

# Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 held at the Dales Countryside Museum 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 9 members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr W Head

1. **The Minutes of the Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.** There were no Matters Arising.

2. **War Memorial**

Only the Chairman had received any input on the provisional decisions on the proposed new War Memorial.

- a. **Location. Council confirmed its decision to place the War Memorial on the small Green opposite the School at the bottom of Gayle Lane.**
- b. **Design.** Another proposal for a design had been submitted by Mr S Armstrong, and this was discussed along with the earlier ones. **Council confirmed by 8 votes to 1 to support its original choice of the square cairn.**
- c. **Names Listing.** The Council's provisional decision at the January meeting was to include a plaque with a generic dedication to all local people have lost their lives in any war. In view of representations received the Chairman proposed that the Memorial should include a list on names of the fallen of both World Wars as well as the generic dedication. Cllr Di Duca supported listing the names, assuring the Council that all possible names have been identified. Cllr Woolley suggested as an alternative that a roll of honour could be displayed at the Dales Countryside Museum. A member of the public, Mrs B Peacock, spoke in support of the generic dedication. Another member of the public, Mr R Noble, said that he had changed his mind since the last meeting, and would support the inclusion of both plaques. **In a three way vote Council resolved – 7 in favour of two plaques, 1 for the names list only and 2 for the generic dedication only.** Cllr Woolley reminded the meeting of the need to include the Memorial Organ plaque removed from the now-closed Methodist Church.
- d. **Inclusion of a Cross. Council was in unanimous support that a Cross should be included on the Memorial, with 4 voting for it to be mounted on the top, and 5 in favour of incorporating it into the body of the Monument.**
- e. **Funding.** The Chairman noted that a grant of £500 is available from the District Council, and Cllr Woolley said that there is a further £400 from the Methodist Chapel. It was agreed to ask Mr J Briggs, who had done such a good job on the Bainbridge War Memorial, if he would undertake the construction of this one. Cllr Fawcett agreed to ask him.

### 3. Chairman's Items

- a. **Home to School Transport.** (The Chairman moved this item up the Agenda because some members of the public were attending just for it.)

Cllr Blackie said that there were two issues for discussion:

**Secondary School Students:** He noted that the cost of a bus pass for students aged 16-18 is due to rise from £480 to £550. He stressed his record of opposing this fee over many years, describing it as a “tax on education” and discrimination against students living in deeply rural areas. There are no discounts for more than one student from a family so it would cost a family 1100 for 2.

**Primary School Pupils:** Traditionally the County Council has funded School Transport for Primary Schools for pupils who live over 2 miles from their school. This is to stop, and children will be expected to buy a Bus Pass at £380 *per annum*. Again, deeply rural areas are being penalised.

A member of the public, Mrs Diane ???? , said that it would be acceptable to charge if the student was travelling out of the County Council area, but it is wrong that local people going to their nearest school are penalised in this way. The buses are already travelling down the Dale with empty seats. Another member of the public said that there was a discrepancy between the charging practices of the two bus companies involved, and was concerned that neither tickets nor receipts are being issued.

The Chairman suggested raising the issue at the meeting of the Area Panel on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs R Berry reported that the County Council is investigating the possibility of allowing members of the public to travel on School Bus Services, paying an individual fare. Cllr Blackie added that individual day fares will be available for pupils on school buses from May – at around £3 return from Hawes to Leyburn. Cllr Sunter commented that wages are depressed in this area.

**Council resolved unanimously to make a strong representation to the Area Panel on this issue.**

- b. **Health Issues.** There will be a bookable evening surgery on Wednesdays at the Hawes Medical Centre – though there will be no support staffing for dispensing or to act as chaperone. A local group of medical practices from Hawes down to Northallerton will also be providing Saturday morning surgeries on a rota basis. It was noted that Dr Pain is returning to the Hawes practice, which will have four doctors again.
- c. **Correspondence from an anonymous source.** The Chairman reported on an e-mail received by various Parish Councillors from an anonymous correspondent posing as and purporting to be a “Mr Trevor Haslett-Hume”. He had not been able to identify this person, and the local press had refused to have anything to do with it due to its anonymity.
- d. **Richmondshire District Council Communities Opportunities Fund (COF).** Cllr Blackie reported on various bids going forward to this fund. He gratefully acknowledged an anticipated donation of £50

towards a Defibrillator from Hawes Club, and offered up to £200 from Parish Council funds as part of one of these bids. The Community Office has submitted a bid for 6 laptop computers as their existing ones are now too dated. They wish to resume offering computer courses and training.

The little hut on the Community Field needs to be made wind and weather tight, and to be lockable.

Major repairs are needed on the Play Park roundabout and surfacing, and this project will cost in the region of £8000. We have already received a generous donation of £4000 for the Hawes Tolls Trustees, and £2000 will come from both the COF and Parish Council funds.

**Council registered its support for all these bids and projects.**

- e. **Review of the work of Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council, May 2011 - April 2015.** In this, the last but one meeting of this Parish Council, the Chairman wanted to review its four years of progress and setbacks. He mentioned the “fridge on the roof” of Steppe Haugh as a victory against the Planners, recorded that the GTEC Building on the Upper Dales Business Park was first discussed at the May 2011 meeting (to comments from Cllr Woolley that it is still unsatisfactory), the successful introduction of two speed limits, the hard fought but ultimately unsuccessful campaign to maintain services at the Friarage Hospital, the introduction of visitor-friendly finger post signage around Hawes, the successful campaign against the transporting of heavy timber loads through Gayle and Hawes, the development of the Toddler area in the Play Park, the fight for satisfactory staffing cover levels at the Bainbridge Ambulance Station, the saving of Post Office services by transferring them to the Community Office, the preservation of the National School as housing for a local family; which has also kept some of it for community use, and finally, of course, the success of local input into the Tour de France Grand Départ. Cllr Blackie suggested that this Parish Council has a good track record, and that its members can walk out of its last meeting in April with their heads held high.

4. **Tour de France Working Group – Final Accounts**

The Chairman reported that a total of £10131.70 had been received for the Tour de France activities, and £9963.41 had been spent, a surplus of £168.29. However, £350 had been set aside for repair/replacement of sewing machines but no claims had been forthcoming; and another £250 donation was still expected. He proposed that these should be added together and, with a donation of £231.71 from the Parish Council, £1000 should be offered to the Working Group to fund a suitable Legacy Project. (The Working Group would be asked to bring a suitable project to the Council for approval.) **Agreed.**

5. **Police Issues**

Sgt S Grainger had hoped to attend this meeting, but had been prevented. There were no issues.

6. **Mobile Skip Service**

The Chairman outlined the chaos that had occurred the previous Saturday, when demand for the first mobile Skip Service of the year had generated overwhelming demand. He had arranged a second visit on the following Saturday from 9-11am. He wondered if the service might be better run from a different location – maybe of the industrial estate.

7. **Street Lighting**

Mr Stuart Armstrong had written to the District Council street lighting unit requesting two new lights on Gayle Back Lane / Marridales. The response had been that there is no money available, and Mr Armstrong hoped that the Council would write supporting the request. Subject to satisfactory assurances that Mr Armstrong's neighbours were in support of the lights the Council agreed to send a letter in support.

8. **YDNPA Planning Applications**

- a. **R/48/72F Low Cams House Askrigg.** Full planning permission for erection of agricultural building. **Supported.**
- b. **R/56/440B Agricultural Barn, Harker Hill, Gayle.** Full planning permission for conversion of barn and two storey extension to form two bedroom dwelling house. **Supported.**
- c.

9. **Financial Matters – Parish Council Insurance.**

The Clerk reported that insurance quotes were arriving for the Insurance, which is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> April. **Council resolved to delegate the decision on renewing the Insurance to the Chairman and the Clerk.**

10. **Any Other Business**

- a. **Winter Gritting.** Mr Michael ??? described the difficulties his daughter had experienced in returning home from Bedale in the first bad snow of the winter. He said that gritter wagons were out on the roads, but did not appear to be laying any. The Chairman advised that the wagons are now computer controlled for the flow of sand/salt. **Council agreed to send a letter to the Highways Department urging that local drivers should be given more discretion in the distribution of sand and salt.**
- b. **Hawes Cobbles.** Cllr S Hunter commented on the poor condition of the cobbles in Hawes. The Chairman said that they are “on the list” of outstanding works.
- c. **Potholes.** Cllr Ms Grainger reported on new potholes by the bridge at Appersett, by the road to Blue Bridge (?)

**Meeting closed at 9.23pm.**

**Date of next Meeting: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 7.15pm at Gayle Institute.**