

HOLME PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Holme Parish Council on Monday 30th November 2015

Present: Cllr Medwin Sherriff (Chairman), Cllr's Tom Hunter; Brian Cooper; Vic Brown; Sue Wragg, Roger Bingham, Christine Youdell and Edwin Duckett.

Apologies: None

Cllr Cooper requested that the matters raised in a confidential note to councillors regarding the actions of the former Clerk should be discussed in Part B. It was agreed that such items must be an agenda item; so must be presented to the Clerk or Chairman at least 7 days prior to a meeting.

Requests for Dispensations/Declarations of Interest: None

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th October 2015 having been circulated to all Cllr's; these were accepted as a true record and signed as such by the Chairman.

Cllr Bingham apologised he would have to leave early to attend another meeting at Preston Patrick, he spoke to the council about the following; 1. There are going to be changes to local government and the way councils operate. 2. He has enquired about bin collections and been assured everything is fine; however it is not. 3. Library to receive £500 towards equipment, £1000 to the council for the lengthsman. 4. Roger has been assured that there is enough grit for the winter.

Chairman's remarks:

None

Matters Arising:

Matters raised at the Open Session

Speaking as a member of the public, Cllr Hunter read out the following statement regarding the Parish Hall ownership:

Under the first schedule (conveyance) the parcel of land together with buildings known as the Old National School, that was purchased by public subscriptions. My interpretation of this first part was that the Parish adults were now the owners of this asset under the holding trustees "Holme Parish Council".

Under the second schedule the property "conveyed" now called the trust premises were the management and control of "trust premises" called parish hall committee.

Cllr Hunter made the point that he is not interested in who owns the building; however he has received a copy of minutes from an open evening for Holme Community Centre which was held on 12/5/06. At this meeting there had been discussion on Hall ownership; Mrs Fell had said that the Parish Council are holding trustees, management committee run the hall but parishioners own it.

Mrs Graves has recently received a letter from the Charities Commission stating their understanding of the current situation regarding roles and responsibilities. The only people who can sell the hall are the management committee but only with the agreement of the people.

Cllr Cooper recalled the referendum held by those interested in a new community sports hall. This was held a number of years ago to ask the villagers if they wanted to sell the hall. However, this referendum was declared illegal by the Charity Commissioners, as one charity cannot involve itself in the affairs of another.

Cllr Brown repeated his view that none of this is an issue for the council at the present time, as no proposed sale exists. He suggested Cllr Hunter should talk to the Parish Hall Management Committee. In Cllr Brown's view, the hall is held in trust for the benefit of the village as a whole, through the Charity Commissioners. Day to day operations are through the Management Committee, and it is only if they feel unable to discharge their responsibilities that any issue will ever arise. Cllr Sherriff will view all information available at the present moment in time and make a statement at the next meeting.

- **Old Lanky Boaters:** Cllr Cooper has asked if the project for greater recreational use of the canal between Holme and Tewitfield should be supported. Cllr Brown proposed that the supporters be invited to a future meeting to explain their proposals before any view could be expressed.
- **Voting:** Lynn Gibbons asked if when councillors take a vote they could do so with a proper show of hands and be recorded. This was agreed.
- **Bin Emptying:** Residents are still not having bins emptied and some still have no schedules. Agreed that Cllrs Bingham and Cooper would follow up.

Finance

It was agreed to pay the following:

Clerk's expenses: £34.64 (ink, postage and mileage) Village Hall (Oct/Nov): £35.00

DH Forestry: £1,924.25

Income and Expenses: spreadsheet was circulated to councillors – all were happy with it.

Cllr Hunter approached Holme School regarding the £300 cheque. Their cheque stub has the cheque dated as 8/6/15. Cllr Hunter has told the school to not issue another cheque until the original expires after 6 months. Cllr Brown and the clerk confirmed no cheque for that amount has been credited to the council's bank account.

The precept was presented to the council by the clerk. The precept was accepted by all councillors to be presented.

Accepted by a show of hands. Cllr Hunter congratulated the new Clerk on her excellent work.

Other Items

- **Police:** Cllr Cooper has spoken to the police who have confirmed the investigations are still ongoing. The police are about to start looking into the Parish Council accounts. At present the Parish Hall and Parish Council are being treated as separate issues but might be brought together at a later date.
- **Community Led Plans:** Today is the deadline; plans are yet to be collected from drop off points. Cllr Brown has emailed all local businesses so the consultation has gone further than originally planned. SLDC/ACE has been asked to release some of the funds for the plan. Cllr Wragg has had feedback that some parishioners found the form lengthy. Cllr Brown explained why this was the case – so that people could make a meaningful contribution to the plan.
- **Plaque for Coke Ovens:** Interim plaque taking longer than expected due to ill health.
- **Mobile Library:** Starting in the New Year. Running on a Thursday during the coffee morning by volunteers. Mrs Fell is overseeing this; it's now a going concern. 50 people have expressed interest.

Community Issues

Highways: Requiring further discussion only in the event of any update

- A. Ginnell Mayfield/The Crescent:** No funds available. Put on list(Cllr Bingham)
- B. Traffic Calming:** No further action.
- C. Pear Tree Park:** House numbering (Cllr Bingham). No progress
- D. Road signs in need of cleaning:** Lengthsman has cleaned but some are faded and need replacing.
- E. Sheernest Lane:** Sign has been ordered but not arrived.
- F. Children's Play Area:** Cllr Hunter has received figures from Playdale but wants to query a few items. Rough guide would be £2,000 excl. VAT. This is for swing chains, spinner and fireman's pole. Cllr Cooper is looking into getting a grant. Cllr Hunter confirmed the playground is safe.
- G. Parish Council Surgery:** Discuss continuation of surgeries in one months' time.
- H. Bin Emptying:** Still a problem. Cllr Cooper is going to make enquiries. Parish Council are going to write to SLDC regarding this ongoing problem.
- I. Holme Mills Notice Board:** This has been taken down for repair; it is only 6 months old but already coming to pieces. Council will pay for the two legs of the board to be replaced.
- J. Hedges:** Cllr Cooper and Cllr Duckett to speak to a couple of residents. Letter to be sent to one other resident.
- K. Street Lighting:** Cllr Cooper has reported his findings to highways. Cllr Sherriff to notify of findings of the other councillors.

Reports on Meetings

None to report

To Note Dates of Meetings

Planning

SL/2015/0996 – OS Field No 7040 Moss Lane – Agricultural building for farm machinery and sheep feed store – Mr Steven Hurst.

SL/2015/1037 – Extensions and alterations to 37 Trinity Drive – Mr & Mrs Bolton.

Nothing to discuss

Items of Correspondence Received: (cc Cllrs)

Letter regarding Parish councils – Cllr Cooper wishes to discuss after next district council meeting.

Audit procurement changes – Cllr Sherriff to discuss with the clerk.

Date of next meeting: Monday 25th January 2016 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 21:30

