



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



The new Council for 2020-21

AS WITH everything else this year, the Council's routines have been very much affected by COVID-19.

Normally, a new Chair for the Council would have been elected in May of this year and, at the same meeting, Chairs and members would have been elected to the various Standing Committees.

This year, none of that happened. So it is only now that we are constituting the Council for 2020-21.

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on September, 21 the Council will elect a new Chair.

Following that, Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members will be elected to the seven Standing Committees detailed below. All Committees usually meet every three months, with Planning meeting monthly to fit with planning application timescales.

Finance and Management Standing Committee:

This Committee supports the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) to make sure that electors' precept money is managed and spent wisely and is secure from fraud and misuse.

This Committee advises the Council on the amount of precept

needed each year for the Council to conduct its business and on the associated charges to households.

Members regularly review a variety of financial records to ensure that budgets are managed effectively and, for example, that investments are appropriate. The Committee also offers grants to community groups seeking funding for events, projects and educational trips.

Community Assets Standing Committee:

This Committee supports community building assets in the Holme Valley which are important to people in the locality.

It oversees community assets owned by the Parish Council – like Holmfirth Civic Hall and Holmfirth public toilets, – but also maintains a budget to assist the ongoing sustainability of other community-owned assets that may be at risk.

Service Provision Standing Committee:

This Committee supports important services to the community. This includes a wide variety of things including subsidising the Holme

Valley Minibus and contributing to the Patient Transport scheme, funding youth facilities, as well as installing dog poo bag dispensers and defibrillators.

This Committee also oversees aspects of Christmas provision including paying for Christmas trees in villages throughout the Valley.

It maintains hundreds of public benches and many bus shelters across the Valley through our contractor, John.

Planning Standing Committee:

The Planning Committee reviews all Planning Applications in the Holme Valley and advises Kirklees Council and the Peak District National Park on all applications received.

This Committee also leads on the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan which hopefully should go to public referendum in 2021.

Publications and Communications Standing Committee:

This Committee oversees publicity and communications from the Council.

It manages the Council

noticeboard, website and social media, as well as the Council News column and Annual Report in the Holme Valley Review.

This Committee also recognises deserving members of the Holme Valley community through its Tidy Trader and Community Champions awards schemes.

Finally, this Committee leads on commemorating important local and national events and celebrations.

Staffing Standing Committee:

This Committee oversees the contracts, training and performance-management of staff.

Climate Emergency Standing Committee:

This is the newest of the Committees and its remit is to deliver the outcomes of the Holme Valley Climate Emergency Action Plan.

This committee consists of both Councillors and co-opted members of the public.

The Committee is also unusual in that it has a number of sub-groups overseeing different aspects and outcomes of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Water bottle filling station

AS PART of partnership working by the Parish Council's Climate Emergency Committee and its Community Assets Support Committee, the Council has commissioned a water bottle filling station to be installed outside Holmfirth toilets.

According to Green Alliance, the average UK adult consumes around 150 single-use water bottles each year.

This is wasteful. So, rather than buying another bottle of water just to drink and throw the container away, why not fill up a reusable bottle, and do your little bit to cut down on waste (and save a bit of money, too).

The new filling station should be installed over the next month or so, so watch out for it, and please make use of it!

