

HAWES & HIGH ABBOTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE INSTITUTE, GAYLE
ON TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2022

Present:

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

Members of the Public:-

Pip Pointon (Press)	Jack Sutton
David Cockett	Ruth Annison

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which started at 7.00 pm.

1. **Recording of the Meeting**

The Clerk informed those present that the meeting was not being recorded by the Council. Pip Pointon confirmed that she would be recording the meeting for the purpose of preparing her report.

2. **Consideration of Apologies for Absence**

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

3. **Election of Parish Councillor**

Following the last meeting, Cllr Mike Watts had written to tender his resignation as Parish Councillor due to his move out of the area. The Chair had contacted RDC for guidance and notices had been placed in the Parish advertising the vacancy which resulted in the Clerk receiving two applications and one enquiry. One applicant subsequently withdrew, leaving just one candidate for consideration. Accordingly, the Chair had invited Mr David Cockett to attend this meeting and asked councillors present to consider if they felt Mr Cockett to be suitable for the role of councillor, in which case he could be co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Alderson proposed that Mr Cockett be elected as a parish councillor; this was seconded by Cllr Colley and all other councillors were unanimous in their agreement. Mr David Cockett was therefore appointed as parish councillor and asked to join the meeting in that capacity. Mr Cockett accepted this invitation and was welcomed to the Parish Council by the Chair. Cllr McMullon pointed out that there will be an election in May when all councillors can put themselves forward for re-election if they wish.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr P Metcalfe, Cllr D Colley and Cllr D Cockett registered their personal interest in item 15 due to their roles as Directors of the Upper Wensleydale Community Partnership. Cllr J McMullon and Cllr D Stephenson registered their personal and pecuniary interest in item 15 as they are both employed at the Dale Head Garage. Cllr McMullon had sought advice from RDC on how to proceed in this situation and had been advised that both she and Cllr Stephenson must leave the room prior to item 15 being discussed.

5. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2021 had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Metcalfe proposed that they be adopted as an accurate record of proceedings and Cllr Waluda seconded this proposal. All councillors present were in agreement and the Minutes were signed by the Chair.

6. **Presentation by PC Gary Hankin of the Neighbourhood Policing Team**

Unfortunately, PC Hankin did not attend the meeting. He subsequently sent an apology for his absence due to an ongoing incident which he was required to attend. **RESOLVED: CLERK to invite him to the next meeting.**

7. **Presentation by Ruth Annison on the DalesBus 856 Service**

Local resident, Ruth Annison, had asked to come along to the meeting to present the case for the continuation of the DalesBus 856 service between Northallerton, Bedale, Leyburn, Aysgarth, Bainbridge and Hawes which operates on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Mrs Annison presented the case for the service which enables visitors to access the Dale and locals to access places en route, but especially Northallerton where they can visit people in The Friarage Hospital. The service is currently being supported by LNER who recognise the benefits it provides to enable people to access the Dales from the station at Northallerton. Mrs Annison explained that in 2021, the service cost £220 per day to run. This is expected to rise to £250 per day in 2022. The journey is 80 miles in total and the service runs three times per day. Mrs Annison explained that she had written to twenty Parish Councils along the route (together with some not on the route), along with the councils of the four market towns, seeking financial support to secure the future of the service. She asked councillors to consider if the Parish Council could provide some financial support for this valuable service. Cllr McMullon suggested that councillors needed time to investigate this matter further and proposed that this subject be placed on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. She asked Mrs Annison if she could find the figures showing how many Hawes residents currently used this service. All councillors were in agreement with this proposal. **RESOLVED: CLERK to include this as a discussion item at the next meeting.**

8. **Ongoing Matters**

8.1 **Burtersett Village Sign** - Cllr McMullon reported that there was no further update.

8.2 **Overhanging Hedges** - At the last meeting Cllr Peacock had agreed to contact the Highways Department about this. No update had been received.

8.3 **'A' Boards on the Footpath** - Cllr McMullon confirmed that she had spoken to some of the businesses concerned but had been disappointed that the YDNPA would not pursue enforcement. Cllr McMullon had pointed out the dangers that these boards present to pedestrians.

8.4 **Works by Yorkshire Water in Hawes** - Cllr McMullon read out an email she had received from Yorkshire Water detailing progress on the works to lay the new water main. This advised that work near The Holme and The Hill is due to be completed by the end of next week. A new main will be made at the junction of Gayle Lane and Town Head. A new pipe will be laid from the car park opposite the surgery to Hawes Pizza which will

require the use of 24 hour traffic lights. These will be operator controlled between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm to avoid congestion. During this part of the work it will be necessary to liaise with NY Highways who also have repairs to complete in the area and there is potential that this may delay the work, although the project is still on schedule to be completed in time for re-surfacing work to take place in the spring. Yorkshire Water have expressed their gratitude at the patience demonstrated by residents and business-owners during this difficult time. They are working hard to avoid disruption and complete the work as quickly as possible. Cllr McMullon expressed her gratitude at the speed with which issues caused by the recent storm had been attended to by the contractors.

9. **Planning Applications**

The following applications had been circulated to councillors as soon as they were received by the Clerk. For the benefit of those present, the Clerk listed the following applications:-

- 9.1 R/56/466A/LB - Listed Building Consent for various damp proof course and waterproofing works at The Village, Appersett, Hawes - Withdrawn.
- 9.2 R/48/51E - Full Planning Permission for retention of single storey lean-to extension to west elevation at Stags Fell, Simonstone, Hawes.
- 9.3 R/56/518 - Full Planning Permission for conversion of barn into a three bedroom dwelling house for local occupancy/short term holiday let; formalisation of the existing access and associated development and installation of a package sewage treatment plant at Barn north of Old Gayle Lane, Hawes.
- 9.4 R/56/30H - Full Planning Permission for hard and soft landscaping works; creation of access/tracks; construction of 4 No. Bridges across Widdale Beck; 1 No. Waterfall and pond; construction of external viewing areas with low level walling and for planting of shrubs and trees (part retrospective) at Gaudy House Farm, Gayle.
- 9.5 R/56/504D - Full Planning Permission for erection of a replacement agricultural building at East Birkrigg, Hawes
- 9.6 R/56/20F - Full Planning Permission for erection of two storey extension to the north elevation and change of use from retail use to a dwelling at The Shop on the Bridge, Town Foot, Hawes.
- 9.7 R/48/12P/LB - Listed building consent to change the existing wooden windows in the end part of the cottage with Heritage Aluminium windows to match those in the main cottage at Shepherds Cottage, Longshaw, Hawes - Withdrawn.
- 9.8 R/48/68L/LB - Listed Building consent for the replacement of three windows at Rigg House, Hawes.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had not submitted comments on any of these applications.

10. **Planning Decisions**

No planning decisions had been found on the YDNPA portal.

11. **Highways Matters**

11.1 Increased Traffic Through Burtersett - No update had been received from Cllr Peacock.

11.2 Vehicles Speeding in The Holme, Hawes - No update had been received from Cllr Peacock.

11.3 Land Adjacent to Bear Cottage Interiors, Hawes - No update had been received from Cllr Peacock.

11.4 Works by Yorkshire Water in Hawes - This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

11.5 Repairs and Maintenance - No update had been received from Cllr Peacock.

RESOLVED: CLERK to contact Cllr Peacock for updates on these matters. Councillors also requested an update on the repairs needed to Haylands Bridge.

12. Financial Matters

12.1 The following invoices were approved for payment:-

- HMRC - £26.80 - PAYE for month ending 5th November
- Hawes Youth Club - £250 Donation
- Hawes Christmas Lights - £250 Donation
- PCC of Hawes Church - £50.00 - HMS Wensleydale Donation
- Mrs K Prudden - £195.06 - November Salary
- HMRC - £26.80 - PAYE for month ending 5th December
- Mrs K Prudden - £195.06 - December Salary
- Mrs K Prudden - £336.66 - January Salary
- HMRC - £27.00 - PAYE for month ending 5th January
- Mrs P Pointon - £73.44 - Reporting May, June, August &. October
- Mrs K Prudden - £7.92 - Stamps

The Clerk advised that her January salary was higher due to a refund of tax from HMRC of £114.80.

12.2 The following income was acknowledged:-

- None received

12.3 Bank Balances

The Clerk reported that the balance in the current account as at 31st January was £28,317.03. This includes £10,000 which was an advance on the Precept to cover the issues caused by HSBC when changing banks.

12.4 Repayment of Precept Advance

The Clerk advised that RDC had requested that the advance of Precept be returned to them now that the issues with the Council bank account has been resolved. The Clerk therefore requested the agreement of the councillors to issue a cheque for £10,000 to RDC. Cllr McMullon proposed that the Clerk issue this cheque and this was seconded by Cllr Alderson. All councillors were in favour. **RESOLVED: CLERK to issue cheque to RDC.**

13. Correspondence

- 13.1 Letter from Resident of Sedbusk - The Clerk advised councillors of a letter received from a resident of Sedbusk concerning damage to the village green caused by contractors visiting an empty and semi-derelict property which apparently has no right of access over the green. A photograph of this damage was shown to councillors. It was noted that this has been an ongoing issue in Sedbusk. The land is not registered as village green and the ownership has not been established. Cllr McMullon has spoken with the resident and noted that the only way to access the property is over the village green. She will now attempt to speak with the owner of the empty property. However, it was noted that there is little that the Parish Council can do as it does not own the land. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to speak with the owner of the vacant property.**
- 13.2 Hawes Christmas Lights - The Clerk read a letter of thanks received from the Hawes Christmas Lights Committee following the Council's decision to make a donation of £250 to last year's display.
- 13.3 PCC of Hawes Church - The Clerk read a letter of thanks received from the Upper Wensleydale Benefice Office thanking the Parish Council for the donation of £50 made towards the project to display the HMS Wensleydale Flag.
- 13.4 Hawes Market Hall Trustees - The Clerk had received an invitation from Abbie Rhodes inviting a member of the Parish Council to join the Hawes Market Hall Trustees to represent the views of the Parish Council. This was discussed and Cllr Waluda offered to take on the role. **RESOLVED: CLERK to advise Abbie Rhodes of this decision.**
- 13.5 Celebrations to Mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - The Clerk advised councillors that she had received information regarding celebrations to mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. Celebrations will take place over a long Bank Holiday weekend from 2nd to 5th June. There are to be beacons lit on 2nd June and a 'Big Jubilee Lunch' held on 5th June. The Clerk enquired if the Parish Council wished to mark this special celebration and whether they wished to purchase any commemorative gifts to present to children in the Parish. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON will speak to local groups to find out if any celebrations are planned in order that the Parish Council can consider whether to support these.**
- 13.6 Richmondshire 'WhatsOn' Service - The Clerk had been informed of a new service run by the Richmond Information Centre which will allow for free listings of local events. The Clerk has details of how this operates and is happy to pass on details of any events within the Parish that require publicity. **RESOLVED: CLERK to pass on any relevant information to the new service.**

14. Children's Play Park

- 14.1 Application to RDC Play Park Fund - Cllr McMullon advised that she and the Clerk would be looking to order the new play equipment as soon as possible in order to meet the terms of the grant funding. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON & CLERK to place the order for new equipment for these two projects as soon as possible.**
- 14.2 Garden Waste Bin - Cllr McMullon advised that it is again necessary to renew the licence for the garden waste bin service at the play area at Town Foot in Hawes. **RESOLVED: CLLR McMULLON to look into this.**
- 14.3 Inspection of Play Equipment - Robin Peters had advised that he would be happy to undertake an inspection of the play equipment and provide a report to the Parish Council. **RESOLVED: CLERK to confirm to Robin that the Parish Council would be grateful to receive his report in due course.**

Having expressed a pecuniary interest in the next item, Cllr McMullon and Stephenson left the room at this point.

15. **Dale Head Garage**

Cllr Colley gave a presentation to the meeting on behalf of the Upper Dales Community Partnership, of which he is a director. He sought the Parish Council's support for an initiative to purchase the Dale Head Garage as a community facility. Currently, there is a misconception that the garage is community-owned. In fact, it is owned by a private pension fund and they are now seeking to sell the business. The lease is due to expire in 2023. Currently, the profits from the garage support the Little White Bus service, the Library, Community Office and Post Office. These are all vital services to the local community and would be under threat if the garage were to be sold to a private individual or company who would keep the profits themselves. Consequently, discussions have been initiated with the current owners and a six-month 'window' has been agreed in order to allow the UDCP to find the funding to purchase the garage as a community venture. They intend to raise the funds by issuing a public share offering and applying for grants from the national Community Benefit Fund and the RDC Community Benefit Fund, as well as the YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund and other grant funding schemes. The intention is to issue shares of £1,000 each to local residents in the areas served by the garage. It is hoped that this will result in 80-100 private investors rather than one or two large investors and priority will be given to individual investors. Anyone purchasing a share will be offered an incentive of 4 pence per litre off the price of petrol for a nominated car up to a maximum of around 10,000 miles per year, together with interest of 4% on their investment. The new business would operate as a Community Benefit Society. The garage has already been independently valued and there is already an offer to purchase on the table. However, the current owners have agreed to stick to the six month 'window' to allow the community to consider purchasing the garage.

There is to be a mailshot to residents of Wensleydale (from West Burton to the top of the Dale) and the top end of Swaledale giving details of this scheme and posters will be displayed around the area.

In conclusion, Cllr Colley asked the Parish Council to consider whether they would give their support to this proposal. Cllr Alderson proposed that the Parish Council should support this initiative and this was seconded by Cllr Waluda. All councillors present were in agreement.

Cllr Colley thanked the Parish Council for listening to his presentation and for offering their support to the initiative. Further information will be released in due course.

Cllrs McMullon and Stephenson returned to the meeting.

16. **Clerk Contract of Employment**

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council are required to provide the Clerk with a contract of employment. The Clerk had therefore prepared a contract using the template provided by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association. This had been sent to the Chair for consideration prior to the meeting. All councillors were in agreement that the contract should be issued and it was duly signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

17. **Standing Orders**

The Clerk explained that the Council's Standing Orders should be reviewed annually. She was not aware that this had occurred, but had also been sent information from the YLCA with updated information for inclusion. The Clerk therefore proposed that she update the Standing Orders, including the new information, and present them to councillors for agreement at the next meeting. All councillors were in agreement. **RESOLVED: CLERK to prepare draft updated Standing Orders and issue to councillors in advance of the next meeting.**

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

DalesBus 856 Service

19. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **MONDAY 28th MARCH** at **GAYLE INSTITUTE**, starting at **7.00 pm**.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm.

Signed as a True Record: Date:

Name: