

Hawes and High Abbotside Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of 21st May 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, B Fawcett, S Hunter, Mrs A Rhodes, I Woolley.

Apologies: A Sunter

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

1. Introduction

This being the first meeting of the newly elected Council for 2015-2019, the meeting started with the signing of relevant forms.

2. Election of Chairman for the next two years (2015-17)

Cllr John Blackie was nominated by Cllr A Fawcett, seconded by Cllr Mrs Alderson, **and was elected unanimously**

3. Election of Vice Chairman for the next two years (2015-17)

Cllr Tony Fawcett was nominated by Cllr J Blackie, seconded by Cllr Ms Caygill, **and was elected unanimously.**

4. Welcome

The Chairman confirmed the Council's new membership, and welcomed new Councillors, Ben Fawcett and Abbie Rhodes.

He reviewed the recent elections to Richmondshire District Council at which he was returned as Member for Hawes & High Abbotside with 88 % share of the vote in a turnout just under 70% of the electorate and thanked the local community for its incredible support of his continuing to be their District Councillor.

However he regretted that there had been a swing to the Conservative Party which meant that Richmondshire District Council is no longer an Independent-majority and Independent-led Council. He vowed to continue to fight "tooth and nail" to introduce / maintain / improve public services in the Upper Dales.

Cllr Blackie was also sad not to have won the fight to be the local MP for the Richmond (Yorks) constituency in the General Election, but proud to have recorded at 3349 votes the highest vote for any of the 150 Independent candidates across all England. He was one of only five Independent candidates to have

retained their deposit. The average vote for all Independent candidates was just 240.

Cllr A Fawcett felt that he had done very well, and suggested that the Council should send a letter to the new Conservative MP, Mr Rishi Sunak, inviting him to attend a future meeting and address some local issues. **It was agreed to put this on the July meeting Agenda**, after the Government has announced its programme in the Queen's Speech.

5. **The Minutes of the Meeting of 27th April 2015 were deferred to the next meeting.**

6. **Matters Arising**

War Memorial. Cllr Woolley raised the question of the final design for the proposed Memorial. Cllr A Fawcett, who is liaising with the builder, suggested holding a Site Meeting with him and interested Councillors. Cllr Woolley reminded the meeting of the need to incorporate the Methodist Organ plaque which was a condition of the promised funding from the Methodist Church.

Concern was expressed about the possibility of damage to this plaque from being exposed to the elements, but it was felt that the Agreement should be honoured. Cllrs Blackie, Di Duca, A Fawcett, Hunter and Woolley expressed interest in attending the Site Meeting.

7. **Highways Issues**

The Chairman is due to meet Mr Smith, head of Highways, in Hawes shortly. Cllr Fawcett raised the issue of HGV traffic travelling from Garsdale through Hardraw over its very narrow bridge. He feels that it would be better directed on to the Ingleton road, and wondered whether a reclassification of the roads would help.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Chairman would seek information from the Highways Department indicating where HGV traffic is allowed to drive. Cllr Blackie will raise the perennial issues with Mr Smith:

- Dangerous trees at Hyland's Bridge
- Road surface at junction of Gayle Lane and the A684
- Pot Holes in Chapel Street, Gayle Old Lane/Marridales and on Little Ings near its southern junction with Gayle Lane.

8. **YDNPA Planning Applications**

R/56/118D The Barn, Appersett. Full planning permission for erection of two storey side extension and alterations to attached garage to form additional living accommodation. **Supported.**

9. Correspondence

a. **Allen Dinsdale – Letter re Gayle Play Park and Gayle Green**

The Council warmly endorsed Allen Dinsdale's written commendation of the volunteers who had recently brightened up the Play Park in Gayle. With regard to Gayle Green, Allen was concerned that it being turned into a dump for builder's rubble and old machinery. The Chairman and several other Councillors added that they had received many similar complaints.

Cllr. Blackie felt the community as a whole wanted to see the area tidied up, and restored for the benefit the people of Gayle, but he needed the unanimous support of the Parish Council which was immediately given.

He was advised that the Lords of the Manor of Bainbridge were due to meet imminently and it was agreed he should approach them with a proposal for a joint effort to first make a real difference to the Green's appearance and then seek grant funding for a project endorsed by the local community for an enduring improvement.

b. **NYCC Integrated Passenger Transport – Email re bus subsidy reductions. Noted.**

c. **Tree Preservation Order - To fell one rowan tree to the front of Sycamore Cottage, Gayle Lane. Noted.**

d. **Yorkshire Air Ambulance – Email asking to establish a new Clothes Bank in the Hawes area.** This generated some discussion, as there is already a Salvation Army Clothes Bank in Hawes, and St Margaret's Church also holds a twice-yearly clothes collection for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and for its own funds.

Consensus was that Hawes could support more than one Clothes Bank, and that this one might be usefully sited in the car park of the Dales Countryside Museum. Katherine Beardmore, Director of Services for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority was coming to the next meeting of the Parish Council and the Chairman suggested we should raise this during the course of the meeting.

e. **Yorkshire Local Councils Association – Email re Richmondshire Parish nominee for YDNPA.** The Chairman regretted that he did not think that Mr Harold Brown would be able to continue in this role due to his ill health. After some discussion Cllr Hunter, seconded by Cllr Mrs Alderson, proposed that Cllr A Fawcett should be nominated unless Mr. Brown had decided he was going to put his name forward.

10. Financial Matters

- a. **Accounts to Pay.** Cllr Blackie asked the Council to confirm his decision to pay an additional £500 so that the roundabout in the Play Park could be restored to use immediately, rather than waiting for other jobs to be done. He also sought retrospective approval for the spending of £25 for materials used in Gayle Play Park. **Agreed unanimously.**
- b. **Approval of Parish Council Accounts 2014-15.** The Clerk reported that these had been audited by Mr Barry Wilcox, who was happy with them. The Clerk apologised for his error at the start of the last financial year in entering the wrong “Carried Forward” figure, as this had led to the Council being overdrawn.

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 also approved the Bank Reconciliation for 2014-15 and the Cash Book.

11. Any Other Business

- a. **Tour de France.** Cllr Abbie Rhodes said that she had been asked by Gemma Hogg for a breakdown of the Tour de France expenditure and income. The Chairman said that he would forward it to Gemma.
- b. **Hawes Play Park.** Cllr di Duca said that the ivy growing on the wall of the Play Park (near the Chapel Gallery) was looking dangerous, and threatening the stability of the wall. The Chairman agreed to put matters in hand to effect a repair.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 6th July 2015. The next one will be in September, date to be confirmed.