

Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of 6th October 2014 held at Gayle Institute at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs J Blackie (Chairman), Mrs S Alderson, Ms D Allen, Ms A Caygill, G DiDuca, A Fawcett, Ms CM Grainger, S Hunter, A Sunter, I Woolley.

In Attendance: I King (Clerk), and 6 members of the public

Apologies: Cllr W Head

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. He also welcomed the Clerk back after his recent ill health, and the two new Councillors, Mr Graham DiDuca and Mr Ian Woolley.
2. **The Minutes of the Meeting of 1st September 2014 were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman. There were no Matters Arising.**
3. **Chairman's Items**
 - a. **Play Park.** The Chairman had written a letter to Mr K Nugent thanking him for his years of hard work in the Play Park. Mrs Kathy Haygarth has agreed to be a “volunteer supervisor” as she and her family regularly use the Park and will keep the Chairman and/or the Clerk informed of any problems. The Chairman is seeking a local contractor who would be willing to maintain the Play Park, and to offer an immediate response for any work needed. The dangerous surface around the roundabout has led to the closure of this ride, and the Chairman is seeking a quotation for remedial work from the company which did the surfacing for the new toddler area.
 - b. **Marker Posts.** The Chairman had received letters from Mr & Mrs Rhodes and a “Concerned Resident” complaining about the new white marker posts which had been installed outside The Shetty in Gayle. Investigation had established that these had been installed by the County Council Highways Department without any consultation with either the local County Councillor or the Parish Council. A new Supervisor in the Highways Department had been pestered by the owner of The Shetty until he had agreed to have the posts installed on road safety grounds.

The Chairman advised that he was unaware of any road safety incidents and that the area had always been used as an overflow car parking area for residents of, or visitors to, Gaits. He reminded the Council that the owner of The Shetty had placed large builders’ bags on the same verge last year and had eventually been persuaded to remove them. He had received assurances from Mr David Bowe,

Director of Highways, that the posts would be removed if the Parish Council so wished. **The Council resolved unanimously that there is no case for these marker posts, and that they should be removed.**

- c. **Superfast Broadband.** This is now available in Hawes, Gayle and Hardraw. The 17 miles of uninterrupted fibre from Leyburn to Hawes is the longest spur of fibre cabling in North or East Yorkshire. It was reported that some residents in Burtersett Road are unable to access the network even though the fibre passes their front doors. The Clerk reported a five hour pointless wait for an engineer who did not turn up to install BT Infinity.
- d. **The Board Inn.** The Chairman reported a request to change the name of this establishment from the Board Hotel, formerly the Old Board Hotel, to the Board Inn. They are also requesting an extension of serving hours from 11pm up to 1am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and maybe Sundays as well. Richmondshire Licensing Committee has already ruled that there should be no singing, dancing or the performance of plays after 11pm.

It was noted that the Hawes Club, the White Hart Hotel and the Fountain Inn are already licensed to 1am on Fridays and Saturdays. Cllr Sunter felt that this should be extended to the Board Inn as well. Not one of the Councillors had received any representations on this issue, so the Council raised no objections to the requests.

- e. **Proposed Hawes War Memorial.** Cllr Mrs Mary Grainger reported on her and Cllr Head's efforts to progress this. It is suggested that the new Memorial should be built on the small green at the bottom of Gayle Lane, opposite the Primary School. Cllr DiDuca said that this had been a good place for a candlelit service held in August to mark the start of World War 1. Photographs of possible designs were circulated at the meeting, and it was felt that it should be located towards the back of the green, near the wall.

A grant of £500 is available from Richmondshire District Council (RDC), the Methodist Church has put aside some of the income from the sale of the War Memorial Organ when the Chapel was sold, and there are other possible funding sources. The Royal British Legion Memorial Committee will adopt the war Memorial once it has been built, so there are no ongoing costs to cause concern.

There was a debate on whether the Memorial should have a list of the fallen in the two World Wars or a generic dedication to all the fallen in any war since 1914. A consultation should be launched at the Community Office and the Clerk agreed to promote this in the *Upper Wensleydale Newsletter* and the *Darlington & Stockton Times*. A Site Meeting was agreed. It was further agreed that the final decisions should be left until the January 2015 meeting.

- f. **Retaining Young Families and Young People in the Upper Dales.** The RDC has started a mission to keep young people and their families in the Dales. 15 years ago the schools in Reeth and Gunnerside had 90 pupils, now they have 45. Similarly, Bainbridge and Askrigg schools had 117, now down to 66. This trend is reflected across Yorkshire's rural areas, and has reached crisis levels. As more and more services, such as Post Offices, health services, shops and pubs, close down, so families are forced to move away.

Coun Blackie gained support from the Parish Council when arguing the YDNPA is accelerating the decline in the Upper Dales by rejecting the new national planning flexibility of allowing barn conversions into commercial premises and dwellings without planning permission. Both types of conversions are freely allowable elsewhere in the country. He suggested that the first barn conversion in the National Park area is unlikely to be approved before 2018. Most of our young people will have left by then.

The Council's mission is supported by the *Darlington & Stockton Times* and Cllr Blackie has just had a successful meeting with the editor of the *Yorkshire Post* which is also supportive. A summit meeting is to be held to look at different ways of achieving these aims – standing on the sidelines is not an option.

Council resolved unanimously to give this mission its full support.

- g. **National School Community Project.** The plans to convert the old National School by the Church into a home and a community centre are well advanced. £10000 has been granted towards the project from the RDC Communities Opportunities Fund, and a local community company limited by guarantee is to be formed. Cllr Blackie has been invited to be on its Board.

4. NYCC Highways issues

Cllr Blackie has organised a site visit with Steve Barker from the NYCC Highways Department. This will cover the marker posts (see above) and the unsafe trees at Haylands Bridge, Pry House and Brandymires. He will also be following up on the long defunct streetlight in The Holme and the awaited grit bin.

Mrs Margaret Preston has raised the problem of huge roots from trees near the upper part of the Graveyard by St Margaret's Church causing damage to the graves. Cllr DiDuca agreed to take a look at the problem, and also to investigate the absence of any grass cutting in the cemetery.

5. **YDNPA Planning Applications**

- a. **R/48/22A Thwaite Bridge Farm, Hawes.** Full Planning Permission for erection of steel portal frame agricultural building to replace existing buildings. **Strongly supported.**

6. **Financial Matters**

- a. **Agreed to pay the following accounts:**
 - i. Cojont Trading – Petrol for mowing - **£39.01**
 - ii. PKF Littlejohn LLP, Audit Fee - **£156.00**
 - iii. Hire of Gayle Institute for the February / May / July / September PC Meetings - **£80.00**
- b. **External Audit by PKF Littlejohn LLP – Notice of successful completion.**

7. **Agreed the date of the next 2 meetings of Hawes & HA PC:** Monday 3rd November 2014 and Monday January 5th 2015

8. **Any Other Business**

- a. **Garsdale Station.** Member of the public, Mrs Brenda Peacock asked if there had been any progress on her request for an improvement to the access to the northbound platform. The Chairman assured her that the issue is high on the County Council's Access Officer's Agenda.
- b. **Gayle Play Park.** A member of the public noted that the tarmac under the swings is breaking up and getting unsafe.
- c. **Dyers Garth.** Cllr Mrs Alderson said that the *Keep Clear* sign by the junction needs repainting.
- d. **Notice Boards.** Cllr Mrs Mary Grainger noted that the Parish Council noticeboards at Appersett and Hardraw are in need of replacement.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.