

Holme Valley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY, 23 March 2020 at 20:30, in The Lesser Hall, the Civic Hall, Holmfirth.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr R Hogley

Councillors: Cllrs M Blacka, J Brook, D Carré, J Dalton, T W Dixon, S East, C Greaves, M Pogson,

Clerk: Mrs L Bennett (not present in person but listening by phone).

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

1920 170 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 amended by the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

No-one wished to record the meeting.

1920 171 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from the other Councillors who were all self -isolating due to the Corvid 19 virus and Cllr B Feeney and G Barker and Cllr B Lockley also gave their apologies.

1920 172 To receive Members' personal and disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and to consider any written requests for new DPI dispensations

Cllrs Blacka and Carré expressed interests in the Holme Valley COVID Mutual Aid organisation.

1920 173 To receive any Officer interests in items on the agenda.

None received.

1920 174 To consider whether items on the agenda should be discussed in private session

No items to be held in private session.

1920 175 To Confirm Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held on 3 February 2020 numbered 1920 151 to 1920 169 inclusive.

Resolved that; the minutes were accepted as a true record.

1920 176 Grants

Resolved that; all the Grants items would be deferred to a future meeting.

1920 177 Payments.

Resolved that; the payment regarding the Plaques and the outside drinking water dispenser for the Holmfirth Public Toilets be deferred to a future meeting. The extra payment to the W.I. for the VE celebrations would not be paid as the event will not be going ahead (due to the Covid 19 restrictions).

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1920 178 **Payments of Grant monies to Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust (HCHCT)**

Resolved that the grant monies for the HCHCT that had been agreed in Full Council would be paid into their account: £30,000 toward the refurbishment of the toilets and £10,000 for the erection of a fire escape.

1920 179 **Virements as referred from Finance and Management**

Members noted Cllr Dalton's concerns about an overspend in the Petty Cash line item and his challenge over whether the council had been effective enough in managing taxpayer's money. It was agreed that more accurate budgeting was essential in the future but given recent staffing and administrative changes in the council, this had not been achieved this year.

The total budget was underspent so it was

Resolved that; all the virements proposed by the RFO were approved.

1920 180 **To agree renewal of the insurance of the Holmfirth Civic Hall Buildings with Ansvar**

Resolved that; The insurance for the Civic Hall be approved.

1920 181 **To agree the renewal of Council's insurance.**

Resolved that; the Zurich Insurance premium of £1,728.56 would be approved

1920 182 **The proposed amalgamation of the Community Asset Support Committee with the Service Provision Committee.**

Noted; that this amalgamation is not to proceed.

1920 183 **To approve the schedule of meeting for 2020/2021**

Resolved; that the schedule is approved.

1920 184 **Coronavirus Procedures**

Discussion was held on the implications of the coronavirus procedures on the functioning of the Parish Council. Members considered Cllr Greaves' information about Kirklees Council's approach to operations and Cllr Carré advised on the structure and approach of the recently established Holme Valley COVID Mutual Aid organisation. The following motions were proposed and it was:

- 1) **Resolved that;** all Council meetings would be suspended until further notice.
- 2) **Resolved that;** the offices of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen in the Council for Full Council and Standing Committees would remain the same until further notice until an Annual Council Meeting could be held once Council meetings were reinstated.
- 3) **Resolved that;** £20,000 would be ringfenced for the Covid 19 emergency response which would be made available to the Holme Valley COVID Mutual Aid group if and when required. Any requests for this money would be circulated to all councillors by email for comment prior to a decision being taken by the Chair and Vice-Chair. The

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Clerk and RFO would administer the payments and would also confirm with Kirklees Council that the Parish Council was not duplicating Kirklees funding support for groups.

4) Resolved that; £15,000 be ringfenced for the costs associated with mothballing Holmfirth Civic Hall if required by HCHCT. It was noted that staff costs should be supported by Government funding for staff so this money was to cover essential running costs during this period. Any requests for this money would be circulated to all councillors by email for comment prior to a decision being taken by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

5) Resolved that; the Holmfirth Public Toilets would remain open as long as the maintenance contractor was content to effect this and government restrictions allowed. Any decision to close would be confirmed through the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.

1920 185

To consider the delegation of duties and responsibilities to the Clerks while the Council business is in recess.

Resolved that; the council empowers the Clerk to do anything expedient to ensure the continuous running of the Council within the existing delegations in the current Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegations and Financial Regulations. However, any actions identified which were over and above these delegations should be discussed with the Chairman and Vice Chairman and advised to Full Council before being actioned.

Resolved that; as it was essential to retain contact with all Councillors remotely, it was agreed that Cllr Dalton could provide the Clerk with a suitable email account for use as in these exceptional circumstances. Removal of the email sanction previously applied was necessary.

Close of meeting : 9.40 pm.

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Chairman