

# Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 held at Gayle Institute at 7.15pm

**Present:** Cllrs J Blackie (Chairman), Ms D Allen, Ms A Caygill, A Fawcett, Ms CM Grainger, W Head, S Hunter, A Sunter

**In Attendance:** I King (Clerk), Mr Neil Linfoot (Improvement Manager, NYCC Highways Dept.) and 4 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr Mrs S Alderson

The order of the Agenda was changed to accommodate visitors attending the meeting.

### 1. YDNPA Planning Applications (Part One)

- a. **R/56/104K Hawes Auction Mart** - Full planning permission for use of land as a road salt clamp for NYCC.

Mr Linfoot was introduced and given the opportunity to address the meeting. He said that the existing salt store in the Upper Dales is no longer adequate and is environmentally unsound. After a search for suitable sites the Highways Dept. had chosen and reached agreement with the Hawes Auction Mart to locate a new salt store there. The plans were circulated at the meeting.

He stressed there would be no impact on Priority One routes as they are treated from the Leyburn salt barn. Priority Two routes are treated later in the day, and this is where the Hawes Depot will be very useful as it will save the gritters returning down Dale to restock.

There will be a concrete pad surrounded by "lego-brick" style walls. The salt pile will not be completely covered and will be protected by a tarpaulin. There will be lighting standards, but they will only be activated when the gritters are on site. The site has been designed to bring manoeuvring by the gritters to a minimum, and they can de-activate their reversing beepers at quiet times and early in the morning. It is hoped that the salt store will become operational in late October.

Cllr Blackie said that the planning application, if approved by the YDNPA, fulfils a very important need, not only for Hawes & High Abbotside, but for all of the Upper Dales. Tarney Fors is now longer in use, ruled out by Ringway, NYCC own Highways contractor, on health and safety grounds, and by the Environment Agency on environmental impact grounds.

Neither he, nor any of the Councillors present, had received any objections to this application, only expressions of strong support.

**Council agreed unanimously to very strongly support this application.**

## 2. NYCC Highways Issues

While Neil Linfoot was still present the Chairman asked those present to raise any highways problems, which he duly noted down: He offered to provide a full response in writing to all the issues raised in time for the next Parish Council meeting in September.

- Rob Ward reported that the pavement by the entrance to the Creamery on Gayle Lane is "all chewed up".
- there is a trough in the road outside Town Foot
- Cllr Ms Grainger wondered if the new gate in the wall by the entrance to Bealah Bank needs any form of planning approval
- a kerb stone is broken near the Hawes Chippy on School Hill
- there is a big hole by the gate at Chapel Fields
- there is another big hole on the right of the Hawes to Haylands Bridge Road, just past Brown Moor Caravan Site
- the cobbles are breaking up on the road past Cockett's Butcher/Baker shop
- the paving stones outside the Hawes Club are breaking up
- is there a possibility of road signage at Benz in Gayle signposting Kettlewell / Buckden
- Shotwood Hill (Hardraw to Appersett) - the "haunching" is crumbling
- there is a hole on the left hand side of Gayle Back Lane, just past the back entrance to the Auction Mart
- the road markings and signage where the Market Place meets the cobbles by HSBC Bank are still not renewed and vehicles are still going down the wrong way (the Chairman said he had pointed this out to Neil Linfoot personally at a Site Meeting in October 2013 with the promise offered that they would be renewed as a matter of urgency)
- the Cotterdale Cattle Grid was reported to have gaps that were too wide and causing damage to cars. Neil Linfoot responded that this grid does meet the requirements but that minor repairs are needed.
- Faw Head, Gayle - the green lane to Mark Burton's house has been washed away because drainage works are needed. The Chairman said these works had been agreed between himself as County Councillor and Mike Woodford, the former NYCC Highways Manager for Richmondshire with both Mark and John Burton, Mark's father, present, undertaken subsequently but now are in desperate need of being undertaken again.
- residents at Ashes Corner (Hawes-Appersett A684) find their drives flooded during heavy. Cllr Head said that the culvert is damaged.

### 3. YDNPA Planning Applications (Part Two) / Planning Issues

- a. **R/56/463 2 Little Ings, Hawes** - full planning permission for erection of two-storey extension to existing dwelling. The applicants were present at the meeting, and explained that they wished to extend their two bedroomed house to make a proper family house, with a larger kitchen and an extra bedroom. There would still be space for two car parking spaces outside.

**Council resolved unanimously to strongly support this application, agreeing the need for more space and believing that the site can easily accommodate the extension.**

4. **The Minutes of the Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014.** Approval was deferred until the next meeting.

### 5. Matters Arising

Cllr Head asked if there had been any progress on the issue of tree screening of the GTEC building, and was told no by the Chairman. The YDNPA had missed the opportunity to list it as one of the conditions of its approval of the original building, and the proprietor of GTEC, Griff Thomas, was apparently adamantly against implementing any tree screening. It seemed there was a stalemate with the onus on GTEC to provide the resolution one of its neighbours seeks.

### 6. Chairman's Items

- a. **Tour de France Grand Départ.** The Chairman praised this as a wonderful day which had been a fantastic once-in-a-lifetime community event.

Councillors agreed that there is a debt of gratitude to the Tour de France Working Group, the local community, local businesses and most of all local people with the white bike in outline on Stag's Fell, all the bunting and flowers and the decorated bicycles around the town and surrounding area.

In terms of legacy, it was agreed that the town would be dressed similarly with flowers in future years. The town had never looked so good, and appeared on TV news both nationally and on Sky News in Germany and across the remainder of Europe.

Cllr Sunter expressed disappointment about the car parking and traffic management to Simonstone which had been shambolic. He had spent £500 on preparations, and not a single car had reached his field. He felt that local stewards should have been used.

Cllr Head had expected that the A684 west of Hawes would be closed but this did not happen, so the Little White Bus was able to help spectators arriving at Garsdale Station. There was considerable praise for the friendliness and behaviour of the crowds descending from the Buttertubs, there was a wonderful spirit and no littering.

Council resolved to send an email to Griff Thomas, asking him to forward it to the other members of the Working Group, thanking them for a wonderful job which had been much appreciated. It was agreed that a copy should be sent to the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter.

- b. **Friarage Hospital.** Cllr Blackie regretfully concluded that opposition to the downgrading of the 24/7 consultant-led maternity and children's services has come to an end after consulting a leading QC in the NHS issues who could see no successful outcome to a request for a Judicial Review and a likely bill to Council taxpayers of between £100,000 - £500,000.

He urged mothers who are concerned that they may need care above that which the midwife-led unit to be established at the Friarage Hospital can provide to use the Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) which has the necessary capacity and is keen to care for local mothers and babies.

This twin track approach means low risk mothers-to-be can be cared for by the fine team of midwives at the Friarage, whilst those who need or worry that they might need consultants on hand can be looked after at the DMH.

The thought of 60 mile journeys from the Dales in hostile weather to give birth in Middlesbrough simply does not bear thinking about, but without these two facilities continuing it will become a reality.

- c. **Cemetery Policy.** The policy and proposed charges for the new Cemetery should hopefully be ready by the September meeting. The Chairman took away the work already accomplished by the Working Group as Sara Mason has now resigned from the Parish Council.
- d. **Hawes Post Office.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> employee has been appointed, Jonny Haigh, who lives very close to the UW Community Officer and has previously worked for the Yorkshire Bank in Leeds. The Sorting Office was working very well and Outreach services to Bainbridge and Askrigg have restarted.

Cllr Blackie said the Post Office was advertising in the August edition of the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter for volunteers to help for 15 minutes each morning at the Sorting Office to list Special Delivery items, and all day on a Saturday at the Post Office as company for the single Counter Assistant on duty.

- e. **Council Membership.** Kevin Nugent has confirmed his resignation, and Sara Mason has also resigned since the last meeting of the Parish Council. The Chairman had already expressed his appreciation on behalf of the local communities in the Parish for the contribution made by Kevin Nugent at the last meeting of the Parish Council, and he was disappointed Kevin had now confirmed his position as he had asked him to reconsider his resignation.

The Chairman expressed the Council's appreciation for all Sara Mason's dedicated efforts for local people and her contributions to the work of the Parish Council over the past 7½ years, especially recently with the Tour de France Working Group. She had made it quite clear when asked by the Chairman that she had made her final decision in offering her resignation which he had then reluctantly accepted.

After some discussion the Council agreed that it would like to be able to co-opt two people, should anyone come forward. It was agreed to advertise these vacancies and ask anyone interested to attend the Council meeting in September or October prepared to put themselves forward for consideration for co-option.

This would be the first item on the Agenda, and a Secret Ballot would be required regardless of the number of candidates as to whether to accept any of the candidates putting themselves forward for co-option.

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7. **Correspondence**

- a. **D Lodge, Richmondshire DC - Safety Report on Play Park. Noted.** The Clerk was asked to forward this to Kevin Nugent and ask if he is able to do anything about the issues raised.

b. **N Yorks County Council**

- i. Notification of intent to charge for disposal of hardcore, rubble and plasterboard and the introduction of a new commercial waste service, wef 4 August 2014. **Noted.** Clerk to add this to future notices for the Mobile Skip Service.
- ii. Holme Bridge (A684 Eastbound) - Proposals for minor maintenance and repair works. **Noted.**

- c. **YDNPA - Draft Local Plan Consultation.** The Chairman asked for two volunteers to help him in considering this. Cllrs Fawcett and Sunter volunteered, and this was **Agreed unanimously.**
- d. **Upper Dales Healthwatch -** notes of a meeting between Chair of the Upper Dales Healthwatch and the Practice Manager. **Noted**

## 8. Financial Matters

- a. **Agreed to pay the following lists of Accounts**
  - i. **Dalesflex Signs & Graphics** - for Tour de France Parking and Information Signs - **£240.00**
  - ii. **Cojont Trading Ltd** - Petrol for mowing June 2014 - **£36.00**
  - iii. **JT Atkinson & Sons Ltd** - various Invoices (breakdown below) - **£866.76**  
(G Thomas - TdF - £804.00  
R Ward - £6.60  
R Noble - £20.02)
- b. **Accounts Paid since last meeting**
  - i. **John Banks** - Grasscutting May 2014 - **£479.00**
  - ii. **Dalesflex Signs & Graphics** - Music Festival Weekend Banner (TdF) - **£166.80**
- c. **Parish Council Accounts.** The Clerk submitted the Bank Reconciliation and Cash Book Records for the financial year 2013-14. These had been audited and approved by Mr Barry Wilcox.

**Resolved unanimously: Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council confirms its responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, and went through and approved Section 2 of the Annual Return. It was also approved the Bank Reconciliation for 2013-14 and the Cash Book.**

## 9. Any Other Business

- a. **Garsdale Station.** Mrs Peacock had emailed the Clerk expressing her concerns about access to the northbound platform of Garsdale Station, which is a rough, unmade and steep slope. She finds it impossible to push her mother's wheelchair up to the platform which has deprived them of trips to Carlisle. She has been in touch with Rail Track and Northern Rail, but without success. Cllr Blackie agreed to take this up with the NYCC Officer responsible for public transport access issues who was addressing a meeting of Leaders of all the Councils in North Yorkshire later in the month.

- b. **War Memorial.** Cllr Ms Grainger asked if there had been any progress with establishing a War Memorial in Hawes now that the Chapel has been closed and the Memorial Organ has been sent to India. It was agreed that she would seek out local opinion, and that Cllr Fawcett should speak to a contact at the Hawes British Legion.
- c. **Portable Toilets for the TdF.** Tony Fawcett and Albert Sunter as private individuals asked the Parish Council to consider granting some funds towards the provision of the temporary toilets they had provided for the own customers because in the event they were very nearly exclusively used by the 12,000+spectators on the Buttertubs as there was no other public toilet provision available

The Chairman explained that the TdF Hub organisation (not Richmondshire DC) had failed to deliver the 10 temporary toilets allocated for High Abbotside to be located on the Buttertubs for the Tour de France and the 6 temporary toilets for Hawes. This was being followed up by both Richmondshire DC and NYCC in the hope of obtaining a refund which could be shared with those Parish Councils like Hawes & High Abbotside and other communities that were also let down.

Albert Sunter and Tony Fawcett said that because of this the temporary toilet provision they had arranged for their car parking was overrun with members of the public using their toilets in the absence of those promised by the TdF organisation. The Chairman personally had watched a very large number of cyclists coming off the Buttertubs after the race had passed using free of any charge the temporary toilet in Hardraw which Tony Fawcett had provided. He understood Simonstone Hall charged members of the public to use the toilets at the Hotel.

**Having heard of these circumstances the Parish Council unanimously (with one abstention) decided to grant the sum of £295 to both Tony Fawcett and Albert Sunter on production of receipted invoices towards their providing what was in reality became a public toilet. The funds to pay these grants would come from those being used to pay for the TdF arrangements.**

The grants were to go towards their costs but it was not intended to cover them completely so invoices produced needed to be for larger sums than the grant offered. Tony Fawcett and Albert Sunter withdrew from the Council after making their request whilst the matter was discussed and did not vote on the proposal.

The Chairman will pursue a grant to cover these amounts once the outcome of the negotiations between RDC and NYCC and the TdF Hub are known.

**Meeting closed at 9.15pm.**