



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Council approves its Budget and Precept

At the Full Council meeting on 3rd February 2020, Holme Valley Parish Council approved its Budget for 2020-21.

The overall Budget for the Council has been reduced against last year's figures from \$327,244 to \$290,539 as some large-scale commitments have been met in the current financial year.

These included significant grants to Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust which will allow it to modernise the toilets, develop an office space and provide a fire escape at the rear, as well as grants to Holmfirth Tech, Thongsbridge Cricket Club and Hepworth Band Room to help them maintain and develop local

community assets.

Given the overall reduction in the budget, we are pleased to report that we are still able to deliver our identified priorities, following detailed discussion of all our expenditure.

We have recently created a new Climate Emergency Standing Committee and its budget allocation will enable the appointment of a Climate Emergency Coordinator who will be responsible for the delivery of the associated Action Plan.

Alongside this, we will continue to offer grants to the community to facilitate projects and events in 2020-21.

The precept, which is the Parish Council's share of Council Tax, has increased very slightly from \$274,970

to \$275,871 because of an increase in the number of higher value residential properties in the Holme Valley.

We are pleased to confirm that the precept charge for each household has actually decreased slightly with the Band D property charge falling to \$27.18, a \$0.32 reduction.

This is well below the national parish precept average of \$67.18 (2019-20) per Band D property.

The Council has adopted this budget to meet its ongoing commitments across a broad range of duties and pledges to the Holme Valley community. You can review the budget in further detail on the Parish Council website News page.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

THE Steering Group has been working to update the Plan following analysis of the consultation responses received from residents and statutory consultees.

We have had a series of meetings with Kirklees Council to discuss their detailed feedback and worked through improvements to our wording to allow us to retain the spirit and intention of our policies whilst balancing the need for consistent interpretation by

planning officers once the plan is adopted.

This is now entering its final phase before we seek formal approval of the final plan from the Full Parish Council after Easter and then submit it to Kirklees (and the Peak District National Park Authority) in May.

This submission version will then be released for further consultation by Kirklees before we appoint an Examiner who considers whether the plan is fit to go to referendum.

After many years of research, consultation and development, we hope that we will be delivering the final Neighbourhood Development Plan to the community for a referendum at the end of 2020.

It has been a long process from its start in 2016 but we are confident that we will have created a plan which gives a clear vision and direction for the Valley and will help future local planning policy reflect our community's priorities.



Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held in the

**Exhibition Room at
Holmfirth Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road,
Holmfirth, HD9 3AS**

**on Monday 23rd March 2020
at 7pm**

All members of the public are welcome to attend and all local electors are entitled to speak

**Councillor Trevor Bellamy
Chairman**

Action Plan published

AFTER declaring a Climate Emergency on 25th March 2019, Holme Valley Parish Council has now published its Climate Emergency Action Plan.

You will be able to find booklets of the Plan at locations in the Holme Valley such as the Civic Hall, Holmfirth and Honley Libraries, the Holmfirth Co-op, Holmfirth Tech, Read bookshop and Fairtrader.

Alternatively, you can contact the Parish Council for copies. A digital version is also available on the Council website.

The Action Plan lays out our goals with regard to managing the Climate Emergency, and encourages local people to get involved in any small way they can to start to make a difference.

We are recruiting a Climate Emergency Coordinator who will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Action Plan.

Details will be found on the Parish Council website and on the Holmfirth Events website.