, J Brook, M Bustard, P Colling, J Dalton, P Davies, S East, R Hogley, S Sheard, A Wilson

Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed Members and eleven members of the public to the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council. Six members of the public wished to speak during the open session. Given the number of people that wished to speak, the Chairman proposed that the Public Session be extended.

RESOLVED: Members voted that Public Question Time be extended to allow everybody to speak for three minutes who wanted to speak.

- 1) A Netherthong resident impacted by the event spoke of his opposition to the recent Yorkshire Motorsport Festival. The resident was concerned that no environmental impact study had been done and felt that the Parish Council should not have supported an event which undermined its stated commitment on climate change. He was also concerned regarding the lengthy road closures and congestion and remarked that a thorough risk assessment needed completing to better manage the access of emergency and health services to homes subject to road closure. He further noted the lack of local companies involved in the festival.
- 2) A Meltham resident made the point that the majority of the Motorsport Festival was within the Meltham boundary, but organisers had not approached Meltham Town Council. The people of Meltham were, he said, disappointed by the lack of publicity about the festival, but a majority of them was, he considered, supportive of it. He felt that organisers would learn from this year's smaller event, and he hoped to work with the Festival to make sure that future events were safe, environmentally friendly, and supported local business.
- 3) A resident of Wolfstones was especially concerned, he said, regarding the very limited information from organisers about the event. The resident said that there was no official notification that the event was going to take place, and not enough detail of how it would affect local people. Prior consultation had been inadequate and there had been little opportunity for residents to raise concerns. This person's main issue was about access to and from his home over the duration of the festival, and the length of the road closures. Positively, this person did report that organisers paid for the transportation and livery of the family's horses. He also reported that people at the field events were clearly enjoying themselves, but that few people were watching the road race/hill climb. He suggested the road race be abandoned and for the Festival to concentrate on the field event and the musical festival.

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- 4) A fourth person who lived directly on the racetrack was concerned that Kirklees Council had not consulted with people affected by the race. The race, he said, ran quite well other than the noise aspect. He described the noise as “astounding” and opined that if it goes ahead in future, cars should not run open exhausts. Organisers needed to make sure that cars had a noise test and levels were at a lawful level. He said that the Festival should pay a fee to Holme Valley Parish Council which the Parish Council should spend to the benefit of the local area. On a positive note, it was reported that the Festival had donated to a charity as a good will gesture for local people’s co-operation, and the festival site had been cleaned up well.
- 5) A fifth person thanked the parish council for holding a meeting to discuss a contentious issue. This person lived 200m from the track. He said he was angry that an event such as this was being held in a fragile, rural setting. He asked the Parish Council to reflect on its commitment to the climate emergency and questioned whether such an event undermined the Council’s affirmed aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. Closing rural roads to a car race for the benefits of a private business was fundamentally wrong. Safety concerns were expressed regarding the lack of pavements on the walk to the showground. The event, he said, had a negative impact on hundreds of people but consultation was poor. The respondent had received no information until a day before the event. This was, he said, in contravention of the event licence.
- 6) A sixth person was keen to emphasise the impact of the festival on biodiversity. The landscape around the Festival site was a haven for wildlife and the Festival should not have been allowed to go ahead because of its impact on the natural environment, flora and fauna. This person was confused why Kirklees would grant a licence to this type of event especially without a comprehensive environmental impact assessment. It benefited, she said, only the organisers and a small demographic of auto-enthusiasts. She was unsure of the local economic benefit as local businesses were not significantly involved. She asked the Parish Council to withdraw further support from the event.
At this point, the Chairman asked if other people wanted to speak.
- 7) A seventh respondent, from Netherthong, endorsed Cllr Bustard’s report, and was critical of the road-race which he said was not a hill climb. The race was created, he said, for the organisers not for local people, and continuing to promote petrol cars is inappropriate. Instead, we should be promoting sustainable events like the Tour de Yorkshire.
- 8) A Councillor from the Netherthong ward spoke as a member of the public. He reported that a big issue was a lack of consultation especially with those directly affected by the event. It was, he said, difficult to get information from Kirklees on what was happening and that local people had very real concerns regarding access to and from their properties whilst the road was closed for 6 days.

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2122 32 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

As Local (Parish & Town) Council meetings can now be recorded, the Chairman checked if anybody wished to record the meeting, to ensure reasonable facilities could be provided. No one did. The Officer was making an audio recording of the meeting for upload to the Parish Council's YouTube channel.

2122 33 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Bellamy, Cllr T Bellamy, Cllr RP Dixon, T Dixon, Cllr Gould, Cllr Greaves, Cllr Hall and Cllr Roberts.

2122 34 To receive Members interests in items on the agenda and to consider any written requests for new DPI dispensations

None were received.

2122 35 To receive Officer's interests in items on the agenda.

None were received.

2122 36 To consider whether any items on the agenda should be discussed in private.

RESOLVED: Members resolved that no agenda items should be discussed in private.

2122 37 To approve the draft Minutes of recent meetings.

Members considered the draft minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 12 July 2021. A Councillor for Netherthong asked for some amendments. Firstly, regarding his comments during the Open Session on a planning application for a 5G mast, the Councillor wanted the minutes to be amended to include a precise location of the proposed mast and to acknowledge that the views he disclosed of opposition to the mast were shared from testimony of local residents rather than them being the Councillor's own views. Secondly, the Councillor asked that under 2122 27 regarding a grant application by Honley Show it be recorded in the minutes that Honley Show Society Ltd is a limited company. The Deputy Clerk said he would make the amendments.

RESOLVED: Notwithstanding these amendments, the Parish Council approved the draft minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 12 July 2021 numbered 2122 09 to 2122 31 incl.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the draft minutes of the Publications and Communications Standing Committee meeting held on 5 July 2021 numbered 2122 01 to 2122 16 incl.

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2122 38 Schedule of Payments

Members considered approval of new payments, - highlighted in yellow, - in the month-to-date Schedule of Payments for July 2021.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the new payments.

2122 39 Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group reported on developments. The Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan had completed its independent examination and the Examiner had issued his final report containing his modifications. The Examiner had stated that *"With the modifications in place the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan will meet the Basic Conditions and can proceed to a Referendum."*

The Parish Council's Planning Consultant had made the required modifications and the modified Plan will go to the Peak District National Park Authority's Planning Committee on 6th August and to Kirklees Council's Cabinet on 31st August for their endorsement so that it can go to Referendum. The referendum should take place within 56 days of the Cabinet decision, or a date agreed with Holme Valley Parish Council. It is therefore likely the referendum will be held at the end of October, and this will be the opportunity for residents of the Holme Valley to decide whether to adopt the Plan so its policies thereafter inform local planning decisions.

NOTED: Council noted the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's report.

NOTED: Council noted that the Planning Committee would continue to oversee the final stage of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and undertake any publicity to inform the residents about the referendum once the modified plan has been endorsed through the local planning authorities and can be published.

2122 40 Yorkshire Motorsport Festival

Cllr Bustard thanked the Parish Council for holding this Extraordinary Council Meeting. He explained his background in largescale events planning and consultation. Cllr Bustard gave a spoken precis of his report on the organisation of the 2021 Yorkshire Motorsport Festival event. Cllr Bustard's concern was that the planning for the event had been rushed and there was too short notice for arrangements to be thorough. He expressed concern that there was no event management plan and no risk assessment. Stakeholders, he said, should also expect provision of 1) a business and residents engagement plan, 2) a traffic management plan, 3) a socio-economic impact study. Conditions of the Festival's licence were that the organisers had to fully consider the likely impact of event on the local community, the potential economic and other benefits, and any other information the Council thinks is relevant. Cllr Bustard felt that these conditions had not been met. He felt that local opinion had not been adequately sought and the arrangements to involve local people and the Parish Council were insufficient. Residents affected by the event had not, he said, received information on the event and how they would be affected in good time and, even then, detail was lacking. Cllr Bustard proposed that Holme Valley Parish Council withdraws any support, explicit or implied, for the Yorkshire Motorsports Festival and requested that Kirklees Council and Motorsports UK revoke licenses for hosting future events.

The Chairman asked if other Councillors wanted to comment on Cllr Bustard's report, the event or the motion.

A Councillor for Netherthong thanked Cllr Bustard for his presentation. He clarified that local firms had been involved with the event. He had received positive feedback from people attending the event, - that it had been a good day out despite the absence of the music festival festival. This Councillor said he had no problem with the event itself but did have issues with the quality of consultations about it.

A Councillor from Holmfirth Central said it was helpful to hear from members of the public about their experiences of the Motorsport Festival. The Councillor said that, clearly, many people immediately impacted by the event had had a poor experience of the festival and its planning due to ineffective consultation and communication. Lots of mistakes had been made. Living close to the event showground, she felt that the length of road closures was excessive, and she rued the lack of provision of e-buses and other public transport to the site. But she was aware that the pandemic had compromised aspects of the event planning. She felt that the organisers should recognise the noise and other disturbance and commit to offset the environmental impact which had been calculated at 41,000kg carbon generated. On the other hand, the Councillor spoke in support of a festival. The Holme Valley is, she said, a tourist destination, and a significant part of the Valley economy involves the promotion of walking, cycling *and* driving into and around the locality. The Holme Valley also markets itself, informally or otherwise, as a festival location. Motorsports can be seen as more detrimental and have more pollutants, but all festivals carry an increased carbon footprint due to the miles driven by visitors. The Councillor felt a detailed cost-benefit analysis needed to be undertaken of the Festival. To that end, the Councillor said she hoped that the Parish Council could work constructively with organisers, and would give feedback to the forthcoming, post-

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event review between Kirklees Council and organisers drawing attention to the local community impact.

A Councillor for Wooldale clarified that there was no commercial contract between Kirklees Council and the event organisers, only a memorandum of understanding. The Councillor reported that a number of successful site inspections, - infection control, environmental health, COVID, - had taken place whilst the Festival was in progress. West Yorkshire Police were also involved and happy with arrangements. The Councillor reported that the Parish Council's Climate Emergency Committee had not had a stand at the Festival but that a partnership organisation, Zero Carbon Yorkshire, had had a stall there and engaged with 90 festival goers on environmental issues. The Councillor also opined that stakeholders had not yet got a full view of all the people of the Holme Valley on the event. Nevertheless, he felt there were clear lessons to be learnt about more effective communication and consultation, and he hoped that the Parish Council would work with organisers and Kirklees Council to make sure that the voices of residents are heard in discussions. The Councillor hoped that future events would deliver a festival which benefits the Holme Valley without unnecessarily inconveniencing people. This would be part of the debrief on the Festival between the Festival organisers and Kirklees Council on the 4th September. And, he continued, if it becomes apparent during discussions that future Motorsport Festival projects are not viable, then they would not happen, but that we should try at the outset to work proactively with stakeholders to try to make future events successful for the Holme Valley.

A second Councillor for Wooldale spoke against the hill climb which he felt was dangerous, and that correct and proper procedures had not been followed.

Communication, he said, had been bad. The contract signed by the Festival organisers stated that the event had the full support of the Parish Council but this was, the Councillor said, never the case and express support of the event had never been debated or approved by the Parish Council.

A Councillor for Honley Central and East felt that, due to the Parish Council declaring a Climate Emergency, it should not support a Festival which promotes the uses of fossil fuels. She argued that the Parish Council should not countenance backing the Festival and that it was ecologically and environmentally unsupportable.

Cllr Bustard concluded that he was concerned that future planning for the Motorsport Festival spoke of 30000 people attending the event. This he felt was unmanageable and unsustainable. The Councillor reported that the event licence says that the event has the full support of Holme Valley Parish Council. With this in mind, he asked that the Parish Council withdraw all support until we have all the information we need to make an informed decision on future arrangements for the Festival.

There was a lengthy discussion between Councillors about the wording of the proposed motion, and of the wording of proposed amendments to the motion. The eventual amended motion was that "Holme Valley Parish Council withdraws support, explicit or implied, for the Yorkshire Motorsport Festival until such a time as we are satisfied that all legislation, guidance and best practice with regard to the event are met."

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RESOLVED: The amended motion was passed. The Deputy Clerk would write a letter to Kirklees Council and to the organisers of the Yorkshire Motorsport Festival communicating the nature of the discussions at the meeting of the Parish Council and to outline the final resolution of the Parish Council, to wit, - Holme Valley Parish Council withdraws support, explicit or implied, for the Yorkshire Motorsport Festival until such a time as we are satisfied that all legislation, guidance and best practice with regard to the event are met.

Close of Meeting 940pm

Signed

Chairman