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**HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
HELD AT THE INSTITUTE, GAYLE
ON MONDAY 16th MAY 2022**

Present:

Cllr Jill McMullon (Chair)
Cllr Peter Metcalfe
Cllr Sheila Alderson
Cllr David Stephenson
Cllr David Cockett
Karen Prudden (Clerk)

Cllr Yurek Waluda
Cllr David Colley
Cllr Emma Blades
Cllr Marion Lloyd
Cllr Barry Wilcox

Mr Jack Sutton
Mick Rhodes
Richard Noble

Mrs Pip Pointon (Press)
Rob Ward
Elaine & Mike

The Chair welcomed everyone to the annual meeting of the Parish Council, noting that this was the largest number of people seen at a meeting for over two years.

1. Council's Expectations for the Audio or Visual Recording of the Meeting

Cllr McMullon advised that the meeting was not being recorded by the Parish Council. Mrs Pointon said that she would be recording part of the meeting to enable her to produce a report for the press.

2. Election of Parish Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Following the local government elections held on 5th May, all councillors had been re-elected to the Parish uncontested. The Clerk congratulated all councillors and formally welcomed Cllr Cockett whose appointment has now been confirmed.

The Clerk asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr Metcalfe nominated Cllr McMullon. This was seconded by Cllr Waluda and everyone was in favour. Cllr McMullon was duly appointed as Chair of the Parish Council and thanked councillors for their support.

The Clerk then sought nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr McMullon nominated Cllr Metcalfe. This was seconded by Cllr Colley and everyone was in favour. Cllr Metcalfe was duly appointed as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council.

3. Acceptance of Office

The Clerk issued all councillors with Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms which were duly completed by all councillors and returned to the Clerk to be sent to the District Council.

4. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Yvonne Peacock, North Yorkshire County Councillor and Richmondshire District Councillor, had registered her apologies for absence due to a clash with another meeting. These were accepted.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest registered in respect of the Agenda for the meeting.

The Clerk issued the Notification of Pecuniary and Other Interests forms to all councillors which were completed and returned to the Clerk to be sent to the District Council.

6. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting, held on Monday 28th March, had been circulated to all councillors. Cllr Metcalfe proposed that they be adopted as an accurate record of

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proceedings and Cllr Colley seconded this. Everyone was in agreement and the Chair duly signed the Minutes.

7. **Ongoing Matters**

- 7.1 Sedbusk Village Green - Cllr McMullon reported that she had contacted the District Council who had informed her that the green was not in their ownership. Likewise, it is not in the ownership of the Parish Council. Cllr McMullon has spoken to the owner of the property in question and other local residents who can look into the matter further if they wish.
- 7.2 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Cllr McMullon reported that she had attended several meetings to plan celebrations marking the Platinum Jubilee. There is now a committee taking the plans forward. It is intended to hold a street party on the Penny Garth Car Park on Saturday 4th June where there will be live music, a quiz and face painting. Funding has been obtained to purchase gazebos, should the weather be inclement. These can then be used for future events in the town. The organising committee will be making sandwiches and guests will be asked to bring along cake. The Clerk has ordered commemorative gifts (water bottles) for the young children of the Parish. The minimum order was 100 so any spare bottles can be sold.
- 7.3 Community Ownership of the Dale Head Garage - Cllr Colley provided an update on the planned community ownership of the garage. An application has now been submitted to the regulator for a Community Benefit Society, which it is hoped will be approved. If that is the case, then a prospectus will be issued to those who expressed an interest. If it is not approved, then it is proposed to follow the route of a limited company, but that will then require a more detailed prospectus to be issued. Talks are ongoing with the National Park Authority in respect of funding from their Sustainable Development Fund. A further grant application has been submitted to the District Council but appears to have 'fallen between two qualifying categories' so a decision is still awaited on the outcome, hopefully by the end of the month. There is, as yet, no information on whether the Chancellor's Community Fund will accept further applications but it is hoped that at some point it will be possible to make an application to assist with maintenance costs. Currently, there are three directors and a secretary named who are all directors of the Upper Dales Community Partnership. Assuming the process goes ahead, these people will stand down to allow the investors to choose their own officers, although there is likely to be a two month overlap to ensure things go smoothly. The prospectus will ask for nominations for the management committee.

8. **Planning Applications**

- 8.1 R/56/86X - Full planning permission for erection of extension to the existing public toilet block (sited within the car park) - Dales Countryside Museum. No comments submitted.
- 8.2 R/56/250D - Full planning permission for conversion of traditional building to dwelling for local occupancy/short term holiday lets - Bubble Head Barn, Burtersett. No comments submitted.
- 8.3 R/56/434C/GPDO - Application to determine if prior approval is required under Schedule 2, Part 6 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for erection of a poly tunnel for horticulture at Chapel House Farm, Shaws Lane, Burtersett. No comments submitted.
- 8.4 R/56/528 - Householder Planning Permission for erection of single-storey extension to front of dwelling linking the outbuilding to the dwelling, removal of window from rear elevations and alterations to dwelling's internal layout at Fell View, The Gaits, Gayle.

The Clerk read an email received from Mr and Mrs Rhodes regarding application R/56/528 which expressed concern about the proposals. Their property is next door to Fell View, and the proposals will result in them sharing a party wall. Mr Rhodes was invited to explain the situation and his concerns to the meeting, which he did. Cllr McMullon said that she fully appreciated Mr Rhodes' concerns. Councillors discussed the application and expressed concerns about the proposals and in particular the issue of lack of parking and potential use of another property for holiday lets in an area already swamped with them. It was noted that there are currently very few permanent residents

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in the area with the majority of properties being holiday lets. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to represent the views of the Parish Council on this application, noting that the Council strongly opposes the application. **RESOLVED: CLERK to draft comments for the Planning Department and circulate to councillors, prior to submission to the YDNPA by 25th May.**

9. Planning Decisions

- 9.1 R/56/285D/DIS1 - Approval of details reserved by Condition 7 (lime mortar sample) of R/56/285D at Hawes Community Fields - Discharge approved 6.5.22.
- 9.2 R/48/68M/LB - Listed Building Consent for use of garage (former coach house) as an office, retain garage doors and install new timber glazed doors behind on raised floor to match house floor level at Rigg House, Hawes - Approved Conditional 13.4.22

10. Highways Matters

- 10.1 Traffic Survey in Burtersett - The Clerk had asked Cllr Peacock for an update prior to the meeting but there is currently no date set for a further survey.
- 10.2 Vehicles Speeding in The Holme - Cllr Peacock had advised that she had reported the speeding issue to North Yorkshire Police. However, she suggested that the Parish Council should request a speed check be undertaken.
- 10.3 Repairs and Maintenance in Hawes - There was no real update on the various matters raised previously.
- 10.4 Potholes and Kerbs in Gayle & Hawes -
- 10.5 Re-surfacing of Gayle Lane -
- 10.6 'Birdcage Walk, Hawes -
- 10.7 Repairs to Haylands Bridge and Rains Hill -
- 10.8 Public Meetings Prior to Re-surfacing Work in Hawes -

RESOLVED: CLERK to contact Cllr Peacock to request more in-depth information on these matters as soon as possible.

11. Financial Matters

11.1 The following invoices were approved for payment:-

- ➔ Mrs K Prudden - £245.33 - April Salary (paid)
- ➔ Printed4You Ltd - £240.00 - Jubilee Commemorative Gifts (paid)
- ➔ Yorkshire Dales Accountancy - £156.00 - Payroll Processing 2021/22
- ➔ John Banks - £547.95 - Grass Cutting & Fuel
- ➔ Streetscape - £20,340.00 - New Play Equipment

11.2 The following income was acknowledged:-


- ➔ £17,500 - Richmondshire District Council Precept

NB: It was noted that this payment had been due into the bank account in early May, but the Clerk had found that it had not appeared. Cllr McMullon had taken this up with the District Council who had indicated they held the wrong information for the bank account. However, the monies are now due into the account on 19th May.

11.3 The Clerk reported the balance of the current account was currently £15,474.42. Bank statements were presented to the Chair for checking and signing.

11.4 Budget Setting - At the last meeting it had been agreed that the Council should set budgets for the forthcoming year in respect of the regular areas of spending. The Clerk suggested that this should be done once the AGAR for the last financial year had been completed. Cllrs McMullon, Colley and Waluda agreed to be on the Budget Committee.

RESOLVED: CLERK to contact the committee with relevant information once the AGAR has been completed.

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12. Correspondence

12.1 Minutes of the Upper Dales Health Watch Meetings - The Clerk had been sent copies of the Minutes of the UDHW meeting held in January, together with a Synopsis of discussions at their meeting in April. These had been circulated to all councillors. The Clerk pointed out that there were some issues of concern raised from these documents, most notably the loss of the only full-time GP at the end of September and the non-resumption of the open access surgeries. Councillors discussed the documents and expressed their concern at the deterioration in the level of service provided by the Central Dales Practice. Cllr Wilcox pointed out that the parish was some 40 miles from the nearest A&E department in a deeply rural area. He felt very strongly that the community should fight to retain as much GP provision and primary care service as possible. It was noted that there is a high percentage of 'elderly' residents in the area, but also a good number of visitors and young families, all of whom need reliable and effective primary health care. There was disappointment that the open access surgeries would not resume and concern at the current difficulty in obtaining an appointment with a GP, whether that be by telephone or face-to-face. Councillors agreed that there was a need to call a public meeting to allow the community to discuss their concerns and the Practice to hear them. Cllr McMullon proposed that a meeting be held with other local parishes and that representatives from the Practice be invited to attend. **RESOLVED: CLERK to write to parish council clerks in the catchment area of the Practice to invite them to attend a meeting, and then to make arrangements for the meeting, issuing information to all the local communities.**

12.2 Hawes in Bloom - The Clerk read a letter received from Richard Noble with respect to the forthcoming 'Hawes in Bloom' season. Mr Noble asked the Parish Council to consider supporting the event with a donation. Mr Noble explained that this annual decoration of the town had begun in a very 'ad hoc' manner for the Tour de France in 2014 and it was now in its eighth year. It is run entirely through volunteers and donations. The plants for this year's display have already been ordered. Cllr McMullon explained that the Parish Council had always supported this initiative which is very important to the local community spirit and which showcases the town brilliantly. Cllr Blades proposed that the Parish Council offer a donation of £1,500 to this year's project. This was seconded by Cllr Colley and everyone was in favour. **RESOLVED: CLERK to issue a cheque to Mr Noble for £1,500 for this year's 'Hawes in Bloom'.**

12.3 Gayle Green - Cllr McMullon explained that she had been approached by someone who owned a property in Gayle and who was concerned at the state of 'the green' in Gayle. It was noted that admittedly, the area is not very tidy and ideally would benefit from re-surfacing. However, Cllr McMullon reported that this area of land does not belong to the Parish Council and they do not have responsibility or authority over it. Rather, it is in the ownership of the Lords Trustees of the Manor of Bainbridge. Cllr McMullon has therefore suggested that this person makes contact with the Lords Trustees to follow-up his concern.

12.4 Representative to the YDNPA Planning Committee - A letter had been received from the YDNPA asking for nominations to the position of parish representative on the Planning Committee. Both Cllr McMullon and Cllr Colley had expressed an interest. Cllr Waluda proposed Cllr McMullon be nominated. This was seconded by Cllr Alderson and agreed by all. Cllr McMullon thanked councillors for their support. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to respond to the letter as nominee.**

13. Children's Play Park

13.1 New Play Equipment - Cllr McMullon reported that the new pieces of equipment had now been installed in the play parks at Town Foot and Little Ings and they were already being well used by the children. They provide a much-needed up-date to the parks and look very good, although the cost of over £20,000 appeared excessive. However, this project has been funded in the main by a grant from Richmondshire District Council. **RESOLVED: CLERK to issue payment to Streetscape for the project and then complete the claim for the grant funding through Richmondshire District Council.**

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13.2 Boundary Fence Repair - Cllr Waluda had checked out the boundary fence at Town Foot play area, some of which was post and rail fencing and other parts were stone wall. He reported that some areas were worse than others but felt that there was no need for repairs in the short term. **RESOLVED: COUNCIL to consider repairs once the budgets have been set and needs are known.**

13.3 Working Parties - Discussion took place on the creation of working parties to oversee various areas of the Council's work. There is already a group of volunteers who oversee the maintenance of the play parks, which is much appreciated. However, it would be appropriate to appoint councillors to oversee specific areas of work. **RESOLVED: To discuss and appoint councillors to specific areas of the Council's work at the next meeting.**

14. **Standing Orders**

The Clerk has been reviewing and updating the Council's Standing Orders following some changes advised by the YLCA. However, she has not yet completed this work and will require more time to do so. **RESOLVED: CLERK to continue to work on this and present the updated Standing Orders to a future meeting.**

15. **Review of Asset Register**

The Clerk advised that, given this is the annual meeting of the Council, it is appropriate to review the Asset Register. However, it appears that this is in minimalist format and clearly does not detail all assets held across the Parish by the Council. The Clerk recommended that a working party be set up to create a new Asset Register and then oversee the regular checking of items on it. Councillors agreed this would be a good way forward. Cllr Waluda and Cllr Stephenson volunteered to take on this task. **RESOLVED: CLERK to liaise with Cllr Waluda and Stephenson and advise on the format for a new Register.**

16. **Creation of Council Working Parties**

This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting. It had been agreed to discuss the setting up of 'working parties', allocating various areas of responsibility to councillors to oversee. This will be taken forward at a future meeting.

17. **Important Matters Raised by the Public for Inclusion on the Next Agenda**

- ➔ Details for public meetings regarding the re-surfacing works in Hawes
- ➔ Condition of the Road around Gayle Green

18. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held early July - date to be agreed.