



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Supporting the community

AT the end of last year, Holme Valley Parish Council considered its budget for the 2021-22 financial year, reviewing all the proposals from the various committees.

We are pleased to confirm that we are keeping the respective council tax band charges to households at the same level as the current year.

We have, however, decided to boost our spending to support the community through these difficult times by calling on financial reserves.

The Parish Council is

fully committed locally to continuing to address the ongoing climate emergency and, following our collation of requests for financial help through our 'Expressions of Interest' process, we intend to offer increased support to local community assets such as village halls and community centres.

Management of this process through our Community Assets Support Committee allowed us to receive early indications of potential future needs by assets run by the community for the community and, in our

first year of trialling this approach, we received 19 applications.

We identified 10 of these as eligible for funding so earmarked \$42,550 of next year's budget for their anticipated applications.

This has been an extremely challenging year for our local facilities which have struggled to raise money through normal fund-raising opportunities due to the Covid pandemic.

We hope that our support for capital repairs and improvements will help make more assets in the community sustainable.

New procedures for grant applications: In the new Council year, starting April 2021, the Council will be moving to a new process whereby grant applications are reviewed on only two occasions in the year – in September and in February. The hope is that applications can then be considered alongside and against one another. Any group should therefore aim to get their applications in by the end of August 2021 or the end of January 2022. However, we do appreciate that applications to meet unexpected needs do arise and, in liaison with the Clerk, such applications can be presented to the Parish Council at any time for consideration.

Recent grant awards

HOLME Valley Parish Council supports a range of activities and services in the valley and our website www.holmevalleyparishcouncil provides a list of all the grants that have been made along with reports from community groups on how those monies were used.

In recent months, we

have contributed towards protective screens to allow the Holmfirth Country Markets to operate in a more Covid-safe way, the Holme Valley Patient Transport Scheme helping vulnerable people visit their GP, the Random Acts of Kindness project which organised festive presents to combat loneliness,

and to festivals planning post-pandemic events (Holmfirth Arts Festival and Honley Children's Book Festival).

Under the climate emergency banner, we have also recently paid out grants to undertake land use mapping of the Holme Valley, and energy audits of Parish Council buildings.

Holme Valley Parish Council supports the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill: Continuing our commitment to actively addressing the climate emergency, the Parish Council was pleased to pass a motion this month supporting the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill which is currently before Parliament. The Bill demands that the Government act more quickly towards net zero by developing an emergency strategy (further details are on <https://www.ceebill.uk/>)

Improving local youth facilities

THE Service Provision Committee was pleased to make a grant of \$4000 in November towards the appointment of a new Youth Worker in Honley.

The Committee is looking forward to supporting this venture further in the year ahead and linking up with other youth provision in the Valley.