



Holme Valley Parish Council – working under coronavirus

AS WITH all aspects of life at present, the work of the Parish Council has been very much affected by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council cancelled all its meetings from April onwards, closed its offices and suspended many aspects of its day-to-day work.

For example, Holmfirth Public Toilets have been closed and work on benches, bus shelters and so on was stopped.

Other services we part-fund, like the Holme Valley Minibus service, have been suspended.

But, despite this, the Parish Council does continue to work.

Officers work from home and Councillors have rallied to support some very important local initiatives.

Before lockdown was announced, the Council met under strict rules of social distancing.

Councillors voted to earmark up to \$35,000 of Council funds should they be needed to help the local community mitigate against the outbreak.

These funds were ring-fenced into a \$20,000 fund for community use and £15,000 to support the ongoing viability of the Holmfirth Civic Hall, which is owned by HVPC.

We have been pleased to be able to utilise some of these funds as follows:

■ The Parish Council was made aware that, due to Coronavirus, an extra 35 families had applied to the local Full Life Church Food Bank.

The Food Bank's resources were being severely stretched at this

point. Bearing that in mind, Holme Valley Parish Council approved the payment of a grant of \$6,300 to the Food Bank expressly to pay for one month's provisions for these 35 families newly facing hardship.

■ The Parish Council also funded a bulk purchase of hand sanitiser so that Holme Valley Covid Mutual Aid volunteers, emergency workers and local businesses could better assure their safety while going about their vital work to support local people needing assistance when self-isolating.

■ Finally, the Parish Council has supported Holmfirth Civic Hall Community Trust with a payment of \$4000 to help the Trust to manage the financial fallout arising from the necessary mothballing of the Civic Hall.

Committee supports the HoTT Lottery bid

HOLME Valley Climate Emergency Committee – supporting the HoTT Lottery bid.

A key aspect of Holme Valley Parish Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan has been that of working with partners in the Valley in the delivery of the plan.

One of our key partners has been the community group, Holmfirth Transition Town.

As an outcome of our partnership, in December 2019 HoTT submitted a bid to the Lottery Climate Action Fund (CAF).

The bid is for funds to augment the Parish Council's own funding for the Climate Emergency Action Plan and to carry out further climate actions in the Valley.

The proposal which has been

submitted to the Lottery is to set up a Holme Valley Climate Action Partnership to help deliver the Parish Council's climate action plan.

If the bid is successful the Partnership will set up a separate community business company.

There were 630 applicants in the first round of the Lottery CAF bid and by February, we are pleased to say, the Holme Valley application was through to the final 40 entries.

In early April, a more detailed second round bid was submitted.

There will be 15 winners so there is a better than one in three chance to win a Development Award of \$200,000.

We will find out if we have been successful in June.

As the government's advice on Covid-19 changes so too will the Parish Council's response. Given recent announcements, the Parish Council is pleased to let local people know that our contractor who maintains our public benches and bus shelters will start to return to his duties. We will also be pressing forward with plans to develop the lettable space next door to Holmfirth Public Toilets. We hope that things will gradually get back to normal. In the meantime, we hope you will all respect each other, stay safe and be responsible.