

HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDIDE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE INSTITUTE, GAYLE
ON MONDAY 25th OCTOBER 2021

Present:

Cllr Jill McMullon (Chair)	Cllr Sheila Alderson
Cllr Peter Metcalfe	Cllr Marion Lloyd
Cllr Yurek Waluda	Cllr David Colley
Cllr David Stephenson	Cllr Emma Blades
Karen Prudden (Clerk)	

Members of the Public:-

Liz Lawson	Jack Sutton
Cllr Yvonne Peacock (County & District Councillor)	

1. **Recording of the Meeting**

The Chair informed those present that the meeting was not being recorded by the Council. No other person present indicated that they were recording.

2. **Consideration of Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Mike Watts and Barry Wilcox had offered their apologies for not attending the meeting and these were accepted.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

No councillors registered any pecuniary declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held via 'Zoom' on 26th August 2021 had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Metcalfe proposed that they be adopted as an accurate record of proceedings. This was seconded by Cllr Colley and all councillors were in agreement. Cllr McMullon signed the Minutes and also those of the meeting held in June as there had been no 'physical' meeting since.

5. **Ongoing Matters**

5.1 **Update on the Village Signs for Appersett and Burtersett** - Cllr Metcalfe reported that the old sign at Appersett had been reinstated.

5.2 **Overhanging Hedges** - Cllr Peacock advised that the Highways Department would cut back hedges, but only if their specific location was advised to them. It was noted that the problem area was outside Burn House near the old Chapel. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK to advise the Highways Department.**

Cllr Waluda expressed concern at the number of 'A' boards placed on the footpaths around Hawes. Cllr McMullon advised that these are very difficult to manage. Technically speaking, businesses need a licence from the District Council to use the footpath but most don't bother. **RESOLVED: CLLR MCMULLON to chase the District Council to confirm they have written to the pubs about the problems caused by these boards.**

5.3 Feedback on YDNPA Planning Seminar - 23rd September - Cllr Waluda attended this seminar and advised that it was extremely interesting, particularly for those who had not dealt with planning before. He had found it very informative and agreed to circulate the Powerpoint presentation to all councillors and the Clerks. He also advised that only 25% of the local Parish Councils had been represented. **RESOLVED: CLLR WALUDA to circulate Powerpoint presentation to councillors and clerk.**

6. **Planning Applications**

The following applications had been circulated to councillors as they were received by the Clerk.

- 6.1 R/56/242 - Full Planning Permission for the installation of an entrance and exit barrier system to existing site roads at Hawes Caravan and Motorhome Club Site at Brown Moor Farm, Hawes. No comments submitted.
- 6.2 R/56/522 - Withdrawal of application for full planning permission for conversion and alteration of a domestic outbuilding to a dwelling, including relevant demolitions at Scarr View, The Gaits, Gayle, DL8 3RU. Noted.
- 6.3 R/56/498A - Full Planning Permission for change of use of public building to two local occupancy dwellings at 'Sundays', Chapel Street, Hawes (former Methodist Chapel and Sunday school). See below/
- 6.4 R/48/162A - Full Planning Permission for the erection of a cattle shed and general purpose agricultural building at The Cragg & Carr, land at East Birkrigg, Appersett. No comments submitted.
- 6.5 R/48/162B - Outline Planning Permission (with some matters reserved) for the erection of agricultural workers dwelling at The Cragg & Carr, land at East Birkrigg, Appersett. Comments are to be submitted reinforcing the message that this should be for local occupancy only and not holiday accommodation. **RESOLVED: CLERK to submit response by deadline of 10th November.**
- 6.6 R/56/466A/LB - Listed Building Consent to insert an electro-osmotic damp-proof course to ground floor walls, scheduled for treatment, re-plaster all walls where plaster removed to a height of one metre using sharp sand and cement with render additive and skim with appropriate finish plaster; partial structural waterproofing (commonly referred to as partial tanking) against lateral penetrating damp, using a cementitious crystalline type where external ground floor levels are not 15cm below internal floor level; to re-fix existing sound skirting after treatment with an appropriate preservative, including re-fixing existing kitchen units, radiators (where applicable) etc at The Village, Appersett, Hawes. No comments submitted.

Discussion took place on item 6.3 (proposed conversion of the old Methodist Chapel in Hawes). Councillors expressed concern at several issues relating to this application, including the lack of parking, bin storage, overlooking neighbouring properties and the swimming pool.

It was noted that there have been issues regarding parking raised with previous applications to develop the Chapel but concern was expressed that recently there had been problems with emergency service vehicles being unable to pass the Chapel to access other properties. Concern was also noted that any windows overlooking neighbouring properties should be

stipulated as being opaque in any future development. Nearby residents also have concerns over the location for bins to be stored which does not block access to the Chapel or other properties and accesses.

The main area of concern related to the proposal to install a gym and swimming pool in the property. The application indicates that the development is to provide local occupancy housing and councillors were struggling to understand how a swimming pool was beneficial to this. It was also believed that the first floor living accommodation shown on the plans, only indicated bedrooms with en-suite facilities which could easily be converted into changing rooms for the swimming pool. Councillors wished to be reassured that there were not plans to open these facilities to the public at some point in the future but that if there were, then this application should be withdrawn and a new application submitted detailing the proposed commercial use of the property.

Cllr Lloyd queried whether it was a requirement to create two parking spaces for any new local occupancy properties, but Cllr McMullon explained that this was not the case.

Cllr McMullon explained that, because the closing date for the submission of comments on this application was today, she had already spoken to the planning officer at the YDNPA who had agreed that comments could be submitted following this meeting. However, in the meantime, Cllr McMullon had sought the views of Councillors in order to submit some comments prior to this meeting. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to respond to the YDNPA tomorrow with further comments raised at this meeting.**

Cllr McMullon said that she appreciated that the Clerk now circulates details of all planning applications received to Councillors, ensuring that they all have sight of the information and the opportunity to submit comments prior to the deadlines, which do not always allow for discussion at Parish Council meetings. She acknowledged that planning applications can cause a great deal of concern in the community but noted that, as a member of the Planning Committee at the YDNPA, the previous Chair had opportunities open to him to refer these concerns, but that these opportunities no longer existed.

The Chair also noted that it is at the planning officer's discretion to extend the date for the submission of comments on an application.

7. **Planning Decisions**

7.1 None had been received.

Cllr Peacock pointed out that the YDNPA no longer advises planning decisions to Parish Councils and suggested that the Clerk checks the portal in future for this information.

8. **Highways Matters**

8.1 **Increased Traffic Through Burtersett** - Cllr Peacock reported that she had not yet seen the outcome of the traffic survey. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK to report back on the findings of the survey to the next meeting of the Council.**

- 8.2 Vehicles Speeding in The Holme, Hawes - Cllr Peacock reported that she had referred this matter and Inspector Gee is to look into it and undertake a survey. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK to feedback to the next meeting.**
- 8.3 Land Adjacent to Bear Cottage Interiors, Hawes - There appears to be confusion over the ownership of the land used for parking from Bear Cottage Interiors to Cafe Curva in Hawes. Cllr McMullon had been informed by the Clerk to the Lords Trustees of the Manor of Bainbridge that they had passed ownership of this land to North Yorkshire Highways. However, Cllr Peacock said that Highways do not have permission to go onto this land or re-surface it. This permission will be required from the Chair of the Lords Trustees. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK to undertake further research into ownership.**
- 8.4 Weeds on Footpaths - This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting and Cllr Peacock had confirmed that work had been undertaken to clear the weeds by NY Highways.
- 8.5 Disabled Parking Bay in Gayle - Information had been provided to the Clerk, which had subsequently been circulated to councillors, informing of a proposal to create a 6.6m long disabled parking bay adjacent to 44 Gayle Lane, Gayle. The Parish Council had responded in favour of this proposal, provided that it did not have a detrimental effect on other parking in the area and that it met the needs of a local resident.
- 8.6 Works by Yorkshire Water in Hawes - Cllr McMullon explained that the works required in Hawes to update the water supply network was now underway, having started near the garage. It is acknowledged that the work is necessary but that there have been problems experienced with the traffic lights etc. Cllr Peacock advised that she had met with representatives of Yorkshire Water two weeks ago and had asked that they ensure they provide regular updates on the work to the Community Office. This had not happened, so she had chased for action. It is important that anyone with concerns etc could go into the Community Office to find out information about the works and their progress through the town. Cllr McMullon confirmed that Yorkshire Water telephone every week with an update but acknowledged that good communication was key to the success of this project, ensuring that there is minimal disruption to residents and businesses.
- 8.7 Repairs and Maintenance - Cllr Alderson informed the meeting of a large hole in the roadway at the end of the cobbles, opposite Cocketts Butchers. Cllr Blades advised that part of the pavement is lifting outside the White Hart. Cllr Waluda advised that the steps down The Hill have eroded and are in need of attention. **RESOLVED: CLLR PEACOCK to report these matters to NY Highways.** Cllr Peacock said that she had noticed steps down to the river by Gayle bridge are in need of attention, but it is unclear who is responsible for these. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON will as Rob Ward to show her the steps to assess the problem.** Cllr Stephenson enquired who is responsible for the maintenance of branches overhanging the highways. He reported a particular problem on the road from Simonstone to Hardraw with trees on the verge partially obscuring vision. There are also problems on the road near the Appersett junction with more overhanging branches. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to investigate further.**

9. Financial Matters

9.1 The following invoices were approved for payment:-

- Mrs K Prudden - £357.76 - Clerk's Salary for August and September
- HMRC - £26.80 - PAYE for month ending 5th October
- John Banks - £1,178 - Grass Cutting - August and September
- P M Iveson Ltd - £144 - Hedge Trimming in the new Burial Ground
- Parish Online - £120 - Digital Map Service 19.10.21 - 19.10.22
- NYCC - £90.00 - Replenishment of Grit Bin outside Hawes School
- Mrs K Prudden - £195.06 - Clerk's Salary for October

The Clerk confirmed that the first four payments listed had been made last week when funds were deposited into the new bank account. At the same time, all previous expenditure, authorised at the last two meetings but unable to be paid due to the lack of funds in the bank, had also been paid. No payment has been made to Parish Online whilst the Clerk undertook research into the nature of this service. It has since come to light that it was a service subscribed to on behalf of GTEC Ltd, relating to the BARN project. This is no longer required and Councillors therefore asked the Clerk to cancel the subscription. The Clerk advised that, having checked the previous accounts, she had found that the Parish Council were only responsible for re-filling the grit bin every other year, and this was not a year when it was the responsibility of the Council. **RESOLVED: CLERK to cancel subscription to Parish Online and to pass the invoice for re-filling of the grit bin to Hawes School for payment.**

9.2 The following income was acknowledged:-

- None received

9.3 Bank Balances

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council current account has a balance of £31,136.03. This includes the balance of an advance on the 2022 Precept, as detailed below. Statements from May to October were passed to the Chair for review and signature.

9.4 Update on the Transfer of Funds to the New Bank Account

Having opened a bank account with Unity Trust Bank in August, the Parish Council had been awaiting the transfer of funds from their account with HSBC to the new bank account. Unfortunately, this had not been effected, resulting in Cllr Alderson having to make contact with HSBC to chase the transfer of funds and closure of the account. At one point, HSBC issued an account closure form to Cllr Alderson for completion and return. It was at this point, that it was established that Abbie Rhodes was also a signatory to the HSBC account and she was therefore asked to sign the form alongside Cllr Alderson. This form was returned to HSBC to process. Unfortunately, no transfer was forthcoming and numerous correspondence was sent to HSBC by Cllr Alderson, Cllr McMullon and the Clerk, but all to no avail.

Cllr McMullon subsequently contacted Richmondshire District Council seeking an advance on the 2022 Precept to allow the Parish Council to continue to operate effectively and to meet some long outstanding expenses. An offer was received from the District Council, advancing £10,000 to the Parish Council, which was discussed and formally agreed by councillors on 6th October. Upon completion of the relevant paperwork, the advance was deposited in the new Parish Council bank account on 12th October. This allowed outstanding payments to be made.

Communication remained ongoing with HSBC through Cllr Alderson (the only remaining councillor who was a signatory to the HSBC account), chasing the transfer of the funds to Unity Trust. None of this proved effective and it was not until Cllr Alderson was able to get to the HSBC branch in Settle on 22nd October that the funds were eventually transferred. HSBC offered no apology and their only explanation was that there was only one signatory on the account, although they had made no efforts to contact the Parish Council to explain this, and had not responded to any correspondence. Cllr Alderson had explained that this was because all other signatories had either passed away, moved or relinquished their role. Cllr McMullon said she was utterly appalled at the dreadful level of service offered by HSBC in this situation and was pleased and relieved that the funds had finally been received in the new bank account. **RESOLVED: CLERK to ensure that any standing orders are set up with the new bank.**

9.5 Parish Precept 2022/2023 - The Clerk informed councillors that it was time to consider the level of Precept they wish to request from the District Council for the next financial year. Discussion took place and Cllr McMullon proposed that the level of Precept remain at this year's figure of £17,500. This was seconded by Cllr Metcalfe and agreed by all present. It was acknowledged that the country is still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and many businesses are struggling. In addition, costs are rising and there is the current energy crisis also putting pressure on families. It was agreed that this was not the time to add an additional burden to households by increasing the Precept. **RESOLVED: CLERK to complete and return the necessary paperwork to RDC.**

9.6 Electricity Invoice - The Clerk advised that she had just received correspondence from E-on requesting a meter reading for the electricity account held in the Council's name. As she was not aware of this, she asked for information. The meter is in an outbuilding near the garage in Hawes and Cllr McMullon agreed to take a meter reading and inform the Clerk. E-on are also requesting an appointment to install a smart meter although this is unlikely to work due to the location of the meter. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to take a meter reading and inform the CLERK who will pass this on to E-on.**

10. Correspondence

10.1 Application for Funding from Hawes Youth Club - An enquiry had been received from Hawes Youth Club asking if the Parish Council were in a position to provide funding to help them to re-establish regular meetings following the Covid lockdowns. Councillors discussed this application and all agreed that it was important to support activities for local youngsters, particularly teenagers. However, there was some concern at the amount of funds available to the Parish Council to support other local groups, and whether there should be some assistance to direct them to other funding/

grant schemes. Cllr Colley suggested that the Parish Council should set a budget for such support in the local community and this was felt to be a good idea. Cllr Metcalfe proposed that the Parish Council provide funding of £250 to Hawes Youth Club this year. This was seconded by Cllr Alderson and everyone was in agreement. **RESOLVED: CLERK to issue a cheque and letter to the Youth Club. CLLR PEACOCK to direct the organisers to the Area Partnership funding.**

- 10.2 Application for Funding from the Hawes Christmas Lights Committee - The Christmas Lights Committee have approached the Parish Council seeking support for this year's Christmas lights display and, in particular, help with the cost of hiring a 'cherry picker' for two days to erect and dismantle the displays (£360). Everyone was in agreement that the lights really enhance the town over the Christmas period and a lot of effort is put into ensuring that there is a good display each year. Cllr McMullon proposed that a donation of £250 be made to the Committee to assist with the costs of this year's display. This was seconded by Cllr Colley and everyone was in favour. In addition, Cllr Peacock offered to provide a grant of £300 from her Locality Fund. **RESOLVED: CLERK to issue a letter and cheque to the Committee.**
- 10.3 Application for Funding from the Upper Wensleydale Benefice - The Benefice Office had submitted a request for financial support to assist them in lighting the HMS Wensleydale Flag cabinet in St Margaret's Church in Hawes. The flag has recently been restored and is now displayed in an oak cabinet in the Church, but it lacks lighting. Councillors discussed this application and Cllr Lloyd pointed out that the church was short on funds due to the fact that it had remained closed throughout the Covid pandemic. Cllr McMullon proposed support of £50 towards this project which was seconded by Cllr Colley and agreed by all. **RESOLVED: CLERK to advise the Benefice Office and issue a cheque.**
- 10.4 '20's Plenty' Campaign - The Clerk had circulated information to councillors about the '20's Plenty' campaign. The North Yorkshire branch is seeking support for the implementation of 20mph as the default speed limit in the parish and on streets in the county where people live, work, shop, play and learn. Discussion took place on this and it was noted that very few people appear to abide by the 20mph limit in Hawes. Cllr McMullon proposed that the Parish Council support this campaign and everyone was in agreement. **RESOLVED: CLERK to confirm support to the organisers.**
- 10.5 Application for Funding from the Great North Air Ambulance - The Clerk read a letter from the Great North Air Ambulance seeking support in providing their services and keeping their two helicopters flying. During 2020, the air ambulance was called out 1262 times. Whilst everyone accepted that this was a vital service that was much appreciated, especially in our rural area, the Parish Council were unable to provide financial support at this time. It was also noted that the Yorkshire Air Ambulance provides additional air ambulance support, and that there are many local businesses etc which have donation tins on their premises supporting both these causes.
- 10.6 Application for Funding from the Mid-North Yorkshire Citizens Advice Bureau - A letter had been received detailing the work of the CAB in the local area and advising that 25 people were helped within the parish over the past year, mainly with enquiries relating to benefits and tax credits. Whilst acknowledging the good work undertaken by the CAB, the Parish Council did not feel in a position to assist with a financial donation at this time.

In respect of all these applications for funding, Cllr Colley enquired whether any of these groups would qualify for the £10,000 'Welcome Back Fund' which is available to assist organisations to re-start and recover from the Covid pandemic. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to contact Richmondshire District Council for clarification.**

10.7 'Respect and Protect' Covid Campaign Signage - The Clerk read a letter received from North Yorkshire County Council giving information on this campaign, designed to acknowledge that 'not everyone feels the same about Covid and that in some places levels of tension and anxiety have increased'. As a result, the County Council has launched this campaign for the winter to 'raise awareness and encourage understanding' in an attempt to 'normalise good and healthy behaviours to protect people and encourage respect for individual choices'. A range of signage has been created for market towns across the County (including Hawes), for lamp posts, shop windows, mirrors in public toilets and pavement vinyls. Councillors were not enamoured by this campaign and believed there were better ways of spending the money to support the local communities. **RESOLVED: CLERK to respond NYCC informing them that the Parish Council does not wish to participate in this scheme and does not want pavement vinyls in the town.**

10.8 Membership of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association - Although Councillors had previously agreed to the proposal to join the YLCA when funds were available in the bank account, the Clerk suggested that, given the time of year, membership now be postponed until the start of the new financial year. Councillors were in agreement with this proposal. **RESOLVED: CLERK to contact YLCA to subscribe at the start of the 2022/23 financial year.**

11. Children's Play Park

11.1 Application to RDC Play Park Fund - With the help of Cllr McMullon, the Clerk had completed and submitted applications to the Fund for the three play areas in the Parish, which totalled in the region of £30,000. Unfortunately, there was insufficient funds left to meet all these applications and therefore RDC suggested revising the applications to provide as much equipment as possible at two play areas. Applications were subsequently submitted for Town Foot play area in Hawes and Little Ings play area in Gayle. Confirmation has now been received that grants of £10,000 and £6,672.77 respectively have been awarded and the Clerk has completed and returned the Acceptance Forms. Despite these funds, there is still likely to be a shortfall in respect of the equipment chosen for each site, which will have to be met by the Parish Council. Councillors were happy with the funding awards and agreed that both projects should go ahead as soon as practical. **RESOLVED: CLERK to initiate the order for new equipment for these two projects.**

12. Anti-social Behaviour

The Chair advised councillors that a letter had been received from a resident of Hawes complaining of anti-social behaviour at and around their property, and others nearby in September. The problem seems to be with a group of young men amusing themselves whilst causing distress to residents, particularly elderly ones. It is believed the identity of these young men is known and that they are of an age to know what they are doing and the distress it will be causing. Councillors were disappointed to learn of this behaviour and hoped that it could be redressed in the short term. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to speak**

to North Yorkshire Police regarding the matter. CLERK to respond to the letter from residents to reassure them the matter is being taken seriously.

In addition, Cllr McMullon reported a further issue with very unpleasant graffiti appearing on the bus shelter in Gayle. She has referred the matter to North Yorkshire County Council and it is expected that they will come out to clean off the graffiti.

13. **Important Matters Raised by the Public for Inclusion on the Next Agenda**

None were put forward at this stage.

14. **Date of Next Meeting**

The Chairman will liaise with the Clerk who will issue details of the date and venue.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

Signed as a True Record: Date:

Name: