

Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council

Monday 9th May 2016 @ 7.15 pm at The National School Room, The Hill, Hawes



1. **Present:** Cllrs J Blackie (Chairman),
Ms D Allen, G DiDuca, A Fawcett, B Fawcett, S Hunter, Mrs A Rhodes, I Woolley.

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

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Mrs S Alderson, Ms A Caygill, A Sunter

Welcome: *This was the first public meeting to be held since the full restoration of The National School Room on The Hill in Hawes. The Chairman, Cllr. John Blackie welcomes everyone and praised Andrew Fagg and Emily Rowe Rawlence who had bought the property with the intention of making it their family home as well as creating a meeting venue for the local community.*

Thanks to their incredible determination and helped by a £10,000 grant from the Communities Opportunities Fund that was introduced when Cllr. Blackie was Leader of Richmondshire District Council (RDC) and a grant of £1,000 from the Parish Council, Hawes now has this high quality venue available again after years of neglect in the ownership of the Diocese. Councillors wholeheartedly agreed and Andrew and Emily responded appreciatively and with obvious pride in the result, and asked those present to promote its use throughout the community.

2. **Minutes** – To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th March 2016 - *Deferred* – *These Minutes will be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council*
3. **Matters arising if not on the Agenda below** - *None*
4. **Chairman's Key Discussion Items**

Foul smells in Hawes – *The Chairman reported on an email from Yorkshire Water (YW) which described the extensive works which have been undertaken since the last meeting. The sewers have been cleaned out and various repairs completed. There is a new commitment to regularly examine and clean the sewer, reporting to the Parish Council when this is undertaken. However YW claims not to have found any evidence to suggest that the sewerage system for the town is overloaded.*

The Creamery has been allowed by YW to increase the amount of waste water it puts into the sewers, as it will facilitate an expansion of its business. However this will only be after a £250,000 investment made by the Creamery in a new treatment facility which will clean and dilute the strength of the waste water before it goes into the sewers. This will help to reduce the blockages causing raw sewage overflows at Town Head.

The Chairman praised the outstanding commitment shown by YW. Councillors agreed that they had done all that had been asked of them in exemplary fashion.

Poor Service from the District Council - *Christian Westen of the Penny Garth Café had written a letter complaining strongly about the performance of the RDC Environmental Health Officers. They took 4 days to turn up after a report of foul smells, by which time the smell has gone away, and they never respond in a timely fashion to emails or phone calls. Two other members of the public present joined in the complaints*

over the lack of response from RDC Environmental Health. **The Chairman would ask RDC for a written response.**

Winter Gritting – Cllr Blackie will be taking forward a demand that the new salt store at Hawes Auction Mart be used in icy weather in the Upper Dales, rather than the front-line gritters having to spend 2 hours recharging in Leyburn. He said otherwise the salt store was in danger of being a £50,000 White Elephant. He would be requesting again that the Buttertubs be upgraded to Priority One winter gritting, a request he had put in many times in his 20 years as a County Councillor. **The Parish Council strongly supported the complementary request made by Muker Parish Council to upgrade the Buttertubs to Priority One.**

Downgrading of A+E and 24/7 Consultant-led Maternity and Paediatrics Services at the Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) – The Chairman is very concerned that all critical care services at the DMH including 24/7 A+E and 24 / 7 consultant-led maternity and paediatrics services are under threat of being closed down under the NHS “Better Health Programme”. Councillors were gravely concerned and commented that the Friarage Hospital had lost the maternity / children’s services after a great fight led by Cllr. Blackie on the promise by the NHS that they would be available at the DMH. The A+E at The Friarage is simply an Urgent Care Centre and emergency ambulances from the Upper Dales now always head for the DMH or the James Cook.

The most likely outcome will be these Critical Care services will only be available at the James Cook in Middlesbrough and Durham Hospital, both 60 miles from Hawes. Cllr Di Duca added that this would put more of a strain on ambulance services as they would have to travel farther each time.

Cllr. Blackie would be raising this subject at the forthcoming County Council meeting. **Councillors unanimously shared his concerns and gave him their fullest support.**

Aysgarth Surgery and Broadband - In spite of Superfast Broadband having reached Aysgarth the Surgery of the Central Dales Practice there has still not been connected. The Chairman reported on an exchange of emails highlighting the problems that this causes – it is the only GP Surgery in the whole of the Clinical Commissioning Group which has no fast connection. **The Council was unanimous in urging a swift resolution to this problem.**

Hawes Community Primary School - The Department for Education decreed the School should join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) based in Harrogate after its recent very disappointing OFSTED Inspection. The Chairman had met the MAT Management, was advised of its rural credentials, told it was not an aggressive organisation seeking to recruit other Primary Schools, was very keen to engage with the local community, and agreed on the need to have local Parent Governors. They have started the recruitment process for a new Head Teacher. Cllr. Blackie asked the MAT to send a written report to the Parish Council and invited the Governing Board to attend the next Parish Council meeting to give news of progress since the Ofsted Inspection.

The Council was concerned that a completely unaccountable Regional Schools Director has total control on which MAT should manage the school, and the membership of the Governing Body, yet it will not receive telephone calls or emails from our County Councillor or the Press.

5. Chairman’s Advisory Items

The Hawes & High Abbotside Parishes War Memorial to the Fallen – Cllr Woolley updated the Council on the progress, and estimated that it should be completed by the end of this month. After some discussion it was agreed that there should be two services of dedication on Sunday July 17, starting at 2pm – firstly for the new Cemetery and then 3.00 pm for the War Memorial. As well as the appropriate Clergy or representatives from the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Society of Friends (Quakers) it was felt that the local Band should be invited plus representatives from the British Legion and Catterick Garrison. The Chairman offered to manage the arrangements for both events. **Councillors were happy for him to do so and grateful for his offer.**

Gayle Green - Councillors heard with regret that the Community Opportunities Fund has been closed by the Conservative administration in charge at RDC, and the £850,000 received for 2016/17 simply banked into the Council's account despite the Government's advice to spend it on local communities. There is no significant grant funding available to upgrade Gayle Green, but Council felt that a public meeting should be held starting on the Green (weather permitting) before continuing in Gayle Institute. A letter of invitation will be delivered to all Gayle residents.

6. **NYCC Highways** – Cllr Mrs Rhodes asked that the white lines and Keep Clear signs on the northern side of the Market Place in Hawes should be repainted, as they are regularly being ignored.

7: **YDNPA Planning Applications / Planning Committee Decisions / Planning Issues**

A: R/48/16Q The Green Dragon, Hardraw Full planning permission for construction of a small range of outbuildings to house a cycle hire, micro brewery and a garden store building – *The Chairman reported that there would be a large number of Hardraw people attending the forthcoming meeting of the Planning Committee. He would continue to oppose this Application, as instructed by the Parish Council.*

B: R/48/158A Shaws Youth Hostel, Lunds. Full Planning Permission for existing chalet to be removed and new building erected to the same design and footprint - **Supported**

C: R/56/86R Dales Countryside Museum. Full Planning Permission to site the Kettlewell Providence Mine Water Wheel and Crusher on the north side of the Museum site, adjacent to the railway bridge - **Supported**

D: R/56/86S/AA Dales Countryside Museum. Consent to display a “Dales in the Dales” Banner from 1 May – 20 June 2016 - **Supported**

E: R/56/251A/LB Clints House, Beckstones, Gayle. Listed Building Consent for repair work to chimneys - **Supported**

8a: **Correspondence to note**

a. Mr Brian Pocknee, Burtsett Institute – *Letter regarding the benches outside the Institute; and a second one regarding speeding in the village. The Chairman will advise an application for a grant to repair these benches. The speeding letter will be forwarded to Highways.*

b. Upper Dales Health Watch – Minutes of April Meeting. **Noted**

c. RDC – Information reference Pest Control Services. **Noted**

d. Wensleydale Wheels – proposed local transport service to Health Services / Appeal for a donation - *Council agreed to offer its support for this initiative, but not to make a donation at this time.*

8b. **Parking Issues** - *Rodney Bell, a member of the public, circulated photographs of alleged hazardous parking along Gayle Lane and suggested that many of the problems are caused by Hawes School and Dalesplay staff parking their cars haphazardly instead of paying less than £2 per week for an annual pass to park in the adjoining RDC Car Park.*

A complaint had been received about a van regularly parking near the Creamery on Parish land, where it had made a deep, muddy rut in the grass. Councillors considered the parking a traffic hazard and a danger to

children using the nearby play area, and asked the Chairman to write to the van owner stating that he may no longer park there.

9: Financial Matters

a. [REDACTED]

1. **Cojont Trading Ltd** – Petrol for mowing - **£22.18**
2. **Richmondshire DC** – Play Park Inspections in Hawes and Gayle - **£370.66**
3. **SSE Scottish Hydro** – Electricity Bill for old Public Conveniences -**£12.61**
4. **O’Reilly Chartered Accountants** – Professional fees re Clerk’s PAYE - **£108.00**
5. **JT Atkinson & Sons Ltd** – Building Supplies - **£222.04**
6. **Zurich Insurance plc** – Parish Council Insurance 2016-17 - **£572.86** (Note up from £553.35 last year)

b. [REDACTED]

1. **Ringway Infrastructure Services Ltd** – Installation and removal of Christmas Lights – **£908.21**

c. [REDACTED]

1. **Richmondshire District Council** – Precept – 1st Instalment of 2 - **£7165.00**
2. **Christmas Lights Committee** – Cheque to repay the Ringway invoice at b.1) above less the VAT element

d. [REDACTED]

Approval of Parish Council Accounts 2015-16 - *To delegate their approval to the Chairman and the Clerk, subject to the e-mail circulation of the Draft Annual Accounts of Hawes & High Abbotside Parish Council prior to their submission to the Council’s Official Auditors by the deadline on 30th June. **Approved unanimously.***

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 2015-16 and the Cash Book.

10. Date of the next meeting – Monday August 8th @ Gayle Institute @ 7.15 pm

11. **Any Other Business – *Grass Cutting in the Churchyard.*** *There was discussion as to whether the Council should continue to pay for this grass cutting. There was concern about setting a precedent, and **the Council agreed unanimously to make one more payment of £100 for this year, but that this would be the last such payment.***

The Meeting closed at 9.19 pm, with the Chairman noting that in his absence, the March meeting under the charge of the Vice-Chairman had concluded at 9.12 pm!!