

Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of 19th May 2014 held at Gayle Institute at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs J Blackie (from 7.44pm), Mrs S Alderson, Ms D Allen, Ms A Caygill, A Fawcett, Ms CM Grainger, W Head, S Hunter (from 7.26pm), Mrs S Mason, KM Nugent, A Sunter

In Attendance: I King (Clerk), and 7 members of the public

In the Chair: Vice Chairman Cllr Tony Fawcett

1. The meeting opened with Cllr A Fawcett in the Chair. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **The two parts of the Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd March 2014 were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman. There were no Matters Arising.**
3. **Highways Issues**
Due to the expected late arrival of Cllr Blackie the meeting moved on to consider Highways issues.
 - a. **Hawes Bridge.** Cllr Mrs Alderson reported that the pavements on the bridge over the beck near the Hawes Club are in an "atrocious" condition
 - b. **Creamery direction sign.** Cllr Ms Caygill reported that the direction sign for the Wensleydale Cheese Visitor Centre on the A684 at the bottom of Gayle Lane is set too low and had caused injury to a partially sighted visitor. A picture was supplied.
4. **YDNPA Planning Applications**
 - a. **R/48/68F/LB Rigg House, Appersett.** Listed Building consent to remove part of the south facing roof. Cllr Head declared an interest in the property, and did not vote. **Supported.**
 - b. **R/56/415F Wensleydale Dairy Products Ltd.** Full planning permission for change of use of existing field to form overspill car park. This application generated considerable discussion. Councillors were reluctant to be seen in any way to restrict the successful operation of an important local business and tourist attraction, but also felt that the Creamery has enough car parking already.

Cllr Blackie arrived during the debate and suggested that YDNPA policy does not allow momentous accumulation of facilities to undermine the prospects of the local town or village centre. Policy is also specific that Car Parking should not be provided just to meet peak demand.

Council resolved, with one abstention, to oppose this application on two grounds:

- i. **that it is tending to undermine the productivity of Hawes Town Centre**
- ii. **it breaches the rule that Car Parking should not be planned just to meet "peak demand".**

Council also noted that, once again, Creamery Director Mr David Hartley had not come to the Parish Council to discuss this application, as he had promised he would at the Council Meeting in October 2010.

- c. **R/56/475B/ OH Mossdale, Hawes.** Notification under Reg 5 The Overhead Lines (Exemption) Regulations 2009 for replacement of existing conductors with one single bunched conductor and erection of new wood pole for proposed Hydro Power scheme. **Noted.**

5. Chairman's Items

- a. **Tour de France.** Cllr Mrs Mason gave a brief update from the Tour de France Committee, including contracting with a security company which will also provide First Aid cover, music on the Friday and Saturday evenings at Penny Garth, a Bicycle Trail, market and food stalls on the Saturday.

Unfortunately the original landowner approached for the use of their land for the bicycle outline had refused, so Richard Noble and Matt Neale were going to approach Richard Johnson to see if he as landowner of the greater part of Staggs Fell would oblige. The outline will actually be a temporary structure made out of cloth.

A member of the public, Richard Noble, outlined the **Hawes in Bloom** project - which is aimed at making the town look its best for the Tour, and afterwards. He proposed buying plant troughs which could hang on the railings in the middle of the road at Town Foot. He is seeking sponsorship or donations from local businesses, but hoped that he could rely on Council funding as a backup. He committed himself to maintaining the planting in future years.

Cllr Blackie proposed that the Council should donate £575 to the project and seek grant funding, and possible donations through the *Upper Wensleydale Newsletter*, subsequently. **Agreed unanimously.**

Cllr Mrs Mason concluded her report by thanking the local volunteer ladies who have made some 8000 bunting flags, with many of them working at home. Cllr Blackie added the thanks of the Parish Council to the TdF Working Group which has done a wonderful job.

Discussion then turned to the official status of the TdF Working Group. Cllr Blackie said that it has officially been working under the aegis of the Parish Council, and that the Council needs to be aware of its responsibility for the Working Group's activities. Such local groups cannot be held responsible for every visitor to their areas, but must be so in the vicinity of the events which it is organising. In our case, this means taking responsibility for the area of Penny Garth and the Market Place. It was noted that the YDNPA is responsible for events and activities on the Community Field.

Council resolved unanimously that it takes responsibility for the events and activities organised by the Hawes & High Abbotside Tour de France Working Group, and that members of the Working Group are absolved from any liabilities in connection with the same, as long as the Chairman or the Parish Council are advised in advance of whatever plans are being or have been made.

Road Closures. Cllr Head raised concerns about the proposed road closures of the A684 eastwards from the Moorcock Inn to Hawes and the Ingleton Road into Hawes. The closing of the A684 means that it will be impossible to run the Little White Bus services from Garsdale Station which means that it will not only not be able to meet its scheduled time table but also that rail travellers will have to walk the 7+ miles from the station to Hawes over unsuitable roads.

The UW Community Office is already receiving many phone calls seeking to book the bus into Hawes from Garsdale. Councillors added their concerns about local people being able to get to work or meet other commitments on the morning of 5th July and felt that it was simply not acceptable that all roads should be closed.

Cllr Fawcett said that he has received assurances that people will be able to get into car parking in Hardraw and Hawes - Cllr Head said that he has similarly been told that the roads will be closed. Cllr Nugent added that he has heard that the roads will be closed until midnight on 5th July.

Cllr Mrs Mason felt that this situation is out of our hands and there is nothing to be done. However, concern was also expressed at the suggestion that the Buttertubs road would be closed from 5pm on Friday 4th July - how would residents in Simonstone get home after work? Cllr Sunter has suggested that it could be closed at Shaw, and is awaiting a response to this suggestion.

Cllr Blackie proposed that he should seek a personal meeting with James Gilroy, the key NYCC organiser for the Highways aspect of the TdF, at County Hall or failing this that a letter should be sent to Mr David Bowe expressing the Parish Council's concerns.

- b. **24/7 Consultant-led maternity and children's services at The Friarage Hospital.** Cllr Blackie said that we are still awaiting information on the status of the proposed Independent Review, but added that local MP, the Rt Hon William Hague, is confident that there will be a full Independent Review.
- c. **Play Park.** Cllr Blackie was pleased to announce that the new toddler play area at the Town Foot play park has received a MADIRA (Making a Difference in Richmondshire) award, and that, in accepting it at the Ceremony, he had gratefully acknowledged the immense contribution made to the project by Cllr Kevin Nugent. Cllr Nugent requested that a letter should be sent to Abacus Ltd thanking the representative and the company team for the excellent job they had done.
- d. **Cemetery Extension Working Group.** Cllr Mrs Allen reported that the Group had met three times, and had been obtaining information from Leyburn Town and Richmondshire District Councils. They had also been in touch with the Rev. Ann Chapman who had advised that she could conduct the consecration of the ground.

However, Cllr Blackie emphasised that this is to be a multi-denominational cemetery and that representatives would also be invited from at least the Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches and the Society of Friends.

The Group has also been looking at a possible pricing structure and necessary policies. It was agreed that these should be circulated to all Councillors once they have been firmed up so that all final decisions can be reached and plans then made for the Opening Ceremony and then to open it up for plot reservations.

- e. **Hawes Post Office.** Cllr Blackie noted that the Ingleton Post Office, which was usually open 6 days a week, had closed at short notice, with the Sorting Office that was on the premises being moved to Carnforth, some 25 miles away from the town. He said that in its place there would only be a Post Office offering a very inferior service open for a few hours on two days a week in a Car Park nearly 800 yards away from the Town centre.

By contrast, the new Hawes Post Office will open in the Community Office on 26th June and offering the complete range of services, including travel money and car tax renewals. Cllr Blackie would be the figurehead for the new service, in his role as Community

Volunteer Head Postmaster for Hawes, and be held ultimately responsible for all the financial transactions undertaken and the balance of funds held by the Post Office.

The Post Office Manager will be Abbie Rhodes, in an extension to her work at the Upper Wensleydale Community Office, and she would return from maternity leave early to supervise the installation of the operation alongside Cllr. Blackie.

Cllr Blackie and Abbie Rhodes have appointed Imogen Kirkbride as Sub Postmistress for Hawes following the recent recruitment process. Steve and Linda Reynolds, the current Postmaster / Postmistress for Hawes would be assisting for the first 3 months to ensure there was a smooth transition from the old Post Office to the new location at the UW Community Office.

- f. **The Hill.** The new Parish Council notice board is in place - it is lockable and access will therefore be controlled by Cllr Blackie as Chairman and / or the Parish Clerk. Richard Noble has proposed placing two large plant containers against the base of the wall and planting self-clinging creepers to cover the ugly concrete wall. **His estimated costs of around £150 were accepted by the Council.**
- g. **Quaker Burial Ground.** Cllr Head put forward a proposal from his colleague, Mrs Trish West, to turn this Burial Ground at Town Foot into a public garden. This has the support of the Society of Friends (the Quakers) who have agreed to maintain the grounds with free public access after the conversion.

The total cost is anticipated to be £3970, most of which will be grant funded via the Communities Opportunities Fund run by Richmondshire subject to a 10% contribution from the Parish Council. **Council resolved to support this project, and to donate up to £397.00.**

6. Correspondence

- a. **Richmondshire District Council**
 - i. Review of the Parish Arrangements. Cllr Blackie advised that there were no changes proposed within Hawes and High Abbotside and that the Review should be accepted. **Agreed.**
 - ii. Proposed Street Trading Policy. Cllr Blackie suggested that a local consultation should be launched with the Hawes Tolls Trustees and the Lords of the Manor of Bainbridge. All Councillors to receive a full copy; and the issue will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

- b. **North Yorkshire County Council**
 - i. Parish Planning Guide. **Noted.**
 - ii. Hardraw Bridge Initial Consultation. **No comments.**
- c. **Upper Dales Healthwatch** - Notes of meeting re MPIG and practice funding. Cllr Blackie expressed his concerns over this loss of funding, but was reassured by Dr Adrian Jones' commitment to keep open both surgeries (at Aysgarth and Hawes) under any circumstances.

Richmondshire District Council has granted funding to provide defibrillators for all the villages in the Upper Dales. **Agreed that a letter should be sent to the Central Dales Practice thanking it for its commitment in the face of the loss of funding, and assuring it of Parish Council support in any way that it can help.**

- d. **Mr Ian Woolley** - need for trees screening of the Upper Wensleydale Business Park (GTEC Building). Mr Woolley argued that the Upper Wensleydale Business Park is screened on three sides but that the South aspect is open to view from Hawes. The Planning application for the GTEC Building had included tree planting, but, sadly, this had not been enforced by the YDNPA Planning Office. He contrasted this aspect to the very well screened Caravan Club site at Brown Moor.

Cllr Blackie proposed that a letter should be sent to the National Park supporting Mr Woolley's views and urging that some trees should be planted.

Cllr Nugent, speaking as a local resident rather than as a Councillor, supported Mr Woolley's views, and complained about the piles of rubbish (including an old piano) and old stones which clutter the ground outside the GTEC Building.

- e. **Lt Col (Retd) DJ Walker MBE** - Complaint re Bookseller in Hawes Market House. Parish Councillors, once again, were disgusted by the bookseller's treatment of visitors to Hawes. Cllr Mrs Mason said that many people make complaints in her shop, and Cllr Head advised that the issue is on every Agenda of the Market House Trustees.

Council agreed to write to the Market House Trustees stressing its unhappiness at this situation, which is very detrimental to the public image of Hawes and its businesses. Mr Graham Di Duca, Chairman of the Trustees, will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Council he is able to attend.

Cllr Blackie commented that the Trustees should be advised that if their attitude to the Bookseller is swayed by commercial considerations then it might be that Business Rates should be chargeable on the Market House as a commercial rather than a charitable concern. Currently the Market House pays no business

rates whatsoever as a result of an initiative taken 12 years ago by Cllr. Blackie as Richmondshire District Councillor for Hawes & High Abbotside. Cllr Blackie commented that the Market House seemed to be more community-orientated then rather than now.

7. Financial Matters

- a. **Agreed to pay the following Accounts:**
- i. KM Nugent - Work on Play Park - £1246.41
 - ii. Cojont Trading Ltd - Petrol for Mowing, April) - £30.46
 - iii. AC Ramsden - Alterations to disused toilet - £1454.40
 - iv. Dalesflex Signs & Graphics - Sign or Play Park - £35.00
 - v. Dalesflex Signs & Graphics - George Sumner Memorial Plaque - £486.00
 - vi. Dalesflex Signs & Graphics - Tour de France Banner Garsdale Station - 84.00
 - vii. R Noble - purchase of sprayer and weedkiller - £54.00
- b. **Approved the list of Accounts Paid since last meeting**
- i. PFK Littlejohn LLP - Audit Fees - £240.00
 - ii. Jemma Hogg - work for Tour de France Committee - £96.00
 - iii. Croft Mill UK Ltd - Material for bunting for TdF - £426.42
 - iv. Nortex Mill - Material for bunting for TdF - £301.95
 - v. Marmax Products Ltd - Fencing etc for Play Park - £1315.38
 - vi. Gayle Village Institute - Room Hire Nov & Dec 2013 and Feb 2014 - £45.00
 - vii. JT Atkinson & Sons Ltd - £145.86
 - viii. Richmondshire DC - Play Park Maintenance for Hawes and Gayle 2013-14 - £585.71
 - ix. Simon Winstanley Ltd - Mower repair and parts - £196.12
 - x. YDNPA - Room Hire / Refreshments for March Meeting - £85.00
 - xi. Abacus Playgrounds Ltd - Safety surfacing & springer - £3870.00
 - xii. O'Reilly Chartered Accountants - professional fees - £84.00
 - xiii. Jomill (CB Felts) - Tape for bunting for TdF - £908.64
 - xiv. Broker Network Ltd - Council Insurance - £1068.11
 - xv. Cunningham Covers Ltd - PVC Covers for Play Park - £180.00
 - xvi. John Banks - Grasscutting April 2014 - £244.00
 - xvii. PM Iveson Ltd - Ground works in Play Park - £1934.40
 - xviii. Dalesflex Signs & Graphics - Tour de France Banners - £800.00
- c. **Resolved to approve the addition of Cllr John Blackie as a signatory for the Parish Council Account**

8. Date of next Meeting - Agreed as 7th July 2014.

9. Any Other Business

- a. **Office Hours.** The Clerk suggested that two hours a week spent in the Community Office were unnecessary. After discussion it was **Agreed that he should be in the Office on Fridays from 11am - noon and that Cllr Head would also be available as he works in the Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

- b. **Street Light at the end of Back Lane.** Cllr Nugent reported that Mrs Bridgeman is very concerned about the permanent removal of this light. Cllr Blackie thought that it needs replacement parts which are impossible to obtain, but promised to follow up and clarify the situation.

- c. **The Little White Bus.** Cllr Head reported on the new bus service along the northern side of Wensleydale, linking Askrigg to Leyburn. Since the Dales & District bus was removed the LWB is running a 3 scheduled services per day service each way for 6 days a week for a 3 months trial period. An "on demand" service is also available. Cllr Head warned residents on that side of the Dale to use this service, or lose it.

- d. **Cllr Kevin Nugent.** Cllr Blackie read out a letter of resignation from Cllr Nugent, effective immediately. He was so sad to do this as Cllr Nugent has been a stalwart of the Council as well as an effective conduit for local people to express their views. He has also done a tremendous job as "Parish Caretaker".

The Parish Council owes him a debt of gratitude and has been very fortunate to have him working with us. Cllr Nugent added that he was sorry to be going, as he has enjoyed working on and with the Council. He is also resigning as the Play Park "Caretaker", though is willing to be asked if there are any urgent or emergency repairs required.

Cllr Blackie said that a letter needs to be sent to the District Council. Ten local residents can request an election, or the Council could co-opt a Councillor at its next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.