

Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of 1st September 2014

Held at Gayle Institute

Present: Cllrs J Blackie (Chairman), Ms CM Grainger, Ms D Allen, Mr W Head, Mr A Sunter

In Attendance: Jemma Hogg (Clerk) and 8 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Mrs S Alderson, Ms A Caygill, Mr A Fawcett, Mr S Hunter

Cllr Blackie, the Chairman, informed everybody that Mr Ian King (Parish Clerk) had recently been taken ill abroad and although he is now back home he is not yet well enough to resume his duties. Hopefully he will return for the October meeting and Jemma Hogg has stepped in to minute the meeting in his absence.

2. **Minutes:** Approval for the Parish Council meetings held on Monday 19th May and Monday 14th July. The minutes were accepted as a true record and unanimously agreed by all Parish Councillors present.

3. **Matters arising if not on the Agenda**

Griff Thomas queried point 6d from the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May which stipulated about trees been planted at the GTEC building as part of the original planning approval but that no trees had been planted. Griff Thomas informed the Parish that Yorkshire Water had prohibited the planting of trees due to the sewer lines nearby. The Chairman asked for confirmation of this in writing so that the matter could be fully resolved and Griff Thomas agreed. Griff Thomas also informed the Council that all rubble had been cleared from GTEC car park and that the site was now complete.

4. **Co-option of up to 2 candidates to join the Parish Council to fill the existing vacancies**

3 people have come forward: Ian Woolley, Graham Di Duca and Abbie Rhodes. The Chairman advised the Council that Abbie Rhodes said she would put herself forward only in the event of there being less than 2 other candidates.

Jemma Hogg read out Ian Woolley's letter of interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and Walter Head informed us of Graham Di Duca's background.

Cllr Blackie proposed the Parish Council adopt both Graham Di Duca and Ian Woolley as Parish Councillors until May 2015 when an all-out election will be held.

Resolved – Unanimously agreed by the Council

5. **Chairman's Items**

- a. **Report on Hawes Post Office / Upper Dales Sorting Office/ Outreach offices in Bainbridge & Askrigg**

Cllr Blackie reported that the public reaction to the Post Office has been tremendous and very supportive of what they have already achieved. He stipulated how good it was to have Steve

and Linda Reynolds help and support and added that Imogen Kirkbride has taken to the role wonderfully and that many have commented on her high level of customer service.

The Post Office has taken on Jonny Haigh in a part time capacity, and as he used to work for the Yorkshire Bank his experience has helped him settle into the role quickly. Steve has been training him to do the Outreach offices in Bainbridge and Askrigg and Jonny now feels confident to spearhead this vital Outreach service on his own.

The Sorting Office is established and running very well. It employs Brian Peacock and Nigel Martin as full time postmen and Andrew (from Redmire) is the relief postman. The Sorting Office now complies with Trade Union (CWU) standards. Located conveniently on the Business Park enables customers to pick up their post early and this is facilitated by the extra parking area nearby when compared to the old Post Office.

In conclusion Cllr Blackie confirmed that everything is going well, much better than might have been expected or predicted at this phase of the project.

Cllr Blackie would like to emphasize an appeal for a small rota of volunteers for:

- i. Sorting Office – morning only, at around 9.00 am for about 15 / 20 minutes at most to help list the Special Delivery and the Tracked items
- ii. Saturdays at the Community Office – not to work in the Post Office directly but to provide support to the Counter Assistant there as there always needs to be two people in the building when it is open. The rota suggested splits Saturday into 3 shifts: 830 am – 1130 am, 1130 am – 230 pm, 230 pm – 530 pm.

b. Correspondence in the D&S Times from 2 traders in Hawes

The Chairman stated that after such a wonderful atmosphere in town during and after the TdF it was a real disappointment to read the two letters that had been published. In regard to the letter from Mr Pally, Cllr. Walter Head suggested that the Council send a strongly worded letter stating that his behaviour is not acceptable for traders in Hawes.

Brenda Peacock suggested this could be playing into his hands and will be inflammatory. As he owns his own business he has the freedom to say what he likes.

The Council decided unanimously to ignore his letter for the time being but to keep an eye on the situation.

With regard to the Bookseller's letter, the Chairman stated that the Council has already written to him twice about his behaviour and taken the issue up with the Market House Trustees. Cllr. Walter Head informed us that the Chairman of the Market House Trustees will be writing to the Bookseller and that they are dealing with the situation in house. The Chairman said we can ask him next month as the Market House is chaired by Graham Di Duca, one of our newly co-opted Parish Councillors.

c. Tour de France – Progress towards arriving at a final account for income and expenditure, temporary toilet provision on the day in the light of the failure of the TdF Hub to supply 10 toilets to The Buttertubs and 6 toilets to Hawes, and discussion of an e-mail received from Hannah Fawcett.

Griff Thomas had provided Cllr Blackie with a list of outstanding invoices prior to the meeting. The Chairman said he is still awaiting some grant funding, some of which will not be paid until invoices are produced. 2 businesses, the Wensleydale Creamery and the

Ropemakers have been approached by Ian King for the donations they offered as they are yet to pay up.

An issue raised in July's Parish Council meeting was the use of grant funding towards the cost of providing temporary toilets belonging to private enterprises because they were overrun by members of the public due to the failure of the TdF Hub organisation to provide the temporary toilets they had promised for the Buttertubs. This decision was unanimously agreed (with one Councillor abstaining) by the Parish Council at the July meeting.

A letter from Hannah Fawcett to the Parish Council was read out in full which queried this use of grant funding for these private enterprises.

The Chairman re-stated the case the Parish Council had accepted in July, which was the funding was awarded to these two businesses because there were no temporary toilets (which were promised by the TdF Hub) on the Buttertubs and the private provision made by these businesses were overrun by members of the public desperately seeking a toilet. He had watched himself some 50 cyclists coming off The Buttertubs after the TdF had passed through using the private toilets in Hardraw in the space of 40 minutes.

The Chairman re-iterated that if the TdF Hub temporary toilets had arrived then the grant payments to the private enterprises would not have been made. Since the July meeting a private enterprise in Hawes had produced an invoice for 6 toilets in the Penny Garth as the TdF Hub toilets scheduled to be placed there also failed to arrive, and the Parish Council had been authorised by the TdF Working Group to pay it.

The Chairman put the matter of the grant payments to the Parish Council again and the vote was unanimously in favour of endorsing all the payments that had been made – to the 2 private enterprises on High Abbotside and the private enterprise in Hawes.

Cllr Blackie will reply to Hannah Fawcett, and post the Parish Council meeting he now reports he had spoken at length to her and explained the reasoning behind the decision.

d. **Tour de France – Legacy**

A letter from Richard Noble was read out to the Parish Council which requested funds for the floral display project so successful this year to continue in years to come. He suggested he will approach businesses to see if they wish to continue with hanging baskets & etc next year at their expense but requests the funding for the flowers mounted on the civic infrastructure throughout the town.

Cllr Blackie asked Griff Thomas (Chairman of the TdF Working Group) for his Group's ideas for a legacy for the town in the event of their being funds left available on the final account. He pointed out that it is the Parish Council who will decide but it would be very keen to hear what the TdF Working Group came up with in the way of a project. Griff Thomas said he would submit ideas to the Parish Council in due course.

Parish Councillors individually gave fulsome praise to the fantastic volunteer efforts of Richard Noble and hugely appreciated the days upon days of his free time devoted to making the town looked so attractive. They were very grateful to hear that he was prepared to offer his free time to continue the floral displays throughout the town in the future.

In principle the Parish Council agreed to allocate funding from the 2015 / 2016 budget toward Richard Noble's suggestions. The Chairman suggested a maximum limit of £1000, a figure accepted by the Council as necessary to provide a first rate display next year.

e. **Refurbishment of the National School as a venue for community use – Request for support of the Parish Council for a RDC Community Opportunities Fund (COF) application and for a grant towards the equipping of the venue – Emily Fagg to address the Parish Council.**

The COF has £550,000 this year to spend throughout the District on a range of community capacity building projects. It relies upon the support of the local communities and a contribution of the Parish Council in which the proposed projects are based.

Emily Fagg is working to refurbish the National School and looks to bring it back as a community venue. Emily and Andrew Fagg bought the National School and School House in April and renovation has begun. They look to extend the School House where they will live into part of the Hall. 75% of the original Hall will be available for community activities. They hope that the space can be enjoyed by everyone. They hope to introduce a variety of ideas including:

- i. Cinema Screenings (like Leyburn)
- ii. Cinema club for children
- iii. Puppet and similar Children shows and events
- iv. Studio Theatre
- v. Musical Recitals
- vi. Venue for the Swaledale festival
- vii. Educational classes for adults and children
- viii. Therapy/counselling venue

For this they are requiring equipment costing around £16,000 which will include

1. Disability ramp
2. Disabled toilet
3. Kitchen
4. Portable stage
5. Lighting system
6. Sound and video system
7. Table and chairs

They are looking to apply for £10,000 from the COF and are asking for a contribution from the Parish Council. For this they will make the commitment to let the hall be used for non-profit and fund-raising community events providing free use by the local community for a number of times per year, up to 12 in total annually.

Cllr Blackie thinks these plans are very exciting and will offer new opportunities for Hawes & High Abbotside. It will also aid the retention of young families and return The National School back into its historic position as a venue for community use and activity. He is positive that the COF will say yes to the £10,000. Because the building side of the project will not be completed until next year any money the Parish Council offers will come out of next year's budget.

Cllr Blackie proposed the Parish Council offer £1000 towards the project for use to help buy equipment. This was unanimously & enthusiastically agreed by the Parish Council.

Cllr Allen also suggested that Emily apply to the YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund.

f. **Play Park**

Kevin Nugent has retired from the position of Play Park Superintendent with immediate effect therefore there is a need to appoint a new one ASAP. The Chairman suggested securing a nominated building / joinery / general jobbing contractor to help maintain the Play Park, to inspect it on a regular basis and respond immediately to urgent calls for work to be undertaken.

He will put an advert in the paper via the Parish Council Press Report and invite local tradesmen to apply. He will also ask Kathy Haygarth from the UWCO to keep an informal eye on the Play Park and report in any problems to himself as she and her family make very extensive use of the facility.

The Parish Council resolved to write a letter of thanks to Kevin Nugent for all his hard work over the years at the Play Park.

Items that require immediate attention are:

1. Round-about – large holes in the matting mean it will have to be cordoned off immediately to prevent injury and get quotes for resurfacing.
2. The Roller need repairing

Griff Thomas asked about the Play Park in Gayle but was advised by Cllr Blackie that this was the responsibility of the District Council. Cllr Blackie is happy to approach them about repairs.

g. **Late emerging issues**

None to report

6. **Parish Council Aide Memoire – to discuss/monitor progress**

Due to time constraints at the meeting this item will be discussed in the October meeting

7. **NYCC Highways issues**

The Chairman is to write to Neil Linfoot to thank him for the Highways report but also to invite him up to Hawes so that he can show Neil the severity of some of the Highway issues. Cllr Walter Head will also be in attendance. Cllr Blackie hopes that Neil will attend before 27th September so that they can report back during the October meeting.

8. **YDNPA Planning applications/Planning issues**

- a. **R56/226A/226B LB – Low House, Snaizeholme**
Unanimous - Strong Support recorded by the Council
- b. **R56/37D – Low Blackburn Farm, Gayle**
Unanimous - Very strongly supported recorded by the Council
- c. **R21/56/465 – 21 Little Ings, Gayle**
Unanimous - Strong support recorded by the Council

9. **Correspondence**

- a. Upper Wensleydale Health Watch – Dr Jones has invited all patients to meet him and the new practice manager, Lynn Irwin to an open meeting on Monday 22nd September at the Yorebridge Community and Sports Centre in Askrigg. Patients are welcome to drop in

anytime between 630pm - 830pm. Cllr Blackie suggested putting up a notice in the community office

- b. NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG invitation to AGM on Thursday 18th September at 130pm, Richmond Station
- c. Richmondshire District Council information letter about the small business rate relief scheme
- d. Vodaphone letter about the rural open sure signal programme
- e. Kathy Haygarth letter re play park issues – see item 5f
- f. York & Humberside Brass band Association appealed for a donation in support of the Hardraw Scar Brass Band Contest on 14th September.

Cllr Blackie suggested that this year the Parish Council does not support this request. The reason being is that the programmes are produced in June and in last year's programme the Hawes & HA Parish Council grant of £100 was not acknowledged in them. Cllr Blackie will write to them to say there will be no support this year but that if they approach the PC next year they will consider a grant if they are approached before the material is printed so that they can be acknowledged.

This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

10. Financial Matters

All the accounts to pay or had been paid were agreed by the Parish Council. There was one discrepancy with the invoice for FGH Security for £1975.50 for the TdF. The amount is for the full amount owed to FGH from the 4 pubs in Hawes for security guards over the TdF weekend. Griff Thomas has a breakdown of what each public house owes and will email it to the Chairman.

11. To Approve the date of the next meeting of Hawes and HA PC

Monday 6th October was unanimously agreed

12. Any other Business

Cllr Grainger pointed out that several drains throughout the town need emptying - Cllr Blackie to write to Highways requesting this.

Cllr Grainger wishes to move forward with the war memorial in Hawes. It has been suggested a good site will be on the village green at School Corner. Cllr Grainger and Cllr Head are to look into potential funding for this project.

Meeting closed at 9:20pm