

# Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 held at the Dales Countryside Museum at 7.15pm

**Present:** Cllrs J Blackie (Chairman), G DiDuca, A Fawcett, Ms CM Grainger, W Head, S Hunter, A Sunter, I Woolley.

**In Attendance:** I King (Clerk), and 3 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllrs Mrs S Alderson, Ms D Allen, Ms A Caygill

1. **The Minutes of the Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.**

2. **Matters Arising** – Cllr Di Duca reported that the graves reported damaged by trees in the Parish Church Cemetery were actually in the Methodist Cemetery on Burtersett Road. He had inspected the site, and could not see any damage. If there is, the Chairman advised it is the responsibility of the Methodist Church Committee.

3. **Chairman's Items**

**a) Parish Council Contractor.** The Chairman reported that only one contractor – Andrew Ramsden - had come forward until that very day, when an Andrew McCreedy had contacted him on behalf of a land management company. He felt that this company would be unlikely to be able to respond to emergency situations in the Play Park, and recommended Andrew Ramsden to the Council. His hourly rate is £22 + VAT.

**Resolved - The appointment of Andrew Ramsden as Council Contractor for the coming year was unanimously approved by the Council.**

**b) Marker Posts outside The Shetty, Gayle.** The North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Highways Department has agreed to move all of the posts apart from the two nearest from the house. There was some pressure from local Gayle residents present at the meeting that all the posts should be removed.

**c) War Memorial.** Cllr Head reported that some 20 questionnaires have been handed in at the Community Office. It was agreed that decisions on the War Memorial should be taken at the January 2015 meeting, and members of the public will be encouraged to attend and make their opinions and preferences known.

**d) Out of Hours GP Service.** The previous service at the DKH in Catterick had been withdrawn on a Friday with immediate effect due to unsafe emergency lighting at the hospital. It was transferred to the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton, but immediate protests from Richmondshire District Council (RDC) led by Cllr.

Blackie has secured a promise that it would reopen in the Harewood GP Practice in Catterick on November 11. The long-term aim is to transfer it to the Friary Hospital in Richmond within 12 months.

**e) Highway Problem at Bence.** Recently Mr Rob Ward had contacted Cllr Blackie to inform him of a spillage of wet concrete on the Bence in Gayle. This was a potential hazard, and a Land Rover and trailer had already skidded. Cllr Blackie immediately contacted local man Mr Neil Banks who he knew worked for NYCC Highways. He contacted his supervisor and then went and cleared up the concrete within 90 minutes, and before it had time to set.

Cllr Blackie wrote to NYCC Highways Director David Bowe commending Neil Banks actions. Mr Bowes response also commended Neil, but was disparaging about the Chairman for not following proper Highways Department procedures. Cllr Blackie explained this involves contacting the Police help line, reminding them how to spell Hawes and where it is, and then they contact a firm at Selby, 85 miles away, to deal with the incident.

He said he had done this before and received no response to the incidents he was reporting, adding that these urban-centric procedures do not meet the needs of the remote Upper Dales. If he had followed the guidance the concrete would have long been set before anybody would have turned up to remove it – an absurd situation when help was on hand.

**Resolved - The Parish Council unanimously endorsed the Chairman’s actions on the day, and delegated the Chairman to respond firmly to Mr Bowe advising him of the Council’s views on these issues, and also highly commended the help given by Neil Banks.**

**f) Brass Band Competition.** The Clerk had received a phone call and letter from the Yorkshire & Humberside Brass Band Association regretting the Council’s decision not to make a donation to the 2014 Hardraw Scaur Brass Band Competition. The Chairman was not convinced that the Council’s name appeared on the posters for the event and its previous decision was ratified by Councillors present at the meeting..

**Resolved - The Chairman to write to the Association asking them to send the publicity proposed before it is printed and a request for a donation well in advance of the event.**

**g) Defibrillator.** Stuart Armstrong had suggested that a defibrillator should be available in the town for emergency use when the Surgery is closed. Cllr DiDuca pointed out that the local Hawes First Responder group is equipped with a defib, which is available nearly 24 hours a day.

**Resolved - The Council would be interested to receive views from Parishioners on this issue and so a decision was deferred to await public feedback.**

**h) Retaining Young People in the Dales.** The campaign by the RDC led by Cllr. Blackie is continuing. Richmondshire District Council is going back into the business of buying or building houses for rent in perpetuity for local people.

**i) Barn Conversions.** The Council regretted the Government's endorsement of the YDNPA Article 4 Direction requiring their giving planning permission before barns can be converted into commercial premises. This was despite robust representations from both NYCC and RDC, and means that the YDNP is the only part of the whole country where this applies. Parish Councillors were disappointed that William Hague MP had done so little to prevent this potential stranglehold on local enterprise and employment from being imposed.

**j) Hawes in Bloom (Tour de France Legacy Project).** Richard Noble has been asked by local businesses to continue brightening Hawes with his themed planting next year, and they are willing to provide funding for the commercial areas. Mr Noble was asking if the Parish Council would be willing to support "municipal" areas such as Town Foot and the School railings. He also asked about the possibility of a water supply at Town Foot, which prompted quite a discussion but no resolution to the issue.

**Resolved – The Parish Council agreed a donation of £1000 from the 2015/ 16 Precept towards the Hawes In Bloom project.**

**k) Highways Issues.** After some 18 months the Council has received a plan from the Highways Department to resolve the issue of the damaged road signs at the Market Place end of the Cobbles. Cllr Head was fully in agreement with the proposals but emphasised the need to renew the relevant white lining as well.  
**Clerk to respond to NYCC Highways.**

**l) Salt Pile.** After 4½ years of negotiation and over-drawn out legal process, in which the Chairman had been personally closely and very often impatiently involved, Cllr. Blackie was pleased to announce that a permanent Salt Pile for winter gritting has been established at the Hawes Auction Mart for the next 25 years. Councillors rejoiced at the announcement, as did (according to the Chairman) the local excellent team of Upper Dales winter gritter drivers who were equally delighted. Residents from Gayle requested that a small pile should be set up near Kitt Hill.

#### **4. YDNPA Planning Applications**

a. **R/48/112D Ivan Farm, Sedbusk.** Full planning permission for telecommunications upgrade / replacement of 11m timber mast and antennas.  
**Council very strongly supported this application as telecommunications are still a problem in the vicinity.**

#### **5. Correspondence – Council noted all the items of Correspondence on the Agenda.**

**6. Any Other Business**

**a) Cemetery grass cutting** - Cllr DiDuca suggested an idea to divide St. Margaret's Church Cemetery into two areas – one for old graves and another for more recent ones, with the former kept cut by a Parishioner's Shetland ponies, whilst the latter would be more carefully maintained.

**b) Trees** – A tree near the Gallery in the Play Park is threatening to cause damage, and Cllr DiDuca agreed to liaise with the Chairman on this issue. Cllr Grainger added that a tree on the green at the bottom of Gayle Lane is obscuring a lamp post. Richard Noble offer to remedy this was taken up.

**c) Dog Fouling** - Cllr Woolley said there was on-going dog fouling on the Holme. The Chairman agreed to approach RDC and the YDNPA and suggest it relocate the dog bin at the Dales Countryside Museum to deal with this issue by placing it near the Public Telephone. Then a new larger bin could be sited in the DCM as the existing bin is very often overflowing.

**d) GTEC Building** - It was suggested that large boxes with shrubs and flowers might be used to soften the appearance of its imposing gable end.

**Meeting closed at 9.07pm.**

**Date of next Meeting: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.15pm at Gayle Institute.**